



# Getting Ready for Marriage

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Adapted by Greenville Oaks Church of Christ*

Congrats on this wonderful milestone! Few seasons in life are filled with as much joy and anticipation as the time spent preparing to get married.

You've probably heard it said that as you plan your wedding, you shouldn't forget to plan your marriage. But it sounds so abstract to "plan a marriage" in the midst of the more tangible (and demanding) project of planning a wedding. How do you do it?

## **STEP ONE: Learn From Others**

Make some time now for marriage education classes or premarital counseling. Those efforts go even further when you supplement them by spending time with an older married couple whose relationship you admire.

## **STEP TWO: Plan With Patience**

Couples often overlook the importance of using the wedding planning season as practical marriage preparation. You can intentionally set the tone for your marriage by the values you live out in planning your big day.

The transformational process of "becoming one" can occur in everything from how you assemble your guest list to how you determine a honeymoon destination.

## **STEP THREE: Discover the Purpose of Marriage**

A wedding is bigger than you as an individual and even bigger than you both as a couple. Ephesians 5 describes a couple laying down their lives for one another and becoming one as an icon of God's sacrificial love for His church. That's the counter-cultural call of Christian marriage.

God uses the marriage relationship to teach us valuable lessons about ourselves, often through challenges with our spouse. The goal of Christian marriage isn't "happily ever after," but about two people becoming more mature in Christ through their marriage.

## **STEP FOUR: Create a Meaningful Event**

Weddings are often among the most costly and complicated events to plan. But years from now, you are more likely to remember simple, sentimental moments from your wedding rather than the more extravagant details. That's not to say big celebrations are out of order, but many risk making them so complex that they fail to honor God or the community they are uniting — both of which are the basis for a strong Christian marriage.

## **GOING FURTHER - Resources**

### **Recommended Books:**

*Available for checkout at the Faith@Home Center or for purchase online.*

***Your Marriage Masterpiece: God's Amazing Design for Your Life Together*** (by Al Janssen) takes a fresh look at the reasons your union was intended to last a lifetime.



*Love and Respect* (by Dr. Emerson Eggerichs) discusses a powerful biblical model for understanding and meeting one another's most deeply felt need.

*Before You Say "I Do"* (by H. Norman Wright and Wes Roberts) explores how to clarify role expectations, establish a healthy sexual relationship, handle finances, and acquire a solid understanding of how to develop a biblical relationship.

*Things I Wish I'd Known Before We Got Married* (by Gary Chapman) is a practical little book, packed with wisdom and tips, that will help develop a loving, supportive and mutually beneficial marriage.

**Recommended Website:**

[Prepare-Enrich.com](http://Prepare-Enrich.com) features tools for couples who want to establish a strong foundation for marriage.

**GOING FURTHER – Church Support**

**Professional Christian Counseling**

Greenville Oaks Church of Christ offers various resources for Christ-centered professional counseling (including premarital counseling). For more information, call the church office at 972-727-2359 or email [info@greenvilleoaks.org](mailto:info@greenvilleoaks.org).