

# Weddings at Third City | FAQs

## **Q: What does the Bible say about marriage?**

Here is what the Bible says about marriage:

- God has a perfect design for marriage (Gen 2:18-24)
- Marriage is between one man and one woman (Gen 2:25)
- Marriage is based on love, not feelings (Eph 5:21-33)
- God's purpose in marriage is holiness and not just happiness (1 Pt 1:16)
- Sexual activity is intended for the context of marriage (Heb 13:4)
- Marriage is a lifetime commitment between two imperfect people (Mt. 9:16, Rom 7:23)

## **Q: We are currently living together or plan to live together before our wedding, will you still marry us?**

As a church, we want to help couples see that this design by God for marriage is best, and is worth embracing. It is for this reason that we ask that couples who are living together prior to marriage move apart until their wedding day. While this decision might seem an inconvenience, it should never interrupt our willingness to obey God and His Word. We strongly believe this sacrifice will set you as a couple on a new trajectory to enter marriage with as strong and godly of a foundation as possible as you walk forward in obedience to His design for marriage (Psalm 119:9, Matthew 7:24).

The primary reason for our position is that God wants each married couple to learn and discover what it means to be one flesh (Genesis 2:24, Matthew 19:6, Ephesians 5:31). Being one flesh can only be properly nurtured in the context of marriage. Of course, there are many ways in which we may create our own substitute for this by living together, engaging in premarital sex, running a household together, etc (Ephesians 2:3).

All of these only offer a lesser alternative to God's intended design for marriage. If Third City can help you brainstorm ideas as you move apart, please let us know. We want to help you in making this decision.

If you are not willing to part for the duration of time before the wedding, we will still be glad to provide premarital counseling to you, however, we will not officiate the wedding.

## **Q: This is my second marriage. Will you still perform our wedding?**

Divorce is rampant in our culture. Marriages come to an end for all sorts of reasons. In keeping with God's design, we believe certain things to be true about divorce and remarriage:

- Marriage is for a lifetime
- Regardless of the cause of divorce, we will counsel couples toward reconciliation
- Scripture only gives certain allowances for remarriage:
  - Adultery on behalf of the former spouse (Mt 5:32, 19:9)
  - An unbelieving partner left, allowing the believing partner to remarry (1 Cor 7:15)
  - The previous marriage and divorce occurred before either party came to know Christ (2 Cor 5:17)
  - The death of a spouse

To ensure proper healing time from a divorce, we will not marry anyone within 18 months of a finalized divorce. This allows enough time for attempts at reconciliation, counseling and healing in order to move on.

It is our aim to show everybody the grace that God has shown us. We want you to know that we are glad to walk beside you to help you understand God's intended design for marriage. We believe learning His design will benefit your own spiritual growth, but will also have a great impact on your future marriage.

## **Q: Am I required to do premarital counseling before my wedding?**

Yes. If you are planning on receiving premarital counseling through another pastor or church, you would be able to have your wedding at TCCC. Without premarital counseling, we will not perform a wedding. This process takes approximately 4 months.

## **Q: Are there any other guidelines we should be aware of?**

- No wedding will be performed if a prenuptial agreement has been signed
- If you are pregnant, it will be at the minister's discretion whether or not to perform the ceremony.
- If age is a factor, the couple must have prior consent from each set of parents
- No civil ceremonies are allowed
- No minister at Third City Christian Church is obligated to perform weddings