

IMMANUEL BIBLE CHURCH PRE-MARITAL COVENANT

PLEASE REVIEW THIS DOCUMENT. IT IS TO BE SIGNED IN THE PRESENCE OF A PASTOR

Immanuel Bible Church believes that marriage is a holy union of one man and one woman in which they commit, with God's help, to build a loving, life-giving, faithful relationship that will last for a lifetime. We believe that when a marriage is true to God's loving design it brings about many benefits which bless not only the couple and their family, but the church and community as a whole, and brings glory to God.

Thus, the ultimate goal of Immanuel Bible Church is to glorify God by equipping couples to have permanent, Christ-honoring, and fulfilling marriages. For this reason, pre-marital counseling is required as one of the steps for laying a strong, healthy foundation for marriage.

The privilege and responsibility of uniting two people in Christian marriage is one of the most profoundly pastoral of all ministerial functions. The clergy of Immanuel Bible Church take this responsibility seriously and will only officiate at your wedding if you meet the requirements outlined in this covenant.

REQUIREMENTS:

- **2 Corinthians 6:14** admonishes Christians not to be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. Therefore, both partners must be of one mind with respect to their faith in Christ. Immanuel Bible Church pastors will not marry a couple if one is a believer and the other is not or is unsure of his/her relationship with Christ.
- Based on **I Thessalonians 4:3-5 and 5:22**, the couple must be willing to abstain from any (or any further) sexual involvement with each other until after the wedding. This includes NOT living together, whether sleeping together or not. Pre-marital sexual involvement violates God's Word and introduces self-centeredness and mistrust which undermine the foundation of the relationship.
- When one or both partners have been divorced, remarriage will be considered only on the basis of the following Biblical exceptions:
 - Divorce prior to the decision to trust Christ for salvation. (**2 Corinthians 5:17**)
 - Divorce as the result of ongoing adultery by the former spouse. (**Matthew 5:32**)
 - Divorce as the result of desertion by an unbelieving spouse. (**1 Corinthians 7:10-15**)
- Immanuel Bible Church requires that any couple desiring to be married by an IBC Pastor complete an approved Pre-Marital Counseling program before the wedding.
- Immanuel Bible Church does not charge any fee for building use. However, support personnel (as outlined on page 16 of the Pre-Marital Mentoring & Wedding Planner) are required at any on-site wedding and their fees will be paid to the Wedding Coordinator two weeks prior to the wedding.

We have read and agree to abide by the Immanuel Bible Church Pre-marital Covenant.

Bride _____ Date _____

Groom _____ Date _____

Witnessing Pastor _____ Date _____

UPON COMPLETION AND PASTORAL APPROVAL, THE COUPLE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR RETURNING THIS FORM TO THE ADMINISTRATION MINISTRY ASSISTANT. YOU MAY MAIL IT TO HER ATTENTION AT THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS: IMMANUEL BIBLE CHURCH, 6911 BRADDOCK ROAD, SPRINGFIELD, VA 22151, OR LEAVE IT WITH THE RECEPTIONIST DURING REGULAR OFFICE HOURS.