



Mountain Springs Church

PREPARING FOR MARRIAGE

April, 2017

Covenant and Counseling Application

ANY MSC COUPLE who would like to be married by an MSC pastor OR use our church for their wedding ceremony is required to go through premarital counseling. MSC couples who plan to have their ceremony elsewhere and performed by someone other than an MSC pastor, are also encouraged to go through our program.

Getting Started:

- 1) Separate copies of the forms contained herein must be filled out by BOTH THE BRIDE AND GROOM to-be and returned to the church office by e-mail, fax, mail, or dropped off at the church office (contact information below).
- 2) Once we receive your completed forms, you will be contacted to schedule a pastoral interview.
- 3) A \$55 fee is due at the time of your pastoral meeting. This covers the cost of your materials for the program.
- 4) After your initial pastoral interview, you will be connected with a *Preparing for Marriage* mentor couple who will walk with you through the program.

Our Preparing for Marriage program consists of mentoring couples who are **not** professional counselors but friends who have worked through marriage issues of their own and are willing to come alongside an engaged couple to help prepare them for marriage. They are a group of couples who have been married for several years, love the Lord and are willing to be open about their marriage walk. Mentoring couples assist MSC Pastors in preparing couples for marriage and then walk (as friends) with the newly married couple for the first 12-24 months.

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MSC Position on Marriage and Sexuality

Marriage. The testimony of the God-breathed Holy Scriptures is that the marriage covenant shall be reserved only for one man with one woman. The idea that marriage is a covenant only between one man and one woman has been the traditional definition of marriage for all of human history (“Traditional Definition of Marriage”). Because of the longstanding importance of the Traditional Definition of Marriage to humans and their relationships and communities, and, most importantly, the fact that God has ordained that marriage be between one man and one woman, as clearly conveyed in God’s inerrant Scriptures, including for example in Matthew 19:4-6 where in speaking about marriage Jesus referred to the fact that “he which made them at the beginning made them male and female,” the Church hereby creates this policy, which shall be known as the “Marriage Policy.”

Under Mountain Springs Church’s Marriage Policy, the Traditional Definition of Marriage is the only definition of marriage that will be recognized or accepted. No director, officer, employee, servant, agent, or any person, corporation, organization, or entity under the direction or control of Mountain Springs Church shall commit any act or omission, or make any decision whatever, that would be inconsistent with, or that could be perceived by any person to be inconsistent with, full support of Mountain Springs Church’s Marriage Policy and strict adherence to the Traditional Definition of Marriage rather than any alternative to the Traditional Definition of Marriage.

Mountain Springs Church’s Marriage Policy specifically prohibits acts or omissions including but not limited to permitting any Church assets or property, whether real property, personal property, intangible property, or any property or asset of any kind that is subject to the direction or control of the Church, to be used in any manner that would be or could be perceived by any person to be inconsistent with Mountain Springs Church’s Marriage Policy or the Traditional Definition of Marriage, including but not limited to permitting any church facilities to be used by any person, organization, corporation, or group that would or might use such facilities to convey, intentionally or by implication, what might be perceived as a favorable impression about any definition of marriage other than the Traditional Definition of Marriage.

Mountain Springs Church's Marriage Policy is based upon God's will for human life as conveyed to us through the Holy Scriptures, upon which Mountain Springs Church has been founded and anchored, and this Marriage Policy shall not be subject to change through popular vote; referendum; prevailing opinion of members or the general public; influence of or interpretation by any government authority, agency, or official action; or legal developments on the local, state, or federal level. (See Gen. 2:18-24; 1:27-28; Matt. 19:4-6; Eph. 5: 23, 25, 31-32.)

Common-Law Marriage. In no case shall persons be accepted into membership and/or employment who are known to be living in a common-law state of matrimony.

Sexuality. Sexuality and the divinely prescribed boundaries for the expression thereof is covered clearly in the Holy Scriptures, which limit sexual expression to the marital relationship of one man with one woman. Homosexual acts, adultery, bestiality, and all forms of fornication are categorically condemned in the Holy Scriptures. (See 1 Cor. 6:18; 1 Thes. 4:3; Rom. 1:26-27; Prov. 5:3-5, 8-13; 7:21-27; Gal. 5:19; Exodus 20:14; Deut. 5:18; Matt. 5:27; 19:18; Luke 18:20; Rom. 13:9; James 2:11; Lev. 20:10-21; 1 Cor. 10:8; 6:18; Jude 7.) Furthermore, the Church believes that sexuality is assigned by God at birth, whatever that may be, and the Holy Scripture does not permit an individual from altering their sexual identity physically or otherwise. (See Deut. 23:1.)

Pre-Marriage Covenant

We, as a couple, agree to regular church attendance at MSC.

We, as a couple, agree to fill out this pre-marital counseling form, take the PREPARE inventory and participate in all pre-marital sessions with the pastor and/or Preparing for Marriage (PFM) mentor couple to discuss the information on these forms.

We, as a couple, agree to live separately until marriage.*

We, as a couple, agree to refrain from sexual involvement until after our wedding.*

If divorced, I agree to at least a one year gap between the end of the last marriage and this one.

We, as a couple, acknowledge MSC's position on Marriage and Sexuality.

We, as a couple, agree to meet with our Preparing for Marriage mentors at least three times within the first year after being married. These mentors will be assigned by the church.

**In order to enter into a God-honoring, biblical, and pure Christian marriage relationship, if you are currently living together and/or are sexually active with each other, we would ask that you covenant/agree to live separately and refrain from further sexual activity until after your wedding in order to focus your attention and energies on building a God-honoring relationship and building a biblical and God-honoring foundation for your future marriage.*

I agree to faithfully follow the Pre-Marriage Covenant:

Signed _____

Print Name _____ **Date** _____

Pre-Marriage Counseling Form

Confidential

In order to best serve you for pre-marital counseling, the following information will be extremely helpful. If there is anything you are uncomfortable answering in writing, please leave it blank and it can be discussed on a personal basis with the pastor and your mentors.

If you are seeking to use our church facility for your wedding, but have someone else to perform the ceremony and/or pre-marital counseling, the pastor will determine at the end of this meeting if our church would be appropriate for your wedding ceremony.

Pre-marital counseling at Mountain Springs Church will cover spiritual foundations for a Christian marriage and family, temperament/personality assessments, finances and wedding plans.

See our Wedding Policies, Procedures and Pricing booklet for policies, procedures and prices for weddings at MSC.

Note: Each person is to fill out his/her own form

1st choice for wedding Date: _____ Time: _____ AM or PM

2nd choice for wedding Date: _____ Time: _____ AM or PM

Where would you like your wedding ceremony to take place?

- Mountain Springs Church
- Other location or church: _____

Whom would you like to perform your wedding ceremony?

1st choice* _____

2nd choice* _____

* If you do not have a pastor that you are close to and you are uncertain about the person to perform your wedding ceremony, you may consider a life group leader, spiritual mentor, or your mentor for the PFM program.
It is **your** responsibility to obtain the officiator.

Personal

Full Name: _____ Current Age: _____

Address: _____ Date of Birth _____

City: _____ State: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____ (ext) _____

Cell Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Race: Caucasian__ Other(State race)_____ Mixed(State mixed race)_____

My current housing situation: I am living...

Alone With roommate(s) With Family Other: _____

Have you been married before? No Yes, how long? _____ years _____ months

On what grounds/basis did the marriage end? _____

Date? _____

Is your former spouse: Still Unmarried Remarried

Relationship with your former spouse:

Non-existent Hostile Difficult Cordial Friendly

For engaged individuals who currently have children from this relationship or a previous relationship:

Name _____ M F Age: ____ Grade (K-12): ____ Custody: Full Partial None

Name _____ M F Age: ____ Grade (K-12): ____ Custody: Full Partial None

Name _____ M F Age: ____ Grade (K-12): ____ Custody: Full Partial None

Education

Currently in High School High School Graduate Some College

Tech/Trade/Community College Graduate. Degree in: _____

College Graduate. Degree in: _____

Advanced Degree in: _____

Employment

- Full-time employment as: _____ Company _____
- Part-time employment as: _____ Company _____
- Self-employed as: _____
- Student at: _____ Will graduate (year): _____
- Currently unemployed
- Homemaker, formerly employed as: _____ Company: _____
- Retired, formerly employed as: _____ Company: _____
- Other: _____

Church Background

Attendance:

- Mountain Springs Church, since _____
- Other (name) _____ Since _____

I attend Saturday or Sunday services ...

- Regularly (With my fiancé yes no)
 Sometimes Special occasions Not at all

Reason for sporadic, infrequent, or non-existent attendance: _____

As a child, I grew up:

- Not attending church Attending church a few times a year
 Attending church semi-regularly Attending church regularly

Previous churches I have attended:

Name/City	Year(s)	Denomination
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Spiritual Journey

Which of the following best describes where you are in your spiritual journey with Jesus Christ?

#1 Little or no religious background: I seldom or never attended church while growing up. I have little or no knowledge of the Bible and what it means to be a Christian.

#2 Somewhat religious: I grew up attending church on a fairly regular or occasional basis. I have a basic understanding of some of the Bible stories. I have a concept of God in my life, but for the most part I live my life according to what I think or feel is best for me. If I died today, I would hope to go to heaven but I am uncertain if a person can know with 100% confidence that they will go to heaven when they die.

#3 Spiritual Seeker: I feel I am at a point in my life where I have a genuine desire to have a better understanding of the Bible, Jesus Christ, and the Christian faith. I am still investigating Biblical Christianity and I am open to God becoming more real to me. I have not yet fully yielded my life to Jesus Christ and I have not yet put my trust in Him to forgive all my sins. If someone asked me if I have been “born again”, I would say “no” or I would not be sure what they were talking about.

The thing(s) I feel are holding me back from yielding and giving my life fully to the Lord are:

#4 Wayward Christian believer: In the past (approximate age(s) : _____), I had a genuine love for God and had asked Jesus Christ to be my personal Lord and Savior. In recent years, I have been out of fellowship with the Lord, have not been active in a Bible-believing church, have not developed or maintained close Christian friendships, and have spent little or no time in the Bible.

#5 New/Young/Recommitted Christian Believer: I have recently become a born-again Christian and I am excited about my new relationship with Jesus Christ **OR** I have been a born-again Christian for a long-time, but am only recently discovering God’s deep love for me and His desire to work in and through my life.

#6 Stable/Growing Christian Believer: I am confident of God’s active working and leading in my life. I look to Him and His word on a regular basis. I am regularly involved on a weekly basis in a Bible-believing church and I look for ways to serve the Lord and others.

#7 Mature Christian Believer: I have a deep and consistent walk with the Lord. I am actively attending and serving on a weekly basis in a Bible-believing church. I understand my spiritual giftedness and actively use my time, gifts and resources in influence others for the Lord.

For those who checked #4, #5, #6 or #7: How and when did you come to know Jesus Christ personally?

For those who checked #5, #6, or #7: What do you currently do to actively maintain your relationship with the Lord?

Family Background

During your growing up years, who raised you: Natural parents Single parent: Mom Dad 1 Natural/1 Step parent Adoptive parents Relatives (relation: _____)

How would you rate your growing up years?

- Pre-School: Happy Okay Difficult - Because: _____
- Primary School: Happy Okay Difficult - Because: _____
- Middle or Jr.High: Happy Okay Difficult - Because: _____
- High School: Happy Okay Difficult - Because: _____
- College-age: Happy Okay Difficult - Because: _____

Number of siblings: _____ Brothers _____ Sisters _____
In birth order, which number are you (#1 being the oldest): _____

If your parent(s) are still living, where are they living (City/s, State/s): _____

What was the primary vocation of your Father: _____ Mother: _____

List up to 4 Cities/States where you lived while growing up and years you lived there:

_____ / _____ years.

_____ / _____ years.

_____ / _____ years.

_____ / _____ years.

Were any of your parents or siblings: Physically abusive Verbally abusive
 Sexually abusive Alcoholics Drug users

Comments: _____

Who has had the greatest spiritual influence on your faith in God? _____

What was the religious faith of your parents?

Father: _____ Was he... Strong Moderate Nominal
 Non-existent in his faith practices?

Mother: _____ Was she... Strong Moderate Nominal
 Non-existent in her faith practices?

Personal Issues

How long have you known your fiancée? _____

How long have you been actively dating or courting? _____

How would you describe your relationship during your dating/engagement period:

Heaven on earth Happy Okay Rocky – up & down

Very difficult because: _____

How do your parents feel about your marriage to your fiancée?

Excited Accepting Questioning Against

Have you received a “blessing” from your and your spouse’s parents for this marriage?

Yes No I don’t know what a “blessing” is

How do your future in-laws feel about your marriage to your fiancée?

Excited Accepting Questioning Against

How do your closest personal friends feel about your marriage to your fiancée?

Excited Accepting Questioning Against

Have you ever taken any temperament/personality tests to see how you compare/contrast to your fiancée’s temperament/personality? No Yes

If you know, what was the name of the test assessment you took? _____

How would you describe your sexual relationship up until this point?

- Saving yourselves sexually for marriage
- Physically/sexually involved with each other
- Have lived or are currently living together

Are there any secrets you are holding in and you feel that if your fiancée found out, you would be afraid he/she might call off the wedding? No Yes

If yes, are you willing to discuss this during pre-marital counseling? No Yes

Have you ever been in a relationship that resulted in an abortion? No Yes- Year _____

What are your current feelings about that? _____

Have you ever been treated for depression? No Yes- Year(s) treated: _____

Have you ever attempted suicide? No Yes- Year: _____

Have you ever had any homosexual experiences? No One time in the past

Some encounter in the past Numerous encounters in the past Currently involved

Have you ever: Used drugs- type/s: _____

Had a drinking problem Been arrested Been in jail

Struggled with pornography

Have you ever: Prayed aloud together Read/discussed the Bible together
 Attended a Bible study group together None of these

Have you discussed in detail the issue of children (timing of children and the number of children you desire)? No Yes

In the past, when you have gotten in disagreements or arguments with a loved one or family member, have you (*check all that apply*):

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Screamed | <input type="checkbox"/> Covered up my true feeling | <input type="checkbox"/> Blamed everything on the other person |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gone shopping | <input type="checkbox"/> Lied about my feelings | <input type="checkbox"/> Brought up old issues from the past |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hurt them | <input type="checkbox"/> Left the house mad | <input type="checkbox"/> Prayed with them about the problem/issue |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Punched them | <input type="checkbox"/> Walked out of the room | <input type="checkbox"/> Calmed myself down so the problem could be discussed and resolved |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Slammed doors | <input type="checkbox"/> Called them bad names | <input type="checkbox"/> Gotten a 3 rd party to help us work through the problem/issue |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pouted | <input type="checkbox"/> Promised to get even | <input type="checkbox"/> Given the person the silent treatment for ___ hours OR ___ days |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gotten drunk | <input type="checkbox"/> Thrown or broke things | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flown into a rage | <input type="checkbox"/> Clammed up/refused to talk | |

Are there any significant health problems you are bringing into the marriage?

No Yes - Explain: _____

Are there any financial debts that you bring into the marriage?

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Credit card bills \$ _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Student loans \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly car payment \$ _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Personal or family loans \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Home mortgage \$ _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Medical bills \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other debts/loans \$ _____ | |

Check all words that describe your financial attitudes and habits:

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Spender | <input type="checkbox"/> Out of control | <input type="checkbox"/> My family argued about money issues |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shopper | <input type="checkbox"/> E-bay shopper | <input type="checkbox"/> Spend more than I make |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Saver | <input type="checkbox"/> Impulsive shopper | <input type="checkbox"/> Throw out or give away what I'm not using |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Orderly | <input type="checkbox"/> Bargain hunter | <input type="checkbox"/> Spend less than I make |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Generous | <input type="checkbox"/> Parents spoiled me | <input type="checkbox"/> Wal-Mart or K-Mart shopper |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Greedy | <input type="checkbox"/> On-line shopper | <input type="checkbox"/> Boutiques or department store shopper |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tight | <input type="checkbox"/> Rich pleasures/tastes | <input type="checkbox"/> Garage sale & thrift store shopper |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tither | <input type="checkbox"/> Parents deprived me | <input type="checkbox"/> Parents trained me in financial matters |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Investor | <input type="checkbox"/> Compare prices | <input type="checkbox"/> Operate on a budget-spending-savings plan |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Thrifty | <input type="checkbox"/> Financially clueless | <input type="checkbox"/> I have more month than money |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Extravagant | <input type="checkbox"/> Live for the moment | <input type="checkbox"/> I don't even notice prices |
| <input type="checkbox"/> In debt | <input type="checkbox"/> Simple pleasures/tastes | <input type="checkbox"/> I have money in the bank |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pack rat | <input type="checkbox"/> Careful shopper | <input type="checkbox"/> Have attended a Bible Study or Christian seminar on financial matters |

Do you know what "tithing" your income means? No Yes

Read Malachi 3:8 – 12, and explain what you think this passage means: _____
