

Commitments Toward Marriage

Our church views the wedding itself as a ministry and not merely a ceremony. We perform weddings primarily for those who are regular attendees of our church. We also take seriously our commitment to help prepare the couple for a Christ-centered marriage. This is reflected in our Wedding Policy, and we ask each couple to make the following commitments:

- 1 A commitment to attend at least five sessions of premarital discipling. Requests for a wedding in our church should therefore be made **months in advance** to be able to complete the discipling. (A four month advance request time is suggested). Absences from the scheduled discipling sessions may result in postponement or cancellation of the wedding ceremony.
- 2 A reaffirmation of your commitment before God to maintain sexual purity, restraining from sexual involvement or intercourse until following your wedding, and agreeing not to live together prior to the wedding.
- 3 A commitment that the wedding will be characterized by the truths and principles of Christianity, and will uphold Biblical principles and standards as follows:
 - * Both persons must be confessed Christians; or both must be non-believers who are willing to have a God-honoring ceremony. (see 2 Corinthians 6:14)
 - * In view of the high priority and permanence of marriage in Scripture, remarriage following divorce is a serious consideration. Those who have been married previously should first counsel with the Pastor regarding the biblical grounds for divorce and remarriage.

Marriage In Our Culture

Our society believes deeply in marriage. Ninety-six percent of all Americans will marry at some time in their lives. Yet more than half of those married couples will terminate their relationship in divorce. Many of the other couples remaining together will be disillusioned. Even among those who are divorced, marriage itself remains a significant goal. Seventy-nine percent of divorced individuals remarry, though it is ironic that remarriages statistically fail at a higher rate than first marriages.

As Christians, we believe that marriage is both a spiritual covenant with God as well as a civil contract before society. Marriage is a covenant of companionship in the sense that both individuals vow themselves by God's grace to each other for as long as they both shall live. Marriage is a civil contract in the sense that both individuals declare their intentions to abide by the laws of the state for their marital union. As a Christian couple lives out the commitment of their marriage vows, the positive consequences for themselves and others are almost unparalleled. For one another, for Christ, for their children, for the Christian community, for those yet to respond to the gospel of Christ, they demonstrate the beauty of God's truth, including faith, commitment, hope and love. Thus this church places a very high value upon marriage and the preparation for this sacred union.

Marriage In The Christian Community

Because we desire to contribute to the healthy beginning of any marital union, our church and pastoral staff requires that couples commit themselves to a process of marital discipling in the months preceding their wedding. It is possible that the pastor may also request follow-up counseling following the wedding. The purpose of these sessions are:

- 1 To assist the couple in assessing their readiness for marriage.
- 2 To clarify the beliefs, values, strengths and behaviors that each individual brings to their relationship.
- 3 To clarify the spiritual resources which Christianity provides as a foundation for marriage, and to gain a better understanding of God's desires for every marital union.
- 4 To resolve any present conflicts or weaknesses, and to develop the insights and skills needed to meet potential tensions or conflicts in the future.
- 5 To incorporate others in the process who may support and enrich the couple's marriage.

The premarital discipling process may begin with various assessment tools, which will provide insights into the issues which may need to be explored. The couple must commit themselves to at least five discipling sessions, and may expect up to fifty hours of relationship building homework assignments during the course of the discipling. Each of these assignments must be completed according to the instructions and schedule given. The planning of the wedding ceremony and/or reception will require additional appointments with the pastor and/or the church wedding coordinator.



Calvary Chapel
1900 N. Douty Street
Hanford, CA 93230



"Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh." Genesis 2:24

Wedding Policy



- *Sanctuary seats a maximum of 266 (including the balcony & foyer)
- *Fellowship Hall seats 88 for a banquet (not counting the wedding party if it is on the stage)
- *There is no dance floor

Policy for Facilities Use

1. Any ceremony in our sanctuary will be conducted by one of our ordained pastoral staff. Use of other ordained or credentialed ministers must be approved.
2. Calvary Chapel of Hanford will consider approval of the application based on a number of criteria, such as scheduling, availability of personnel for discipling, etc.
3. Upon receiving the "Wedding Request Form" the date is tentatively reserved. Following approval a \$250 deposit must be received to officially place the wedding date on the church calendar. The balance of fees must be paid at least *30 days* prior to the ceremony. Failure to do so may result in postponement or cancellation of the wedding ceremony.
4. Weddings are scheduled Friday evenings at 5:00, 6:00 or 7:00 and Saturdays at 10:00, 11:00 A.M., 12:00, 1:00, 2:00 P.M. (No Sunday weddings). The Sanctuary must be vacated no later than 3:00 P.M. (This includes any reception held in our facilities).
5. Smoking, drinking of alcoholic beverages, use of narcotics or any illegal substance is prohibited. If violated, permission to use the facilities will be terminated immediately. Water is the only beverage allowed in the sanctuary. Please inform all wedding party and guests!
6. No rice, confetti, bird seed, or natural rose petals may be thrown. No tape, nails, tacks, staples, pins or anything that would mar the walls, floors, or wood are allowed. Any candles must be drip less. (Most florists can provide them). A ground cover must be used under all candles and plants to protect the carpet. No aisle runners. (We've seen too many brides trip over them!).
7. No animals (other than those used for guide purposes) are allowed inside the buildings.
8. The wedding couple is responsible for arranging any needed musicians with the guidance of the wedding coordinator. Music must be approved in order to assure it will be Christ-honoring.

9. All food items (coffee, cream, sugar, etc.), paper items (plates, napkins, etc.), candelabrum, and flowers shall be furnished by the wedding party.
10. No red beverages (fruit punch, grape juice, etc.) are allowed.
11. The wedding party is responsible for arranging the washing and restocking of dishes and kitchen utensils, and the removal of decorations and leftover food.
12. Any item that needs to be moved requires the permission of the wedding coordinator or custodian.
13. Any equipment or property damaged will need to be repaired or replaced. Settlement must be reached within four weeks after the damage.
14. A rehearsal may be held the evening before the wedding. The wedding coordinator will be in charge of the rehearsal.
15. At a wedding where the presence of Christ is the central focus, His presence shall also remain the central focus at the reception. The values of Christianity shall determine the atmosphere of the entire event - including choice of music. (Dancing is allowed).



Wedding Coordinator:
Ashley Kelso-593-6971

Building Supervisor:
Ken Coplin – 707-5188

Financial Responsibilities

Rental for Church Members Only
(Bride, Groom, or parents regularly attend Calvary Chapel of Hanford)

*Wedding fee is \$500.00 which includes cost of facility rental, sound technician, and wedding coordinator (person who is go-between for church and wedding couple, this is not a coordinator for your entire wedding)

*Reception in Fellowship Hall with use of Kitchen is an extra \$200.00.

*Any rearrangement (esp. instruments) of the stage area must be cleared by the wedding coordinator.

*Musician and pastor honorariums, etc. are the responsibility of the wedding couple.

*Decorations are not provided but must be approved by wedding coordinator.

*Deposit of \$250 is due with the Wedding Application. Remainder of fees are due one month prior to your wedding date. Should your wedding be postponed or cancelled, your fees are refundable.

Calvary Chapel
1900 N. Dooty Street
Hanford, CA 93230

Phone: 559-582-5532
Fax: 559-582-5511
Email: calvaryhanford@sbcglobal.net
www.calvaryhanford.com

