



# New Beginnings

## Pre-Marital Training & Wedding Contract

### **What We Believe About You:**

You were created by a special act of God, in His own image, and you are the crowning work of His creation. In the beginning man was innocent of sin and was endowed by His Creator with freedom of choice. By his free choice man sinned against God and brought sin into the human race. Through the temptation of Satan man transgressed the command of God, and fell from his original innocence. In this position man has inherited a nature and environment inclined toward sin. Unfortunately, as soon as man is capable of moral action, man becomes transgressors and thus under condemnation.

Only the grace of God can bring man into His holy fellowship and enable man to fulfill the creative purpose of God. This grace is offered freely to all who accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, who by His own blood obtained eternal redemption for the believer. The sacredness of human personality is evident in that God created man in His own image, and in that Christ died for man; therefore every man possesses dignity and is worthy of respect and Christian love. \*"man" = humanity

### **What We Believe About Marriage:**

Marriage is one of the most important commitments a person can make. Aside from your decision to follow Christ, no other decision will have as great an impact on your life. Marriage is also a perfect reflection of the pure love Christ has for His bride, the Church, and the relationship of the husband and wife to each other. Marriage is a gift God has given to humankind for the well-being of the entire human family, it is not a promise and should be handled accordingly.

It is our belief here at New Beginnings that the reason so many marriages are failing in our time, is because far too many churches have failed to recognize their responsibility to properly equip people to enter in to the marriage relationship. We believe that an understanding of Christian marriage can only flourish and grow in the context of the Church by attending worship services (Reach-Up), moving forward in your own personal Discipleship (Reach-In) and learning about other aspects of church life (Reach-Out). It is our goal then, to join with you attempting to fulfill that obligation to the best of our ability before we commit to performing a marriage ceremony with you.

In a Christian marriage, two individuals are making a lifelong vow to God, publicly witnessed and acknowledged by the community of faith, all that God requires for their marriage as outlined in the Bible. Because of the great significance and importance of the marriage vow, all parties should approach marriage prayerfully, patiently, and honestly.

### **Pre-Marital Training Expectations:**

You will be asked to attend 3 to 5 pre-marital training sessions with the officiating minister from NBC:

- Phil Salle- Senior Pastor
- Terry Langenberg- Pastor of Administration
- Jeff Berg- Family Pastor
- Matt Fowler- Family Pastor
- Sankie Lynch- Family Pastor

*\*Most pastoral gifts average \$150 (Gifts should reflect the time spent in the 5+ hours of training, wedding rehearsal, ceremony, etc.)*

These sessions will provide the opportunity to get better acquainted with the pastor, discuss the meaning of Christian marriage, consider a variety of issues that couples face today, and to complete the planning of your wedding ceremony. (A \$35 fee may be required for PREPARE & ENRICH, a pre-marital assessment)

### **Overview of Pre-Marital Training Schedule:**

- Your Individual Position in Christ
  - o God's plan for Man and Marriage
- Your Expectations for Marriage and Family
  - o Communication
  - o Conflict Resolution
  - o Relationships
  - o Personality
- Working through any uncovered or unseen issues
- Wedding Ceremony details

At the end of the counseling sessions, the pastor will determine whether he/she can responsibly conduct the marriage ceremony or if further counseling is necessary.

### **Obtaining a Marriage License:**

Oklahoma State Residents:

- Standard Marriage License is \$50.
  - \*The fee is reduced to \$5 if submitted with the required proof of counseling.

### **Each county has a different set of requirements, below is Tulsa County:**

1. When applying for a marriage license both parties must be present
2. Proof of Age & Identity (State Issued I.D., Passport, Birth Certificate, etc.)
3. If either party was previously married; date of the divorce (min. of six months)
4. If former names (prior divorces, etc.) does not match, court clerk may need certified copies of court orders, divorce decrees, etc.
5. \*Official letter from NBC after completion of required counseling (we'll provide)

The Marriage License Division of the Tulsa County Court Clerk's Office is located on the second floor of the Tulsa County Courthouse:

- 500 S. Denver, Tulsa, OK.
- Hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. (Monday – Friday).
- Contact numbers: 918-596-5478 or 5451 (Leave Message: 918-596-5452)

**Pre-Marital Questionnaire:**

*\*Both you and your fiancé need to complete a questionnaire*

**General Information**

Have you set a tentative date for your wedding (*No or the Date*)? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you plan on being married at NBC? \_\_\_\_\_ If no, where? \_\_\_\_\_

Which Pastor are you requesting to perform the ceremony? \_\_\_\_\_

If he is not available, may another Pastor to perform the ceremony? \_\_\_\_\_

**Personal Information**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary #: \_\_\_\_\_ Fiancé's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

**Marital Status**

Have you been married before? \_\_\_\_\_ If 'Yes', for how long? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you: Divorced \_\_\_\_\_ Widowed \_\_\_\_\_ Separated \_\_\_\_\_

If divorced, is it finalized (date)? \_\_\_\_\_ If not, when? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have children from a previous marriage? \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, how many? \_\_\_\_\_ What are their ages? \_\_\_\_\_

If you are divorced, what is your custody arrangement? \_\_\_\_\_

If divorced, why was your previous marriage terminated? \_\_\_\_\_

**Engagement Period**

How long have you known each other? \_\_\_\_\_

How long have you been dating? \_\_\_\_\_

How long have you been officially engaged? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you currently living together? \_\_\_\_\_

**Religious Background**

Are you a Born Again Christian? \_\_\_\_\_

Briefly describe what it means to be Born Again: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Do you regularly attend New Beginnings? \_\_\_\_\_ If 'Yes', for how long? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you in a D-Group (Who's) \_\_\_\_\_

If 'No', where do you attend church? \_\_\_\_\_

*Please answer the following questions as completely yet as briefly as possible. Please be honest with your responses. Don't simply write the answers you think we expect.*

**1. How do you know you “love” your fiancé?**

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**2. How have you prepared for marriage? (Please list books, classes, training, etc.)**

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**3. What do you expect from marriage that you cannot have staying single?**

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**4. Give some reasons why you want to marry your fiancé.**

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**5. What do you see as your role in the marriage?**

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**6. What do you see as your mate's role in marriage?**

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**7. With so many marriages failing today, why do think yours will succeed?**

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**8. How do other members of your family feel about your fiancé?**

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Please Note: Performance of marriage ceremonies is an accommodation to the body. NOT an obligation. It is understood that entering into pre-marital counseling is NOT an agreement of approval to be married by New Beginnings Church or by one of its pastors. NBC is NOT obligated to meet any wedding date set prior to the completion of counseling. We are not, nor do we claim to be “Professional” Counselors. Our counsel is based solely on God's Word, the Bible.

I acknowledge that I have read and thoroughly understand the position of NBC and that all of the information filled in is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

## **Pre-Marital Training Schedule**

### **Session One**

- Get to know each other (*Look over Questionnaire*)...
- Expectations...
- Gen. 1 (*God's Plan for You & Marriage*)...
- Schedule remaining Sessions...
- *Homework: Take the Prepare & Enrich Assessment & Start reading...*

### **Session Two**

- Eph. 5 (*God's Plan for Men & Women*)...
- Review Prepare & Enrich Assessment Results (pg. 3 & 4)
- Exercise #1: Sharing Strength and Growth Areas
- Exercise #2: Creating a Wish List using Assertiveness & Active Listening
- *Optional Further Reading...*
- *Homework: Assign Additional Exercises & Discuss Differences/Communication*

### **Session Three**

- Their Plans for Each other...Expectations in the day-to-day...
- Review Prepare & Enrich Assessment Results (pg. 5)
- Exercise #3: Identifying Most Critical Issues
- Love Languages...
- Exercise #4: Ten Steps for Resolving Conflicts
- Conflict Resolution (*LUV Talk & FEAR Dance*)...
- *Homework: Assign Additional Exercises & Practice the 'Conflict Resolution' skills*

### **Session Four**

- Review Prepare & Enrich Assessment Results (pg. 6 & 7)
- Exercise #5: Mapping Your Relationship
- In-Laws...Fighting Fair...
- Exercise #6: SCOPE out your Personality
- Addictions...Finances...
- Begin 'Wedding Vows and Ceremony' Discussion
- *Homework: Assign Additional Exercises & Any new or unanswered Questions*

### **Session Five**

- Review Prepare & Enrich Assessment Results (pg. 8-10)
- Any extra exercises still wanting them to do...
- The 'D' Word...
- Talk Church Options...
- *God's Plan for their Marriage...*
- Final details about the wedding (Vows, Message, Order of Ceremony, etc.)...

### **\*Strongly Recommended Reading:**

- How to Win a Family Fight (Cunningham)
- DNA of Relationship for Couples (Smalley & Paul)

### **\*\*Additional Recommended Reading:**

- Five Love Languages (Chapman)
- Sacred Marriage (Thomas)
- Before I Say "I do" Devotional (Wright)
- Save your Marriage before it Starts (Parrott)
- \*Saving your Second Marriage before it Starts (Parrott)

## **Wedding Check-List** *(for additional planning and scheduling)*

### **Six to Twelve Months before the wedding:**

- Send engagement announcement to newspaper
- Contact church for available date & pastoral availability
- Determine wedding budget
- Choose size, style and location of wedding and reception
- Make reservations for wedding and reception locations
- Prayerfully select wedding attendants
- Select and order dresses and accessories for the bride and bridal attendants
- Start your guest list with fiancé
- Select photographer
- Plan your new home, begin shopping for household

### **Three months before the wedding:**

- Complete guest lists
- Order invitations, announcements and thank you notes
- Arrange to see your doctor
- Meet with caterer to consider reception details
- Order wedding cake, cake boxes
- Plan and make reservations for honeymoon
- Advise mothers of colors for dresses
- Select and order wedding rings
- Select florist and order flowers
- Meet with church wedding facilitator

### **Two months before the wedding:**

- Address announcements and invitations
- Make appointment with hairdresser
- Register china, silver, crystal selections
- Purchase a bride's register to record gifts
- Make arrangements for rehearsal dinner
- Select wedding album, guest books and photo album
- Order wedding memorabilia: cake knife, server, garter, etc.
- Choose and order gifts for attendants

### **One month before the wedding:**

- Mail wedding invitations (Have one complete invitation weighed at post office)
- Check newspapers for announcement requirements
- Plan party for bridesmaids and groomsmen
- Final fitting of dresses
- Write thank you notes as gifts are received

### **Two weeks before the wedding:**

- Get marriage license
- Arrange transportation to church
- Arrange rehearsal, inform all concerned
- Determine rehearsal dinner and reception seating
- Have all ceremony details settled

### **One week before the wedding:**

- Final check with photographer, florist, musicians, etc.
- Give final guest count to caterer
- Prepare announcements, maid of honor mails these the day after the wedding
- Begin packing for your honeymoon