

A Word from Our Pastor

Next to leading someone to Christ or baptizing a believer, there is no pastoral duty that I take more seriously than performing a wedding.

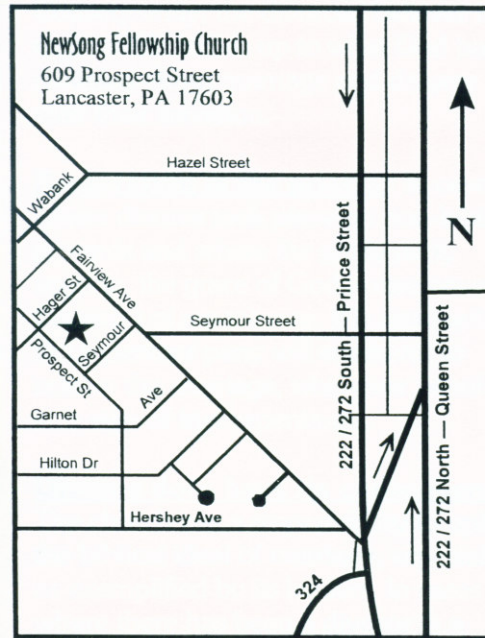
The Bible gives clear principles for building strong and successful Christian marriages and families. We at NewSong are firmly committed to those principles in a day in which they are being challenged. The following brochure describes a concise plan from biblical standards that we have adopted as the criteria for having a wedding performed by NewSong Fellowship Church.

It is with much prayer and experience that we make these statements, realizing that there will be those who will decide not to be guided by these standards and therefore, choose not to be married in our church. To those who fall into this category, we still extend an open door to be part of our church fellowship.

With Much Joy,

Pastor Jamie Mitchell

NewSong Fellowship Church



NEWSONG FELLOWSHIP CHURCH



Getting Married

609 Prospect Street
Lancaster, PA 17603

Phone: 717.393.9600
Fax: 717.393.6900

Email:
info@newsongfellowship.net

Website:
www.newsongfellowship.net

GETTING MARRIED AT NEWSONG

Building Strong Marriages

Marriage: A Sacred Picture

Marriage is the most beautiful and sacred picture of the relationship between Christ and His Bride, the Church, found throughout Scripture. This is best reflected in the lives of born again Christians, baptized as believers by immersion as a testimony of their commitment to Jesus Christ as the Lord and Savior of their lives. Their testimony should be clearly seen in their daily walk with God, love for His Word and prayer, fellowship with other believers and growing involvement in ministry. In addition, it should be their desire to proclaim their love for Christ in word, deed and example throughout their ceremony and reception. (*John 3:3, II Corinthians 5:17; Mark 16:16, Ephesians 5:22-31*)

Equally Yoked

Second Corinthians 6:14 clearly states that those who are true believers in Christ should not become united with someone who is not a believer. Testimonies prove that an “unequally yoked” marriage brings great travail on both parties. Therefore, we will not participate in any wedding when the couple is unequally yoked. The pastor will seriously consider marrying two non-Christians. However, they must submit to counseling, and consistent attendance at NewSong services is required.

A Nurturing Environment

Christ has established the local church as representative of His body on earth. Within the church God has given us a nurturing environment, hav-

ing provided order, pastoral leadership, accountability, and protection for the believer. This relationship with a caring, committed body of believers is of strategic importance to building a successful marriage and family life. We consider persons who are committed to membership in this or another Bible-believing evangelical church as best representing this principle. Those not connected to a church will be required to attend NewSong Fellowship prior to wedding preparations and begin the process of joining the church. (*Ephesians 4:11-16; Hebrews 10:24,25; 13:17*)

A Lifetime Covenant

God’s ideal clearly teaches that marriage is a lifetime covenant, remaining unbroken. Realizing that in our day, this standard set by God has been compromised widely, and that an ever-increasing number of marriages are being broken by divorce for various reasons, we ask that you remove the option of divorce in the counseling process and as part of your vows. To be consistent with our understanding of God’s standard, we may choose not to remarry those who have been previously divorced while his or her mate is still living or unmarried. We believe God’s desire for those individuals is that they be reunited with their former mate if still unmarried. We will do anything possible to help in the healing of that broken relationship. If the former spouse has already remarried, we would encourage the single to seriously consider a new purpose that God may have for his or her life. We also provide counsel for those who are already remarried, who seek help in rebuilding their lives and strengthening their present marriage. (*Malachi 2:13-17; Mark 10:2-12; I Corinthians 7*)

The Counseling Process

The lifetime success of a marriage depends largely on the foundation upon which it has been built. The

first phase of pre-marital counseling is investigative, as marriage does not create new problems, but rather reveals old problems that were never resolved before marriage.

Since engagement is not to be hastily or prematurely entered into, the counseling process should begin before a commitment to engagement. The counsel of parents and pastors is an integral part of the process.

We would request that a couple establish the counseling relationship prior to setting a date, reserving a reception location, finalizing wedding plans, etc. We have found that solidifying plans prior to counseling is premature and creates tension, especially if serious counseling issues surface.

During the second phase of counseling a wedding date can be set and arrangements can begin regarding the ceremony and reception. Our counseling will focus on gaining unity through understanding God’s purpose for marriage, the individual responsibilities of husband and wife, good communication, financial agreement, and the spiritual life of the family. (*I Peter 5:1-8; Proverbs 4, 5*)

The Wedding Reception

A couple desiring to please God by being consistent in their Christian witness, will want their wedding reception to reflect the standards upon which their marriage is based. The reception is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for testimony to be given to family and friends. The planning of both ceremony and reception should be coordinated with the officiating minister.

Even though we do not have our own facility, we have a working relationship with a number of local churches that would provide a beautiful setting for your ceremony. (*Colossians 3:17; I Thessalonians 5:22*)