

RESURRECTION LIFE

Marriage Policy

Resurrection Life is committed to helping couples build Christ-centered marriages that will last a lifetime.

Resurrection Life has adopted this Marriage Policy as a guideline for what we believe to be a Christ-honoring marriage, according to God's Word. Couples who have questions or comments about the policy are welcome to meet with a pastor for further discussion. Couples who wish to have a RL pastor officiate their wedding, or who wish to use our building for their wedding ceremony, must abide by our marriage policies.

It is the desire of Resurrection Life that your marriage be all that God intends for you. Since God designed the marriage relationship, He knows best how to build a marriage that will last a lifetime.

As we read His Word, we are able to discern basic principles which must be understood and applied if we hope to experience joy and fulfillment in marriage. Ignoring these principles will result in frustration and possible failure in the marriage relationship.

Because we are committed to building healthy marriages that can go the distance, RL has adopted the following guidelines. Our purpose is not to condemn or reject anyone, but to comply with God's principles for marriage. At RL we value the permanence of marriage. It is our desire that your marriage models the Biblical relationship between Jesus Christ and His bride, the Church; a covenant relationship characterized by joy, intimacy and permanence.

1. **We recommend a minimum of six months of marital preparation.** This allows plenty of time for completion. This program is required for all couples who desire to be married by one of the pastors or elders at Resurrection Life or who wish to use the RL facilities for their ceremony and/or reception.
2. **A minimum of a one-year dating/courting relationship is recommended before marriage.** Even though some people have the skills and maturity to build a committed relationship sooner than others, there really are no shortcuts to building intimacy, trust and communication.
3. **Divorced persons may be considered for marriage at Resurrection Life;** marriages will be performed only after one year has passed from the time the divorce is finalized. We highly recommend you attend a divorce recovery program at Resurrection Life or another church. We believe a new relationship should not be pursued until the potential of a healthy reconciliation has been exhausted and significant healing has taken place.
4. **Remarriage following the death of a spouse should occur after one year from the spouse's death.**
5. **Resurrection Life Pastors and elders will not marry couples and RL's facilities cannot be used if the couple is "unequally yoked" spiritually.** Both people must have surrendered their lives to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and be committed to establishing a Christian home.

6. **No other elder or Pastor on the Resurrection Life staff will marry a couple if another elder or pastor of the church has refused to perform the ceremony, based on spiritual reasons.**
7. **In accordance with Biblical teaching and RL's Statement of Faith, marriages performed at Resurrection Life will only be between one man and one woman.** This church recognizes marriage as exclusively the legal union of one man and one woman in which such union is a lifetime commitment. Gen. 2:18-24; Matt. 19: 3-9; Mk. 10: 6-8; I Cor. 7:2
8. **These guidelines are not meant to be an exhaustive list.** At times individual circumstances will require a decision by RL pastoral staff and/or elders. Decisions regarding marriages performed at Resurrection Life and/or by pastors of Resurrection Life are governed by these guidelines as well as those outlined in the church's statement of faith. In addition, couples agree to postpone plans should the elder or pastor believe additional time and/or counsel is required.

In conclusion, these guidelines have been created based upon Resurrection Life's belief in God's plan for marriage, and are meant to encourage, protect, and strengthen the couple's commitment to Christ. Due to the nature of interpersonal relationships and individual levels of maturity, there may be some exceptions to these guidelines, as determined on an individual basis by the Pastor, in conjunction with the Elders of Resurrection Life.

Acknowledged and Agreed To:

Bride-Elect – Signature

Date

Bride-Elect – Print Name

Groom-Elect – Signature

Date

Groom-Elect – Print Name

Pastor

Date