

Renewal Ministries of Colorado Springs

Hope and Healing Through Christ-Centered Ministry

Preparing For Marriage Through Sexual Purity

We believe that marriage is a sacred union, ordained of God, between one man and one woman. Our desire is that couples approaching marriage embrace proven biblical standards that promote emotional, spiritual and relational health. Individuals and couples should live their lives in such a manner as protect and preserve individual reputations and dignity (Romans 8:12; 12:1-2, 2 Corinthians 7:1, 1 John 2:15-17).

There must be spiritual compatibility and commitment between prospective marriage partners. "Can two people walk together without agreeing on the direction?" Amos 3:3 (2 Corinthians 6:14-18)

The future bride and groom must agree to abstain from physical intimacy or living together. Sex is a gift from God that brings tremendous joy, excitement and blessing within the appropriate context of marriage. While many are working toward marriage, honoring God and one another through abstaining from sexual intimacy, others do not fall into this category. Couples, who are physically intimate and/or are living together, will be asked to move apart and abstain from their sexual relationship until their wedding day.

Sexual purity is foundational in building a trusting and lasting relationship. Please consider carefully the following information.

1. Sexual purity is one of God's commands to us. It is about maintaining discipline and honoring God's direction for our lives. Blessing comes from choosing to walk a difficult path. The blessing is being able to stand at the altar on your wedding day knowing that you have been true to God's word. There is no guilt.
2. Sexual purity helps to ensure that you are at the altar for the right reasons on your wedding day. You care about each other for who you are, not what you are. You are friends first, and you will become lovers.
3. Sexual purity allows communication patterns between the two of you to develop as God intended them to. If you have sex too soon, you will short circuit how intimacy was meant to develop and you will not develop commitment, intimate communication and conflict resolution skills appropriately.
4. Sexual purity lets you show each other how much you care about each other. Because of respect toward each other and the value you place on each other as a person, you choose not to have a physical relationship at this point. Other things in your relationship are more important.
5. Sexual purity gives you an opportunity to share your faith. In every case where you are asked by a friend or family member if you are physically involved, the response is no and this is why. You are sending a message of hope but living about societal norm.

For additional information visit our website at www.renewalcs.org

Adapted in part from SouthBrook's Premarital Covenant

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6. Sexual purity generates patience, one of the fruits of the spirit. You will eagerly anticipate what will happen in your relationship after your wedding takes place. You both will look forward to the honeymoon--this will only happen once.
7. Sexual purity builds trust. You have to let down your emotional guard and communicate. It is possible to abuse sex before marriage, thus letting sex become a pressure release valve. Sex becomes a tool used to avoid intimacy.
8. Sexual purity means you will not be a stumbling block to those around you. If you say you are a Christ follower, but choose to live a life that is contrary to scripture, you are not honoring God by setting a good example of your faith.

For additional study, please refer to:

- Boundaries in Dating by Dr. Henry Cloud, Dr. John Townsend
- Why Wait? by Josh McDowell
- Five reasons you need the Piece of Paper, Focus on the Family Item #LF232

Your completion and commitment of the Premarital Pledge on the following will help to establish acceptable boundaries, promoting emotional and spiritual health in your relationship.

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Our Premarital Pledge

We have committed ourselves to Biblical principles in preparing for our marriage. We believe it is God's will for us to honor one another as we live pure and holy lives. In pursuit of this goal, we agree to abstain from sexual intimacy until we share our marriage vows together.

1 Thessalonians (AMP) 4:3-8 3 For this is the will of God, that you should be consecrated (separated and set apart for pure and holy living): that you should abstain and shrink from all sexual vice, 4 That each one of you should know how to possess (control, manage) his own body in consecration (purity, separated from things profane) and honor, 5 Not [to be used] in the passion of lust like the heathen, who are ignorant of the true God and have no knowledge of His will, 6 That no man transgress and overreach his brother and defraud him in this matter or defraud his brother in business. For the Lord is an avenger in all these things, as we have already warned you solemnly and told you plainly. 7 For God has not called us to impurity but to consecration [to dedicate ourselves to the most thorough purity]. 8 Therefore whoever disregards (sets aside and rejects this) disregards not man but God, Whose [very] Spirit [Whom] He gives to you is holy (chaste, pure).

We also understand that God's love and commitment to us will not be jeopardized by our past failures. When we confess our sins and ask for His forgiveness through Christ Jesus, He will see us as a completely new couple. He looks at us as broken people, whom He has given the hope of a fresh start.

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1:9(NIV) Ps.66:18-20

We seek to trust and honor God and to protect each other by upholding His guidelines of sexual purity and intimacy within the context of our future marriage. We believe that with God's power, we will be able to keep this promise and be greatly blessed by our obedience to Him.

Groom's signature & date

Bride's signature & date

Witness signature & Date

Witness signature & Date