

# Blue Springs First Church of the Nazarene

## Standards for Marriage Preparation

- 1. We strongly believe that a personal relationship with Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord is absolutely crucial for marriage.**

There is no greater foundation for life or for a strong marriage than Jesus Christ. Inviting Him to be an integral part of your lives and your marriage and seeking to do the will of your Heavenly Father will fill your marriage with peace, joy, love and loyalty and the solemn vows which you intend to make will have the best chance to be kept permanently.

- 2. We believe in couples being committed to living a lifestyle that is in accordance with scriptural principles.**

We encourage you as a couple to make a mutual commitment to grow spiritually, study scripture, pray, find fellowship together with other believers and live out your commitment to one another and to Christ. It is important to give God a place of honor in every area of your life. We strongly encourage you to embrace sexual purity before marriage which includes making a strong commitment to sexual abstinence prior to the wedding.

- 3. We believe that a minimum dating relationship of one year before the wedding will build a stronger foundation for a lasting marriage.**

There is no shortcut to building intimacy, trust, and communication. While some people have skills and maturity which enable them to build an intimate relationship faster than others, we believe that a one year dating relationship is a minimum amount of time when considered in light of the permanent nature of a marriage relationship.

- 4. We believe that the couple who seriously participate in premarital counseling will have a far better chance for permanence.**

As a part of your overall preparation we require that the bride and groom attend at least four premarital counseling sessions that have the approval of our Senior Pastor. If needed, we can help you arrange for these premarital counseling sessions. There may be fees involved for this counseling.

- 5. We believe in more in-depth counseling for marriages in which one or both partners have been divorced or when there has been the death of a partner.**

We believe marriage has been established by God as one man, one woman, and one lifetime. It is a sacred union meant to be kept whole and pure. At the same time we recognize the reality of divorce in our culture. Most people bring unresolved relationship issues into their next marriage. Those issues need to be resolved and healing needs to be as complete as possible before another marriage is established.

When there has been a death of a marriage partner, a time of grieving and healing is necessary before considering remarriage. Finishing that process will set the stage for a healthy new relationship.