

Performing Your Wedding Ceremony

My wife, Dawn, and I love to do weddings. If you're considering having us perform a wedding for you, here are some things you'll want to know, and some you'll want to think about.

Cost

We *never* charge for doing a wedding. We believe this is part of our ministry. Some people choose to make a gift to us to help support us and keep the ministry going. Gifts are appreciated, but that's your choice. We will *never* solicit a gift from you, and we truly don't expect one.

If the wedding is more than an day trip from our house, we will ask you to get us there (gas, air fare, whatever), and provide very simple lodgings for us. If Ken is traveling alone, even Greyhound Bus is okay. We live on a very tight budget. We don't need luxury accommodations.

Location

The location is up to you. We have done weddings at homes, churches, parks, beaches, and all kinds of locations. The one limitation we have is that the wedding can't be a joke or a mockery. Light and fun is okay, and we don't even mind doing a ceremony in a bowling alley, if that's where you want it, but we must be able to focus on the important moment of joining two people in marriage.

Faith

We *only* do Christian ceremonies. We always do happy, upbeat, and very personal ceremonies, appropriate to your own style and surroundings. They don't have to be "preachy," but we won't solemnize a ceremony that uses or includes any other religious ideas. Please don't ask us to reconsider this. It's not a negotiable matter to us.

Vows and Content

This is mostly up to you. I can provide you with a "script" for a traditional ceremony and let you edit it to your preference. We can work together to design a completely unique and personal ceremony. I can prepare a traditional ceremony, and you can write your own personal vows. Any combination of the above. This is almost entirely up to you.

“Giving the Bride Away”

Some people still like this traditional aspect of a wedding ceremony. Others don't. It's up to you, if you want to do this.

Best Man, Bridesmaids, etc.

Some folks like a huge wedding party, and some don't. It's entirely up to you, if you want to have someone standing with you at the ceremony or not. You will need to think about witnesses, though. (See “About Marriage Licenses,” below.)

What to Wear

You decide what your wedding looks like. I don't have ministers' robes or collars, or a tuxedo, but if you want me to wear one of these things and you're willing to pay for it, I'm happy to wear it.

I'm happy to come in my own ultra-casual attire, evening casual, suit and tie ... you make the call.

Unity Candle, Sand Ceremony, Communion

If you're not familiar with a sand ceremony, please let me tell you about it. I think it's a beautiful part of a wedding ceremony. If you want to do this, or a unity candle, I'm happy to do it. Let's just talk about it, to make sure we all know what to expect.

This is also true if you're planning on sharing communion during your ceremony.

Counseling

I am a skilled counselor, with a good track record in pastoral marriage counseling. Like all of our ministries, there's never a charge for counseling.

If you would like counseling as a couple before your wedding, to make sure you're on the same page on the important topics, I am very happy to do this. Some couples need it and some don't. Some just want it to be comfortable with their communication.

I *do* think it's important to know the couple. I almost always prefer that we at least have dinner together or get together informally to talk, before joining a couple in marriage.

If you find yourself hitting some rough spots or “speed bumps” after you're married, and you want to get together to talk about it, I'm here for you.

About Marriage Licenses (“Legal” Marriages)

Of course, most of the weddings I perform are traditional, licensed ceremonies. But I don't believe that governments make marriages. God does that. Some people have reasons that they don't want to have a government-sanctioned marriage. (Some folks can't afford to lose Social Security or Disability benefits, for example.)

If you want to be married before God, but you have a personal reason for not wanting the government involved in your commitment, let's talk about it. If you're sincere in your desire to be married in God's sight, I am happy to officiate.

Marriage licenses are required to have the marriage recognized by the government, and for certain private benefits, inheritance rights, etc.

If you want to have a licensed marriage, you'll need to get the license from the appropriate county official. (Tell me if you need help finding them.) You'll also need witnesses for the ceremony. Most states require two witnesses, over 18 years of age.

Rehearsals

If we're doing a very informal ceremony, a rehearsal might not be necessary. For most weddings, though, we need to get together a day or two before the ceremony, to go through things together.

It's important that everyone participating in the ceremony is at the rehearsal. If someone is out of town and won't be there in time, let's talk about it.

Other Stuff

I'm sure you'll have other questions. Just ask.

Contacting Me

Here are various ways to stay in touch with me:

Ken Armstrong
Pastor, Wildfire Christian Fellowship – Mt. Zion Christian Fellowship

www.KenArmstrong.net

Snail Mail:
375 Glenlyn Drive
Williams, OR 97544

Email:
ken@kenarmstrong.net

Texting:
731-335-6446

Phone:
731-335-6446
(From 541 area, call 601-6186)

Skype:
armstrong97527

Facebook:
www.facebook.com/WildfireCF