



Prepared by Wesley Methodist Church  
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## Marriage Charter

We view marriage as a sacred covenant, instituted by God, and between a man and woman.

This is seen in Genesis 2:24, where God says, *"Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh."*

Marriage is a lifelong discipleship journey, designed to reflect the relationship between Christ and the Church, and marked by mutual love, respect, fidelity and commitment.

It is our desire for marriage to be that strong and enduring union that reflects His design and purposes. To that end, husbands and wives are to commit to the following principles:

### 1. Christ-centeredness

Jesus Christ is the foundation of our marriage, and we will seek to honour Him in all we do (Col 3:17).

#### Practical application:

We will seek to grow in our relationship with Him individually as we commit to be changed by God in holiness. We will commit to pray for the spiritual growth of our spouse and prioritize regular times of prayer and devotion as a couple. We will commit to practicing spiritual disciplines together (eg: fasting, simplicity, examen).

### 2. Love and Respect

We acknowledge that the husband is called to love his wife as Christ loves the Church, and the wife is called to respect her husband (Eph 5:33).

#### Practical application:

We will seek to demonstrate godly love and respect each other's feelings, thoughts and opinions. We will seek to discover each other's love language and embrace the strengths and weaknesses of our spouse. We will practice forgiveness, let go of grudges and pursue reconciliation. We will prioritise time to grow in our service and honour through regular dates, marriage enrichment courses and retreats.

### 3. Communication and Conflict Resolution

We uphold effective communication and godly conflict resolution as essential for a healthy marriage.

#### Practical application:

We will seek to communicate regularly, openly, honestly, and respectfully with one another. We will make time to talk to our spouse daily, sharing thoughts, feelings, and needs. We will work collaboratively to resolve conflicts and disagreements in a way that honours God and strengthens our relationship (James 1:19, Prov 15:1). Where necessary, journey with marriage mentors & seek help from a pastor or marriage counsellor to reconcile, heal & build our marriage.

### 4. Roles and Responsibilities

We view marriage as an equal partnership between both husband and wife with different God-given roles. The husband as the spiritual head of the household, and the wife as his co-helper. Both are to submit to each other out of reverence for Christ (Eph 5:21-28).

#### Practical application:

We will work together to make decisions, accomplish goals, and actively contribute to the division of household responsibilities, recognizing each other's strengths and weaknesses. We will seek to create an environment in which each member of the family feels valued and appreciated for their contributions. We will practice accountability towards our spouse in our actions and behaviours and make adjustments to maintain a godly marriage.

## 5. Sexual Intimacy and Fidelity

We believe that sex is God's sacred gift to be experienced within marriage. It is to be enjoyed, not abused and expressed through honour, kindness and purity (1 Cor 7:3-5). We believe that sexual fidelity is fundamental to marriage.

### *Practical application:*

We will make time and effort to enjoy physical intimacy with each other as an expression of love and our desire to strengthen the bond of the marriage. We will guard our physical and emotional boundaries, intentionally and decisively avoid sexual temptation and remain faithful to our spouse in thought and deed. We will seek accountability from marital accountability groups to help us stay pure in the marriage.

## 6. Community and Service

We believe it is vital to grow in a Christian community where we may be mentored and supported through the stages of our marriage and family life; and at the same time, serve God's people.

### *Practical application:*

We will actively be part of a small group community and seek out godly mentors who can journey with us. We will seek to discover our respective area of giftings, support each other to find opportunities to serve together, or in the area of our giftings.

## 7. Godly Parenting

We acknowledge that children are a gift from God, and that it is our shared responsibility to raise them in the fear and admonition of the Lord (Deut 6:6-7, Prov 22:6).

### *Practical application:*

With God's help, we will do our best to impart God's truth to our children, and model godly behaviour and attitudes for them, including setting a good example in the way we honour our parents and in-laws. We will create a safe and spiritually nurturing environment for our family.

## 8. Biblical Financial Stewardship

We recognise that everything we have ultimately belongs to God and we are called to use our financial blessings wisely for His purposes and glory (Prov 3:9-10). We will seek to manage the financial resources that God has entrusted to us contently, faithfully and responsibly as our discipleship and commitment to God and His kingdom priorities.

### *Practical application:*

We will actively guard ourselves against the temptation of greed through developing a right attitude towards money according to Scripture. We will prayerfully discern and plan our commitments accordingly to avoid bad debts, yet using and growing our resources to further God's purposes through generous giving and responsible spending.

## 9. Leisure and Rest

We acknowledge that rest and leisure, as part of Sabbath-keeping, is an important aspect of discipleship and obedience. Families need to give priority to spending time together in worship & recreation for family life enrichment.

### *Practical application:*

We will seek to prioritize quality time spent together as a couple and family. We will seek to balance work, rest and leisure as a matter of priority (Mark 6:31). We will seek to protect the Sabbath together with our spouse and commit to practicing spiritual disciplines of rest that grow our marriage. We will practice couple examen exercise regularly to allow God to shape our marital priorities accordingly in a mutually refreshing way as we grow in our individual and marital holiness unto God.

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**May our marriage constantly testify of God's goodness and faithfulness upon us and may we be a source of joy and blessing to those around us.**

