

# SWEET HOME MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Jeremy H. Upton, Senior Pastor

## Pre-Marital Counseling Contract

*As we continue with the mandate of “Building the House, Advancing the Kingdom”, every effort is being made to insure that all couples who wish to be married at Sweet Home Missionary Baptist Church are educated and trained concerning the Biblical principles involved in marriage. It is the desire of Pastor Upton that this will decrease the number of marital problems and divorces that we are currently facing in our Christian community and that, eventually, there will be no divorces taking place within this church body.*

Each couple must agree to and sign this statement PRIOR to admission into the pre-marital counseling class, indicating that they understand the following:

1. We must attend four (4), 2-hour pre-marital class sessions and up to 3 individual counseling sessions with a church-approved pre-marital counselor.
2. Pre-marital couples must have known each other for at least 6 months prior to beginning counseling.
3. We understand that a calendar date for the wedding ceremony is not considered solid until the classes and individual counseling sessions have been completed, and the couple has been released by the counselor(s).
4. We understand that all assigned books must be purchased and read during the pre-marital counseling period.
5. We agree that couples that have been divorced might be required to attend additional pre-marital counseling, dealing with divorce recovery and similar issues.
6. If either of the two individuals has had more than one divorce, then we agree to have an informal wedding ceremony which might be held in the pastor's office, a home, or other location.
7. We agree that all pre-marital packets must be turned in at least two weeks prior to the first class session.
8. We understand that all classes that were missed must be made up before couples are released by the pre-marital counselors.
9. We understand that Pastor Upton reserves the right to refuse to marry any couple due to what he perceives as “red flags” or for any deception that might have been discovered during any pre-marital class or individual counseling sessions.
10. We agree that we will not (or will no longer) live together until we are married.
11. We agree that we will not (or will no longer) engage in sexual relations until we are married.
12. We agree that we will secure a copy of our credit reports (to be used by the couple) as a part of our pre-marital counseling.
13. If married by Pastor Upton, we agree not to separate or seek a divorce for any reason until after at least 6 hours of marital counseling by Pastor Upton.

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Signature of Groom

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Signature of Bride

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Date