

# *Springboro Christian Church*

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Minister — Wayne W. Mock


Dear Prospective Bride and Groom:

As you know, marriage is an extremely important decision and, as traditionally stated in wedding vows, "is not to be entered into lightly or unadvisedly." That is one reason it is my policy for prospective brides and grooms to meet with me for several premarital counseling sessions before the wedding. As a minister of Christ, I firmly believe the marriage must not violate Biblical principles. In following the teaching of Scripture, I choose not to perform weddings of those being "unequally yoked." God's word explains in 2 Corinthians 6:14 that Christians should "not be bound together with unbelievers." This certainly includes the bond of marriage. In 1 Corinthians 7:39 the Scripture again teaches the need for Christians to marry others "in the Lord." I further discuss this teaching in the first counseling session, but I have found it is better to make people aware of my policy even before the session. Why is it important for a Christian to be equally yoked to another Christian? A commitment to Christ is more than a simple acknowledgment of the existence of Jesus—it is a complete commitment of one's life to Christ as Lord. If both parties in a marriage do not share this commitment, they will be living with completely different views of life. I am very willing to talk with the non-Christian regarding the Gospel of Christ so he or she can make a personal response regarding a commitment to Christ.

If there has been a divorce by the prospective bride and/or groom, further attention will be given to this in counseling. After counseling, I will decide if I can perform the wedding. If a couple is presently living together, I will decline to conduct the wedding ceremony, unless the couple ceases such a living arrangement. I may then perform the wedding — providing after counseling there are no other matters of concern that would prevent me from performing the wedding. If a couple is living together, use of the building for the wedding will be declined regardless who is requested to perform the wedding. I will not perform any same-sex weddings.

The first counseling session I have with you will further clarify these points and give attention to any questions you might have.

Sincerely,



Wayne W. Mock