

WEDDING TEMPLATE

<http://christianity.about.com/od/christianweddingelements/a/weddingoutline.htm>

I. PRE-WEDDING CEREMONY EVENTS

Wedding Party Pictures

This should begin at least 90 minutes prior to the start of the wedding and be finished at least 45 minutes before the ceremony.

Wedding Party Dressed and Ready

The wedding party should be dressed, ready and waiting in the appropriate locations at least 15 minutes prior to the start of the ceremony.

Prelude

Any musical preludes or solos should take place at least 5 minutes prior to the start of the ceremony.

[More Resources for Christian Wedding Music](#)

Lighting of the Candles

Sometimes the candles or candelabras are lit before the guests arrive. Other times the ushers light them as part of the prelude, or as part of the wedding ceremony.

II. THE WEDDING CEREMONY

Seating of the Parents

Having the support and involvement of parents and grandparents in the ceremony brings a special blessing to the couple and also expresses honour to the previous generations of marriage unions.

The processional music begins with the seating of the honoured guests:

- Seating of the Groom's grandmother
- Seating of the Bride's grandmother
- Seating of the Groom's parents
- Seating of the Bride's mother

Bridal Processional Begins

Minister and Groom enter usually from stage right. If the Groomsmen are not escorting the Bridesmaids down the aisle to the altar, they also enter together with the Minister and Groom.

Bridesmaids enter, usually down the center aisle, one at a time. If the Groomsmen are escorting the Bridesmaids, they enter together.

Maid or Matron of Honour enters. If she is being escorted by the Best Man, they enter together.

Flower Girl and Ring Bearer enter.

Wedding March Begins

The Bride and her father enter. Typically the Bride's mother will stand as a signal for all of the guests to stand. Sometimes the Minister will announce, "All rise for the Bride."

Opening Remarks**[The Call to Worship](#)**

[Samples of the Call to Worship](#)

[The Opening Prayer](#)

[Samples of the Opening Prayer](#)

Congregation is Seated

At this time the congregation is typically asked to be seated.

[Giving Away of the Bride](#)

[Samples of the Giving Away of the Bride](#)

[Worship Song, Hymn or Solo](#)

At this time the wedding party typically moves to the stage or platform and the Flower Girl and Ring Bearer are seated with their parents.

[The Charge to Bride and Groom](#)

[Samples of The Charge](#)

[The Pledge](#)

[Samples of The Pledge](#)

[Wedding Vows](#)

At this moment in the wedding ceremony the Bride and Groom face one another.

[Samples of Wedding Vows](#)

[Exchanging of the Rings](#)

[Sample Exchanging of the Rings](#)

[Lighting of the Unity Candle](#)

[Sample Lighting of the Unity Candle](#)

[The Pronouncement](#)

[Samples of the Pronouncement](#)

Communion

Many times couples will incorporate Communion into the wedding ceremony, making Communion their very first act as a married couple.

More information about [Communion](#)

[The Closing Prayer](#)

[Samples of the Closing Prayer](#)

The Kiss

Minister: ____, you may now kiss your Bride.

Presentation of the Couple

Minister: It is now my privilege to introduce to you for the first time, Mr. and Mrs. ____.

Recessional

The wedding party exits the platform, typically in the following order:

Bride and Groom

Maid or Matron of Honour and Best Man

Bridesmaids and Groomsmen

Flower Girl and Ring Bearer

The Ushers return for the honoured guests who are escorted out in reverse order of their entrance.

Ushers may then dismiss the remaining guests, either all at once, or one row at a time.