



## QA: Do We Need a 'Marriage Ceremony' to be Married? by [John T Polk II](#)

All Scriptures and comments are based on the **New King James Version**, unless otherwise noted.

### **QUESTION: Do we have to have a 'marriage ceremony' to be married? - August, 2018**

**ANSWER: It is difficult to define "adultery" and "fornication" without a proper ceremony!** Jesus used both words for that which mars a marriage (**Matthew 5:32; 19:9**). "Adultery" is "fornication" that dirties a marriage by taking intimacy outside of it.

Then the rib which the LORD God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man. And Adam said: "This is now bone of my bones And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man."

Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed. (**Genesis 2:22-25**).

God began marriage with a "wedding ceremony" that consisted of:

- (1) Presenting the woman to the man;
- (2) Making a vow of intimacy;
- (3) Stating the rule of separation from parents to make this union unique; and
- (4) Becoming "one flesh" bonds them closer than to anyone else on earth!

People who want the benefits of marriage without ceremony of any kind have no publicly binding commitment to accompany their bonding. Therefore they become a delay on the way to someone else! By rejecting a ceremony of declaration, they have rejected God's provision for their security in a relationship.

Many are "in a relationship," which is cohabiting without ceremony. When:

[People] did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality." (**Romans 1:28-29**)

Premarital sex (fornication') and extra-marital sex (adultery) are rejection of God! Today's "fill-in-the-blanks" Internet dating services only match up information! How many times are Internet-ordered products delivered "not as advertised?" Unfortunately, spouses cannot be "sent back postage paid." Solomon said,

Better is the sight of the eyes than the wandering of desire.  
This also is vanity and grasping for the wind. (**Ecclesiastes 6:9**).

Wants and wishes blow with the whim, whereas, seeing lets us evaluate and calculate personality, conscience and character. Catalogs come and go, but there will always be a place for "brick and mortar" shopping. The "social skill" of finding out information for oneself is undeveloped in those who only seek "data dates!"

—- John T. Polk II, August 26, 2018