

THE ONE THING YOU MUST REMEMBER WHILE PLANNING YOUR WEDDING



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Early in my ministry, I worked at a parish on Long Island, NY. By the end of my first week, the secretary was crying in my arms. Her daughter, married just six months, was filing for divorce. She asked me to talk some sense into her daughter. I knew I couldn't but I agreed to meet with the woman. Besides, I was curious—what happened to drive her to call it quits?

The daughter explained to me that she and her husband began dating senior year of high school. They were an “item” all through college. Folks expected them to get married and they got caught up in those expectations. However, no sooner had they opened all the presents than they realized that while they did love each other, they weren't in love.

She told me that they got married because **they didn't want to disappoint their parents and relatives.**

Last month I met with a man who's getting married in a Catholic church. Neither he nor his fiancée go to Sunday Mass. They wanted to have an outdoor ceremony. His parents, though, threw a fit and threatened to boycott the wedding. He and his fiancée didn't want to hurt his parents so they caved-in. Now they're so unhappy they just want to get the whole “thing” over with.

The simple truth is: you are not responsible for other people's feelings. We are each responsible for our own feelings and the choices we make based on those feelings.

Ask anyone who's gotten married and they'll tell you that nothing can prepare you for the madness. Too often, friends, parents, and vendors seem ready to entrap you with emotional blackmail and hijack your wedding.

Brides often tell me of the compromises they've made so as to “make peace.” It's fine to please your mother and go along with her choice of linen. However, it's another thing to get married in a church where you don't even worship just to make your parents happy.

Remember: this is your wedding!

This is not your friends' wedding. It's not your vendors' wedding. And it certainly is not your parents' wedding. They had theirs—and if they haven't had a wedding then they should worry about their own and not yours!

While it's good and important to keep others' feelings and wishes in mind, it's not in your best interest as a couple to be guided by the mantra, "we don't want to hurt anyone." You're not going to please everyone. In fact, it's not your responsibility to please everyone. Nor are you responsible for how people react to your choices.

Be true to who you are as a couple and create a wedding that authentically celebrates you—and this is especially true when it comes to the ceremony!

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