

# STEVEN ANDERSON AND BRITTANY HUTCHINSON

## RULES OF ENGAGEMENT...FOR OUR ENGAGEMENT

January 29, 2021

### 1. Our Vision for Our Wedding

First and foremost, we believe that marriage is an institution designed by God, and that weddings are designed to celebrate that, celebrating the way God has brought us together to be a part of that holy bond, a bond that is a reflection of Christ's relationship with the church. As such, we believe the primary focus of our wedding is God himself. Secondly, since this wedding is about celebrating the way God has brought the two of us together, we believe our wedding is about us and our relationship. This wedding symbolizes the start of our marriage together and we desire to celebrate that with our friends and family. We both love our families and friends dearly and have been blessed to be raised in families that care for us. We are also very appreciative of the financial and emotional support and time/energy our parents in particular have spent and will spend in helping to plan and execute this wedding. We recognize that on this day, it is not just the two of us coming together, but it is the joining of two families to celebrate the beginning of our marriage. For this reason, our families, while not the central element of this wedding are considered important stakeholders in our wedding.

### 2. Other stakeholders in our wedding

- Our parents: We so appreciate the love and care you have shown us throughout our lives. We recognize we could not be here without you (literally.) While this is a season of transition for us, we don't believe that anyone should consider it an emotional loss, but rather the Anderson family gaining a daughter and the Hutchinson family gaining a son. As we prepare, we will look to each of you for insight and wisdom and participation in planning and executing this day, but expect that you will respect the final decisions we make. Because of your unique role in our wedding preparation, we felt it was best to share this document with all of you.
- Other family: Our family has seen us grow over the years and we are excited to get to spend this day together with them. We both appreciate spending time with our family that we too have gotten to see learn and grow and while they don't have as active of a role in planning the wedding, we are excited to celebrate with them.
- Friends: We both have been active in striving to create community, both together through our Young Adult Ministry at church, and also through our collegiate years. We have been blessed to have friends that have been through so much with us and will get to be a part of our wedding day as well.

### 3. Guidelines for disagreements with our approach

Planning a wedding with so many different stakeholders is certain to lead to disagreements and conflict. Our desire in those disagreements is to maintain, and even deepen our relationships with our stakeholders, in particular our parents. Our guiding principle for how we desire to approach these disagreements are as follows

- Matthew 18:15-16 "If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses."
  - o We believe there is significant biblical wisdom in the way Jesus teaches his followers to engage in conflict with one another. Learning how to do conflict well has been essential for our relationship to continue to grow and we desire to continue to grow in doing conflict well as we are married. Our parents hold significant influence in our lives and recognize that you set an example for how our marriage should be as you interact with each other and us. And so, we want to take to heart Jesus's teaching that when you have a disagreement with an element of our approach to wedding planning, please address the two of us directly, rather than talking to other stakeholders in our wedding.
- Ephesians 4:2-3 "Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace."
  - o We believe that unity is another important value for our marriage and ask that you model this as well. We desire communication that supports unity, rather than division. For us, this means that if you have a disagreement with one of us, your role is not to contact the other one of us to share your input or side of the disagreement. We need to learn how to work out these issues between the two of us, and believe it is divisive to try to turn us against one another or win one of us over.