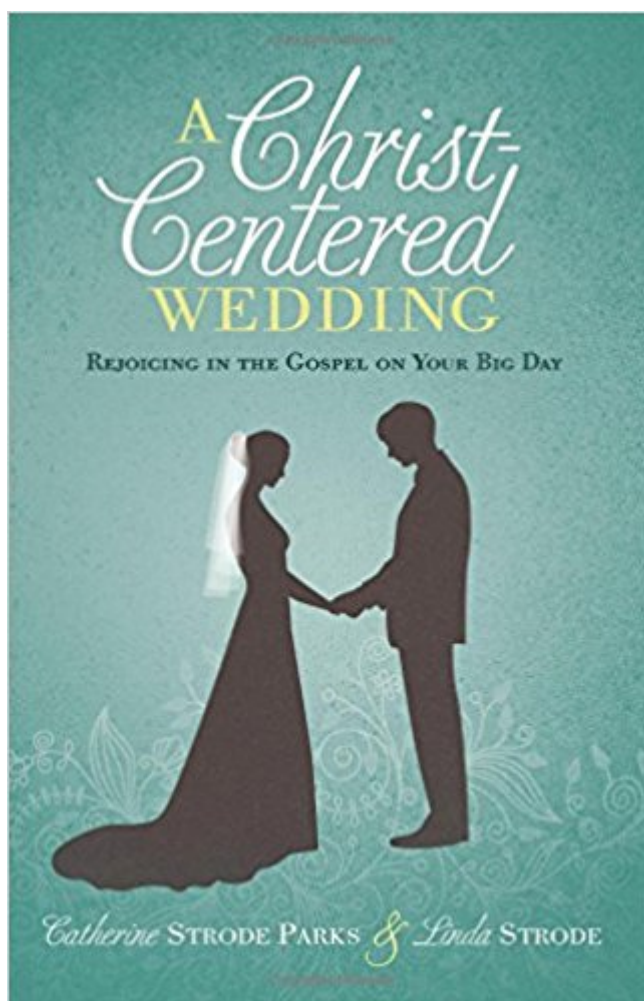


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# A Christ-Centered Wedding: Rejoicing In The Gospel On Your Big Day



## Synopsis

Wedding planning has spawned a major industry. The average cost of the occasion now exceeds \$25,000, and societal pressure to create the “perfect day” is so strong that even Christian couples forget what God originally intended for the sacred marriage ceremony. While paying attention to the good fun that follows that special proposal (the dress, the flowers, the cake, the gatherings, etc.), *A Christ-Centered Wedding* first serves as a guide to believers who want their wedding to portray the relationship of Christ with the church and to reflect the gospel to all in attendance. From the start, this thoughtful book looks to the Creator of weddings for guidance in planning by emphasizing the sacrificial love of the Savior more than the modern world’s idealistic view of romantic love. There are chapters filled with practical information about everything from pre-marital counseling and choosing a wedding location to other resources like a planning checklist and timeline, music suggestions, guidance on potential issues of conflict, a listing of traditional financial responsibilities, sample vows, and other great ideas from couples who have successfully put together a Christ-centered wedding.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

It’s your big day, at last! This is the day you’ve waited for, the moment you’ve dreamed about. But what if you’re not meant to be the star of the show? This book will prove to you that Jesus Christ is meant to be the center of your wedding, and, best of all, it will help you put him there. Tim Challies, Blogger and Author of *The Next Story* and *The Discipline of Spiritual Discernment* In America, weddings have become a

combination of a circus, a spectacle, and a spending frenzy. Into this confusion step Linda Strode and Catherine Parks, a mother-and-daughter team bringing genuine biblical insight and Christian clarity that will help us all think more rightly, more biblically, and more faithfully about weddings. This is a timely and important book.

Dr. R. Albert Mohler, Jr., President of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

Grounded in the gospel and chock-full of practical advice, Strode and Parks give brides-to-be much to consider for planning a wedding in light of eternity. In a season where it is easy to feel overwhelmed by centerpieces and changing relationships, this book centers a bride's thoughts and affections on the God who never changes.

Gloria Furman, author of *Glimpses of Grace* and *Treasuring Christ When Your Hands Are Full*

We know the wedding day is all about the bride, right? Catherine Parks and her mother, Linda Strode, collaborate in *A Christ-Centered Wedding* to help you find the answer; and that answer is no. The duo share compelling reasons why engaged couples should center their pre-wedding days on the gospel. Suggestions such as receiving mentoring and pre-marital counseling, to considering a budget in light of God's word, will assist the blushing bride and starry-eyed groom well past their wedding date. Practical, honest, and grounded in truth, *A Christ-Centered Wedding* is the perfect book for anyone thinking about saying those five important words: Till death do us part.

Trillia Newbell, author of *United: Captured by God's Vision for Diversity*

Catherine Parks and her mother, Linda, have created an unexpectedly necessary tool for pastors and counselors or anyone entering into the planning of a wedding. The beautiful truth that the gospel informs and changes everything from how to plan a wedding to your standing before God is brilliantly displayed in *A Christ-Centered Wedding*. We hope you pick up this book and are as pleasantly surprised as we were by the holistic view that the gospel is for all of life.

Jessica Thompson and Elyse Fitzpatrick, co-authors of *Give Them Grace*

The Church has been waiting way too long for this book. How many of us have sat through, or officiated at, train-wreck weddings, wondering how the glory of Christ came to be eclipsed in all this circus? This book, by a wise mother and daughter team, offers guidance and counsel about how to plan a wedding where Jesus is the focus, not an afterthought. I commend this beautiful book to couples pondering marriage, to families planning weddings, and to pastors seeking to navigate through the morass of the modern wedding-industrial complex. This book liberates us to see the wedding as the means to the marriage, and not the other way around.

Russell D. Moore, Ph.D., President, Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission | Southern Baptist Convention

Many other wedding books we read seemed to add to our stress by telling us how to make our wedding "perfect." *A Christ-Centered Wedding* replaced that feeling with the constant reminder that

our wedding will be about bringing glory to God, not about making us look good.Â Â Every time we opened this book we felt more excited for our wedding--not just to start our lives together in the way that God intended, but for the opportunity to glorify Christ and make Him known.Â Â Jacob and Rachel Dellinger, newlywedsÂ Â There are books that need to be written and there are uniquely qualified authors who need to write them. It's a special moment when book and author meet. An idea, hidden in the wide open of our experiences is finally seen. It's always obvious once it's seen. Â“Someone should write a book about that.”

Reluctantly, the observer becomes the author. Their fate is to give the idea life. The result is not simply words and paragraphs and grammar and knowledge. It's a gift. A singular undeniable notion brought to light. A contribution to the collective awareness of men. An audience that languished unknowingly in the absence of this wisdom is set free by that original convergence of book and author. That's a book worth reading. The book you're holding in your hand is such a gift.

A Christ-Centered Wedding should have been written a long time ago. The need is so obvious. Engaged couples, even Christian ones, can struggle to keep the true significance of the wedding ceremony front and center. By the time the wedding day arrives brides are exhausted people. Having planned, made reservations, scheduled events, invited friends and family, hired photographers and chased down countless little tasks the concept of worship gets lost. More importantly, Christ, the true honored guest, gets relegated to a back seat. No one intends this to happen. But, it will unless you are intentional. This is why A Christ-Centered Wedding is such a brilliant help. From the gospel to finances - and every thing in between Catherine Parks and her mother, Linda Strode, will get you to the altar with your sanity and a heart of praise. This book is destined to become required reading for any Christian couple planning a wedding.

Byron Yawn, Lead Pastor, Community Bible Church (Nashville, TN),Â Â Author of What Every Man Wishes His Father Had Told Him &Â Â Suburbanity

This inspiring but practical stage by stage book will keep believers' minds on Christ. Attractive and practical ideas concerning every aspect of the wedding process are in this book, but its main design is to make your wedding turn eyes to Christ.

Jim Elliff, Christian Communicators Worldwide

Wedding planning too often centers on issues like flowers and the color of the bridesmaids' dresses, with little thought given to how God will be exalted and how the gospel will be proclaimed on the wedding day. Here is a resource that puts the most important part of every wedding ceremony back where it belongs, front and center.

Bob Lepine, cohost,Â Â Family Life TodayÂ Â “Too many Christian couples buy into a worldly perspective about weddings. That's why I'm excited to commend A Christ-Centered Wedding to the couples in my church. Â There are plenty of good

books on marriage, but I don't know of any that helps a couple sort through engagement with a radically gospel-centered perspective. A Christ-centered Wedding does that, and much more. A Deepak Reju, Pastor of Biblical Counseling and Families, Capitol Hill Baptist Church, Washington, D.C.

Catherine Parks writes from home in Nashville, Tennessee, where she lives with her husband, Erik, and their two young children. She has sung some terribly cheesy songs in weddings over the years, and gave one of the worst rehearsal dinner speeches in history to her college roommate. She blogs at CathParks.com. Linda Strode is a pastor's wife and has been involved in multiple aspects of wedding planning over the years. She survived the bridesmaid fashion horrors of the 70s and 80s and has quite a few photo souvenirs to prove it. Linda and her husband, Tom, live in Fredericksburg, Virginia.

An easy read... pretty basic stuff...a lot of nice ideas but nothing earth shatteringly new if you are familiar with a Christian Community and have been to some Christian weddings.... It would be a good thing for any engaged couple to check out if they weren't sure where to start... The author is real good about making it clear it is all just ideas...and that some things were just her personal choice....and these things are not legalistic guidelines...take most of it as suggestions for new ways of seeing certain things... I appreciated that... I will probably share it with my daughters when they are engaged. (bought it when it was looking like my daughter might be getting close...but alas...he was not 'the one'.) I did like that she included some of the explanations for traditions... like why do we throw a bouquet...

Outstanding book, filled with wisdom, practical advice, and memorable examples. My daughter and I are reading and discussing it together in preparation for her wedding next year. We really like how the writing is very clear and light-hearted, and never pedantic. The author (s) continually remind us what it means to have a Christ-centered wedding, without being legalistic. In the highly secular, materialistic wedding market where excess and self-centeredness are the norm, this book offers a godly antidote. I have looked through many books on this topic and did not find any that approach this little gem for its wisdom. If I could have given it six stars, I would.

This was an easy to read book packed full of suggestions on how to have a God-honoring wedding. I loved the ideas on how to show love to your bridal party! The authors did a great job in sharing

why it is important to center your wedding on the gospel of Christ.

As i was so overwhelmed with wedding planning, this book was such a reminder of what the wedding is about: Jesus. It was refreshing to read each gospel-centered page. The book is not a to-do book with checklist, rather it helps you to point you to Jesus in the midst of a crazy time and remember to serve those who are coming to your wedding. It had some practical advice on how you can serve your wedding guest. It also gave lots of ideas about things you can do in order to make your wedding Jesus-centered. I recommend this book to all girls who are engaged. We are all so prone to forgetting the gospel. This book has gospel reminders and simple ways you can make your wedding center around the profound mystery of marriage and the gospel.

A must have to keep your perspective on Christ for your wedding. My daughter's wedding had many people looking at a real Christian wedding with new eyes.

What an incredibly helpful book for pastors, parents and the engaged couple! Rooted and grounded in the gospel, these two ladies do us all a service in organizing thoughts on most aspects leading up to and including the wedding itself. They are thoughtful and flexible, gracious and firm, smart and practical.

I like this. I read it before I actually need it, but I think it will help me a lot when I propose and we start to discuss details. I know better how to defer my personal opinions, while still leading my future wife back to Christ in every detail. I highly recommend this for anyone who may be involved in planning a wedding, whether directly or indirectly.

I am beyond glad that my pastor recommended this book to my fiancÃ© and I. It has opened my eyes up to so many things I would have otherwise been missing out on if I had not read it. Before reading this book I was overwhelmed and stressed by everything that goes into making this the "perfect wedding". Now, I realize that it's not about me and what I want. This book has changed my perspective to make my wedding about Jesus Christ and what he has done in sacrifice for the Church. Five stars, a must read for engaged couples!

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