

Chelsey Nelson

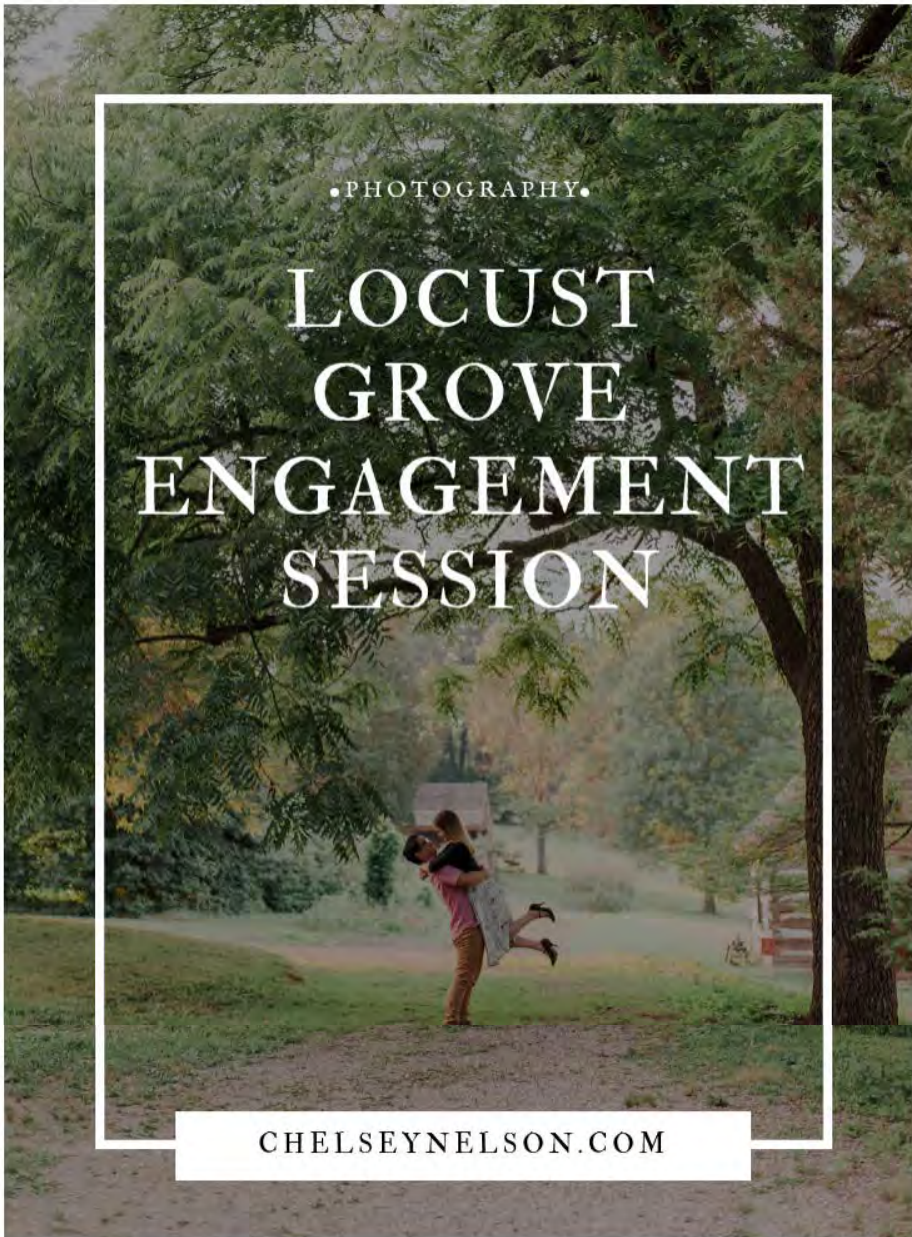
Photography

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BLOG

LOCUST GROVE ENGAGEMENT SESSION



Welcome! I'm Chelsey - a Louisville, Kentucky photographer and private photo editor with a heart for Jesus. I blog here about my journey as a creative entrepreneur, lifestyle tips and everyday adventures. I hope this space can be a cozy, safe haven for you to feel refreshed and inspired.

Chelsey Nelson

Photography

Featured by
KENTUCKY BRIDE



App. 284

Jess and Tim's Locust Grove engagement session brings me back to warmer days! Both Jess and Tim have hearts for missions and spreading the gospel (which also played a major role in how they met overseas!). I can't wait to see how the Lord uses them as a married couple!



Highlights of their wedding day will be up on the blog soon!

RED RIVER GORGE ENGAGEMENT SESSION



•PHOTOGRAPHY•

RED RIVER GORGE ENGAGEMENT SESSION

CHELSEYNELSON.COM

I was so excited when Kelsey and Andrew immediately jumped at the idea to do their fall engagement session at Red River Gorge! We had a beautiful cool day to explore the park trails and find views layered with the best colors fall had to offer. The trip was definitely worth all the planning!

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CHEROKEE PARK ENGAGEMENT PHOTOS



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Photography

Featured by
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We had near perfect weather for this fall Cherokee Park engagement session! This was the first week we really started to get chilly temps, and it made this session all the more cozy.

And what's cuter than including your dogs in a session? Daniel and Emily's little fur friends Gonzo (left) and Shotgun (right) were just as cuddly and adorable in person as they look here.



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ANNIE + ANDREW'S ENGAGEMENT SESSION - LOUISVILLE, KY



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Chelsey Nelson
Photography

Featured by
KENTUCKY BRIDE



Engagement sessions are always so much fun. There are plenty of butterflies, giggles, excitement, and tender romance because hey, you're getting married!

I'm honored to get to work with such special people like Andrew and Annie. Andrew is busy with grad school at the University of Kentucky, and Annie cares for people for a living as an ICU nurse - many times during the night shift no less. While most of us are snuggled safely in our beds at night, people like Annie are wide awake taking care of the ones we love.

This couple is easy to fall for, and I think you might after scrolling through their engagement photos! We shot in Prospect, Kentucky which has some gorgeous parks! I'd shot a wedding there last December so the bridge pictured first was still fresh in my mind, especially the lush trees that canopy around and frame the bridge. There's no shortage of award winning parks to choose from in Kentucky. We have it good!

On August 4th, we'll get to celebrate their wedding and the start of their family! It doesn't get any better than that!



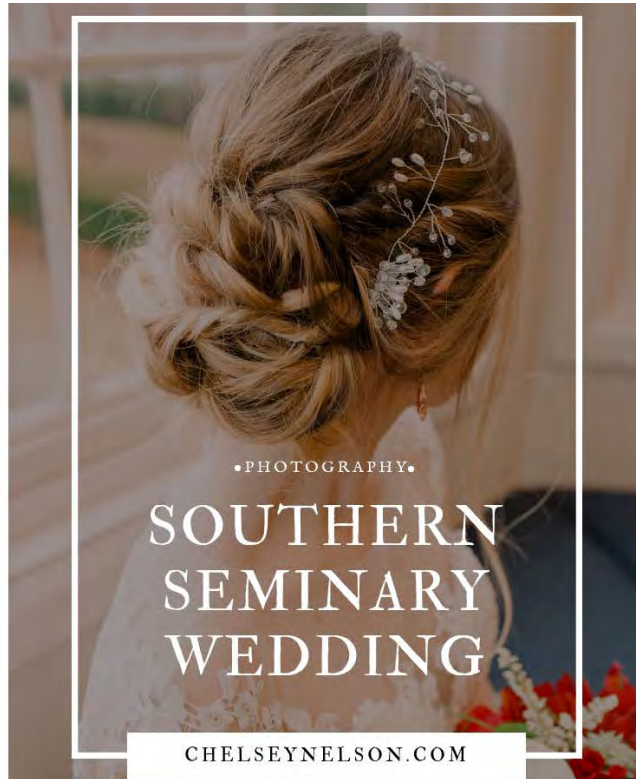
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SOUTHERN SEMINARY WEDDING



I always enjoy hearing how a couple met. Isn't it interesting how a few decisions could lead to something as significant as meeting your spouse?!

Jess and Tim met in Thailand right before she headed to China for 5 months. Tim also went back to China to finish his two year Journeyman term. Both Jess and Tim served terms through the International Mission Board.

And I need to brag on Jess a bit. After reading her vows (in English), she spoke a whole other set of vows in Chinese! You could tell both Tim and his entire family were touched at the gesture.

They chose a beautiful backdrop for their wedding in Broadus Chapel at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Enjoy!

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BLOG

ANNIE + ANDREW FRANKFORT KENTUCKY WEDDING

Annie was one of the happiest brides I've ever been with on a wedding day. From clapping her hands together at the altar to her giddiness during their first dance, it was a refreshing display of pure joy that I couldn't help but absorb and feel myself.

I lost count of the times people came up to me to say how perfectly matched Annie and Andrew were. I saw the relief when Annie's mother Janie started explaining what a wonderful young man her daughter was marrying. The day your child gets married is a precious milestone and I was honored to be with a family that made me feel so welcomed and appreciated.

And for anyone wondering if having a First Look takes away from when the bride walks down the aisle, just look at Andrew's emotion and expression later in the post! I couldn't help but tear up myself when Annie made her way down the aisle in the same church her parents got married in 30 years ago. What a rich heritage.

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CATIE & DAVID'S WEDDING AT GINGERWOODS



Catie and David overcame a list of obstacles on their journey to this day. They suffered the loss of close loved ones, their original photographer didn't work out last minute, the caterer went out of business, and that's just the beginning. But what stood out to me on the day of their wedding was their resolve. Above all, they wanted to be husband and wife. I'm so glad they got the day they hoped for through all of the struggles they navigated together. They savored the reward of a day all about the people they've become through the patience and love they've granted one another, and by the relationships with close family and treasured friends. I hope you enjoy this peek into the best day of their lives as much as I enjoyed capturing it.

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EMMY + JEFFREY'S WEDDING HIGHLIGHTS



Every church pew was filled to the brim for Jeffrey and Emmy's wedding. The excitement to watch these two make their lifetime commitment to one another saturated the room with joy. Getting to witness Jeffrey and Emmy on their wedding day was a privilege I don't take lightly, and I'm excited to share some highlights of their day!

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GEORGETOWN KENTUCKY FALL WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHY



Rainy weddings are special. It might be easy to think something along the lines of "um, no! please no!" but I think it refocuses couples on the best part of the day - that they're getting married!

Some anxiety around the threat of rain is understandable though, which is why I cover it in my Bridal Guide. It's basically a magazine full of inspiration from real weddings I've photographed and the best advice on how to help plan your wedding so that you get the best photos possible.

I joke that I'm part meteorologist. I have a nerdy/awesome app on my phone that gives moment by moment weather updates for my specific location so we can utilize even 5 minutes of break from the rain!

When I showed up to the venue, one of the first things that came up was that Kelsey knew I could get great photos with just one porch to work with and that we did!

Fun Facts

- Kelsey and Andrew met at the University of Kentucky College of Pharmacy and both graduated last year!
- They got engaged in Hawaii (yes really, Hawaii!)
- They have an adorable dog named Blue (go Wildcats!) and I think he and our Hugo would make great friends :)
- They're honeymooning in Barbados!

Kelsey and Andrew are the kind of people that make you feel comfortable right away. They both have a genuine, unassuming warmth. Add on the fact that they both graduated from the UK School of Pharmacy? That makes them a power couple in my book!

In the Details

There were so many beautiful, thought-out details that it's hard to pick favorites, but I must say their unity cross was a wonderful way to honor their coming together.

Also, can we pause to appreciate Kelsey's train? Stunning!

LOCUST GROVE WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHY



Emily and Daniel were married on a perfectly crisp October day at Historic Locust Grove in Louisville, Kentucky (aka my favorite place in town period - anyone tired of me going on about it? no? hope not :)).

Just days before the wedding, our "fall" felt more like a heatwave with temps inching up just under 100 degrees! But by the time their wedding arrived, October gave way to the familiar rhythm of colorful leaves, warmth that lingers like a hug, and a breeze to rustle the trees and remind you why this is such a magical time of year.

It was an honor to document Emily and Daniel's Locust Grove wedding photography!

You may remember them from their Cherokee Park Engagement Session, Emily's Disney princess-like hair (really though, how is she real?) or from their adorable doggies Gonzo and Shotgun.

There is something very sacred about a wedding ceremony, and I can't help but feel reverent when I witness a couple vowing their lives to one another before God, their families, and friends. They certainly left an impression on me and I left the day feeling grateful that I got to spend it with them and their families to celebrate their marriage!

Chelsey Nelson

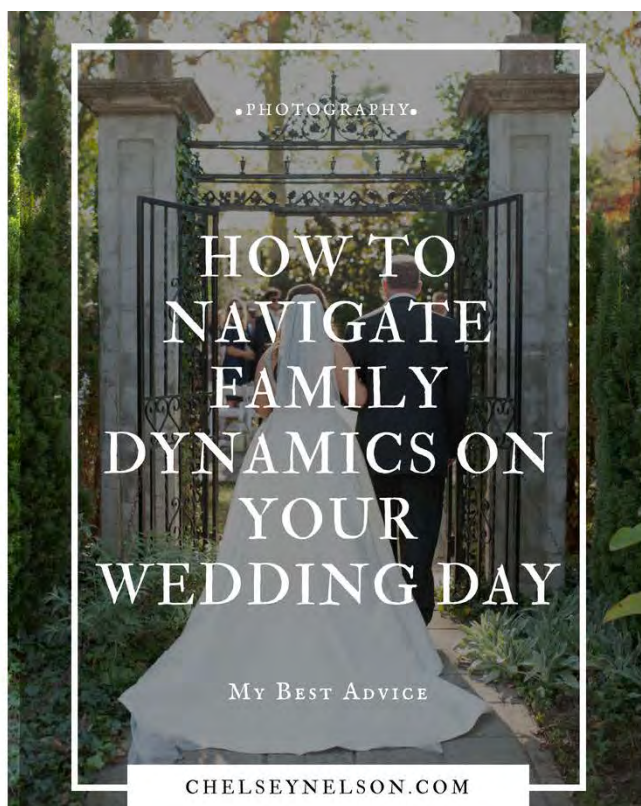
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BLOG

HOW TO NAVIGATE FAMILY DYNAMICS ON YOUR WEDDING DAY



I'd be the first to say your wedding day will be one of the happiest days of your life. It's like you've traveled through time mentally, because now you finally know the name of your husband, his voice, exactly who he is, but you also probably remember what it was like wondering and daydreaming about who that man would be, hoping for it, praying for it. The entire season of your engagement and preparing your heart for marriage is something to savor. But every family likely has dynamics that could bring some stress into planning and enjoying this once-in-a-lifetime event you've envisioned.

As your photographer, I recognize the privilege it is to not only serve you, but also serve your family. I have a VIP pass into your sacred moments. When your Dad who never cries starts weeping in joy when he sees you as a bride, I'm there. When you make a vow before God, your family, and your friends, I'm cheering you on with everyone else. I care about your marriage and your family. So inviting me in (however much you feel comfortable) if there are scenarios you anticipate could be uncomfortable can help take stress off of you as I'm able to help navigate with your best interests at heart. As an example, if there are any sensitive situations that could make taking family formals tense or difficult, it could be helpful to let me know ahead of time so I can accommodate your family and make sure everyone is as comfortable as possible through each transition. You can think of me as an honorary bridesmaid, extra hair pins in hand.



Jenna KUTCHER

THE JK BLOG

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WHAT'S YOUR *Secret Sauce?*

How to Own Your Awesome, Stand Out from the Crowd, Build a Successful Biz, and Have Fun Doing It!

CURIOS? TAKE THE QUIZ

Dear Jenna: I don't "get" why blogging matters

by Jenna Kutcher



I'm Jenna Kutcher

I'm a girl who took a \$300 Craigslist camera and turned it into a million dollar empire. I love yoga pants, mac and cheese, and working from home with my dogs in my lap. My mission? To help others own their awesome and do what they love every darn day!

TOP CATEGORIES



Goal Digger

Catch up on my top-rated podcast covering everything branding to body image!

Dear Jenna,

I have a confession: I suck at blogging. I don't get it, I don't really see why it's important, and it always seems to hover at the bottom of my to-do list, never to get done. It's just never really been something I've gotten into and I struggle to really understand how it will impact my business. Isn't sending my clients their gallery enough? I mean, happy clients keep coming back, right? Help me "get" it, because frankly, I don't really understand...

Sincerely, Bummed Out Blogger

Hey friend, I have to giggle a little as I share my journey as a blogger. Why? Because it's a little hilarious but I can officially say I've been blogging before it was "cool." It all started in 2009 when Drew and I were dating "long distance" – which was our way of saying two hours apart as I finished my senior year of college. I created a blog for us to write letters back and forth (and that blog was discovered by my best friend who sent it to his – this blog is now private, so don't even try to find it!)

A few years after that, armed with my Craigslist camera, I started my photography blog. I didn't have enough funds to get a website, so I kicked off my career on a blog. It became a place where I would share my photos and I posted my logo. This blog has significantly evolved in the last few years (I mean, this space you're on looks wayyyyy cooler than when I first started) but the blog has served as a place for me to serve my clients and share my life.

Here are three ways blogging can change your business:

1.) IT'S A STORY-TELLING PLACE TO SHARE YOUR PORTFOLIO:

We've all heard a photo is worth a thousand words but what happens when you take a collection of images and partner it with meaningful words? I mean, that's got to be worth a million words. Not only can you curate a story with words and photos, you can you give your audience a chance to connect with you beyond pretty pictures. You get to choose what shows up on your blog so every selected image can be on brand and trust me, your clients will take notice in the fact that you were connected to them beyond just their session or wedding day! Your clients expect good photos but what they don't expect is for you to be able to tell their story just as good as they could.

2.) SEARCH ENGINE OPTIMIZATION:

Yes, yes, those words strung together can sound scary, intimidating even. Search Engine Optimization (SEO) is something that hangs out at the bottom of our important "to do" lists and never seems to get accomplished or understood, but when you blog regularly, Google and other search engines see you as an "expert" or an "authority" in what you are sharing and your rankings will go up! Also, you can use keywords and phrases that will help people find YOU when they search for the services you provide. Blogging is a great tool to boost your SEO (and while it might sound overwhelming, there are small, easy steps to take to get your rankings up!)

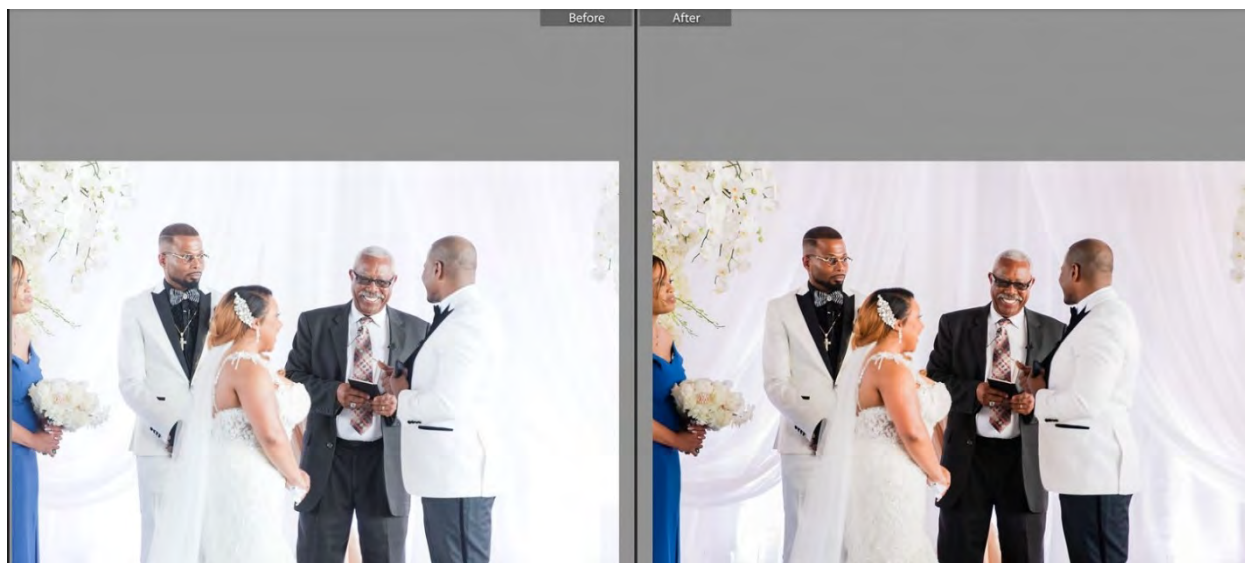
3.) IT'S THE PERFECT "SNEAK PEEK" FOR YOUR CLIENTS:

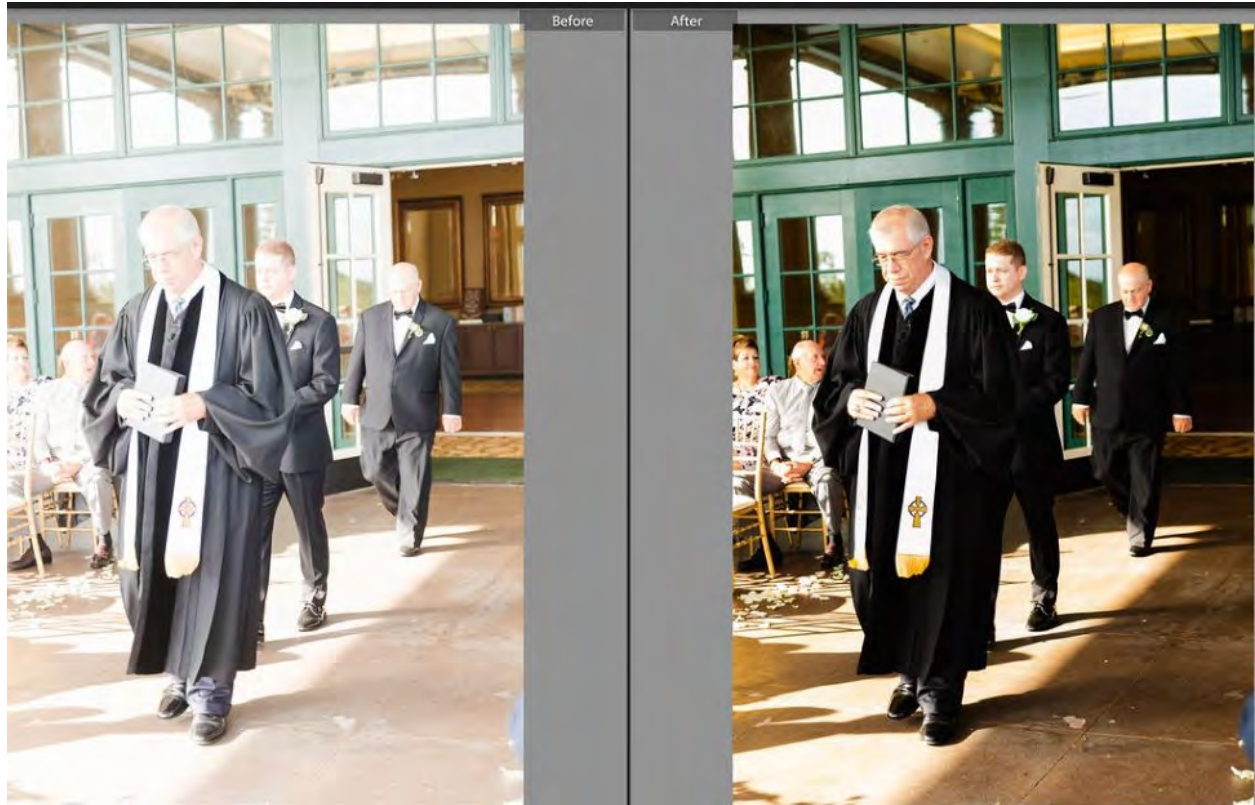
I use my blog as a tool to share my images with my clients BEFORE their entire gallery is complete. It's my chance to share the "wedding day story" while the excitement is still high. When I shoot a wedding on Saturday, it will be blogged on the following Wednesday (yes, four days later.) My clients look forward to the blog post, they are so excited to see their images, story, and slideshow on the blog. It also allows them to share their wedding day story while people are coming off of the wedding high and allows guests who weren't able to attend see their wedding day. I have always used my blog as a tool of delivery and it's such a fun way to share my weddings with my clients, their families, friends (and of course, potential clients!) When you invite people off of Facebook and onto a blog, you are more in control of the user experience and that experience can be the thing that makes people choose YOU to document their lives!

Blogging is an amazing way to share your life, images, and words. It isn't for everyone, definitely not, but it's a tool that can be utilized rather easily in your business! If you're located in Wisconsin, I'll be teaching more about blogging at tomorrow's [Tuesdays Together meeting in Madison](#)! (If you aren't sure what this is, check out [The Rising Tide Society](#), an incredible group started by sweet friends of mine.) The pursuit is community over competition and these meet ups are entirely free and packed with good content! I'm sure I'll be seeing some of you, sweet blog readers, tomorrow.

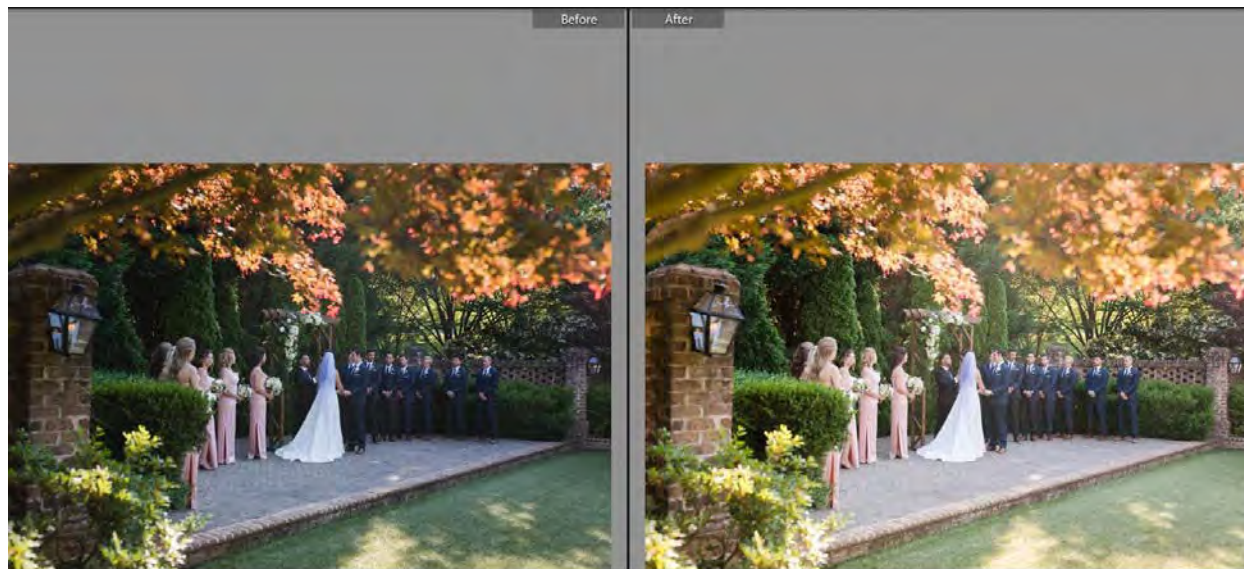


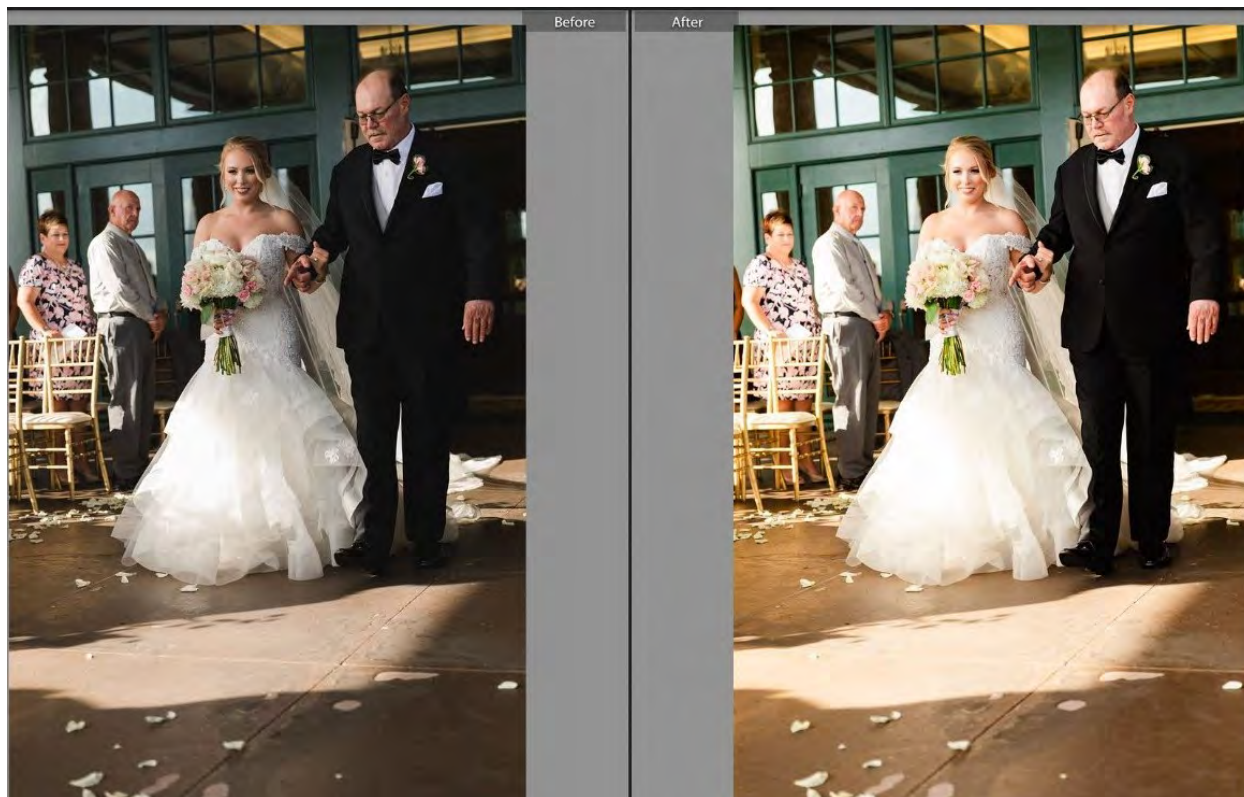


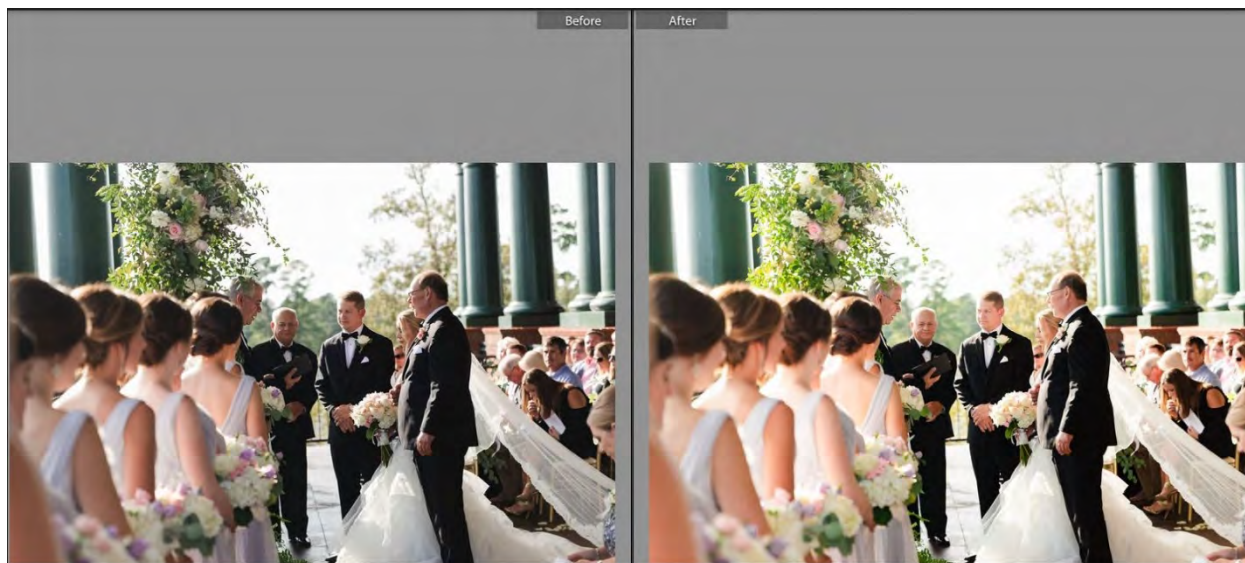


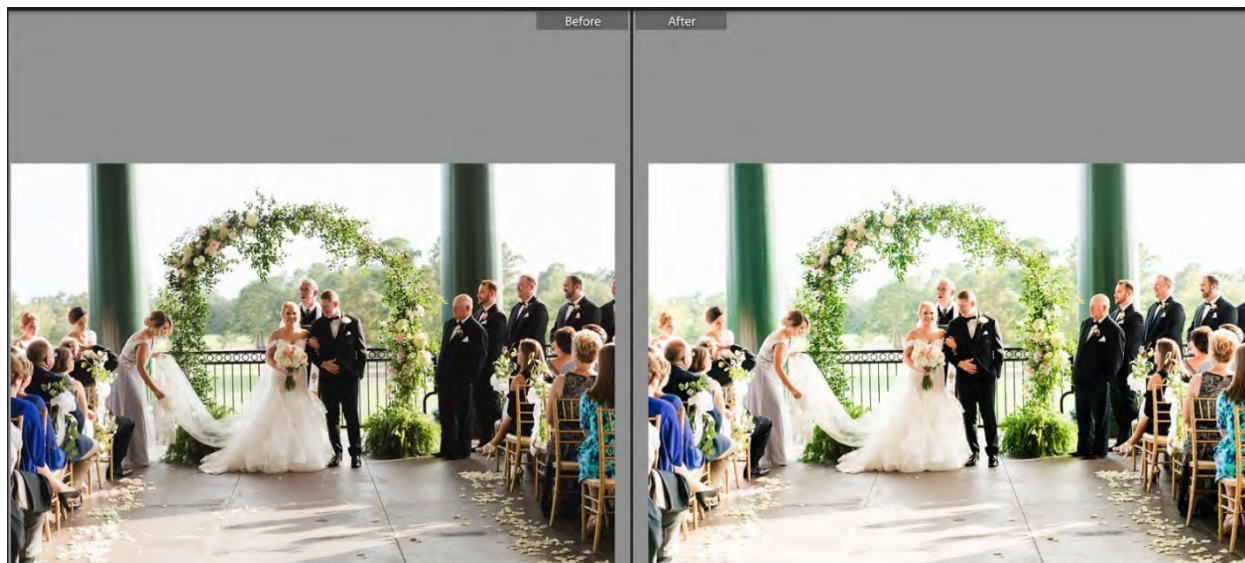


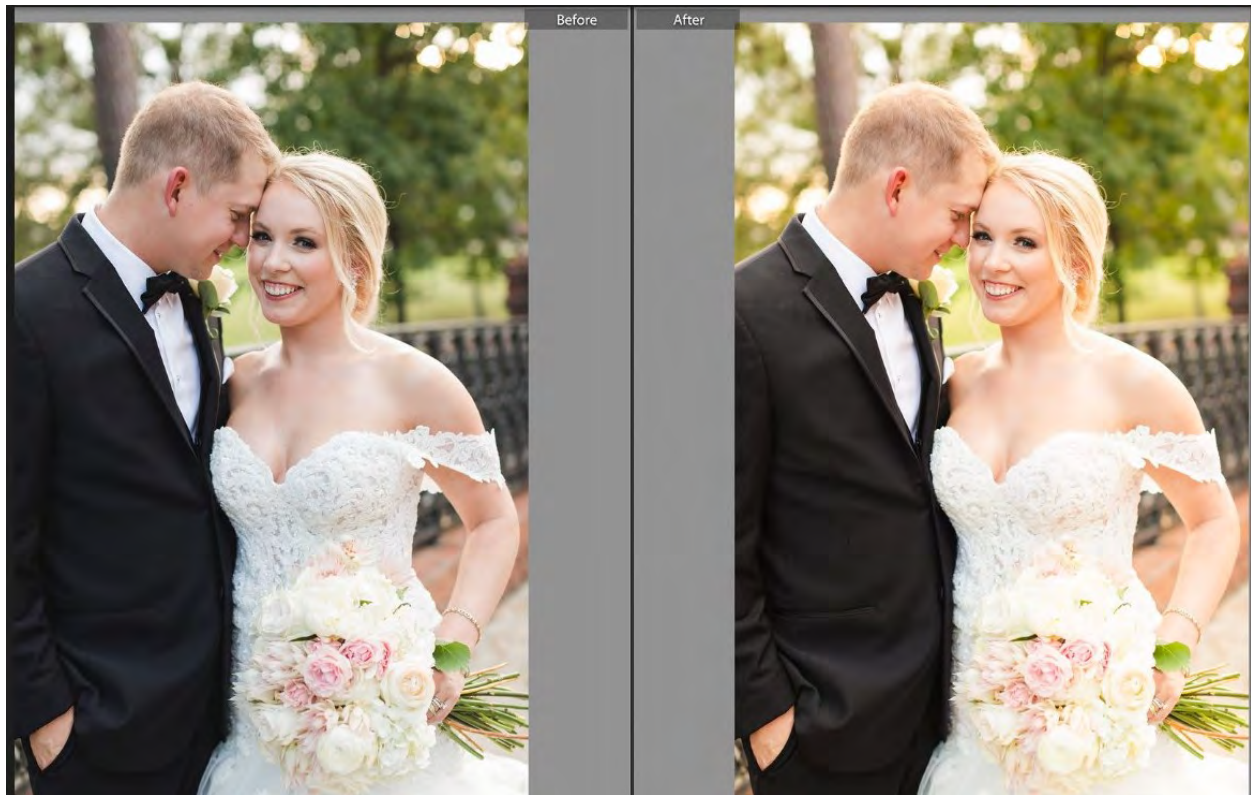


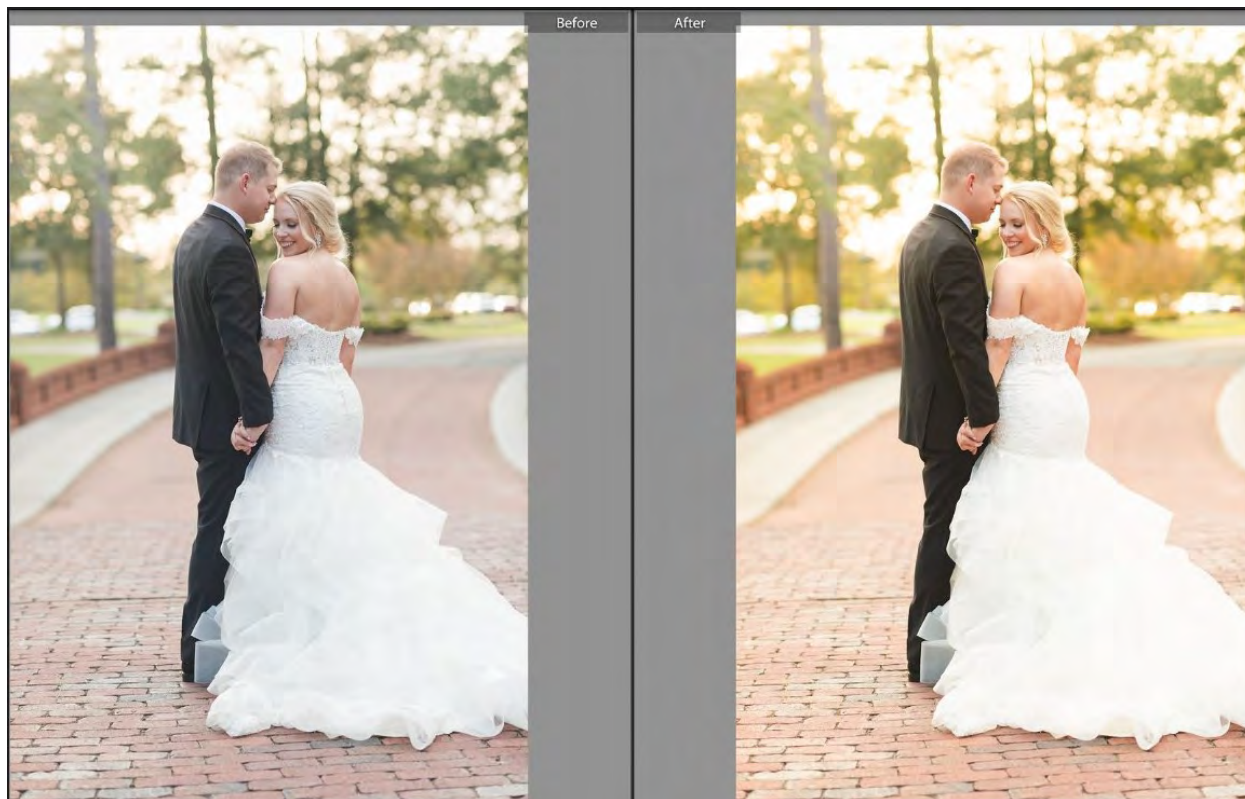




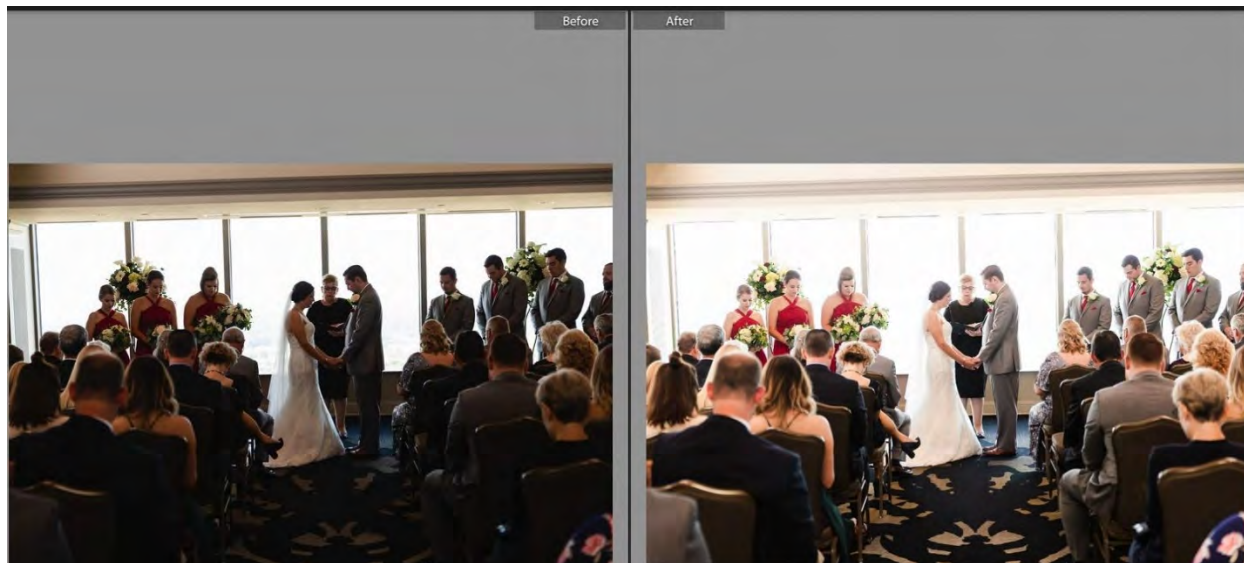




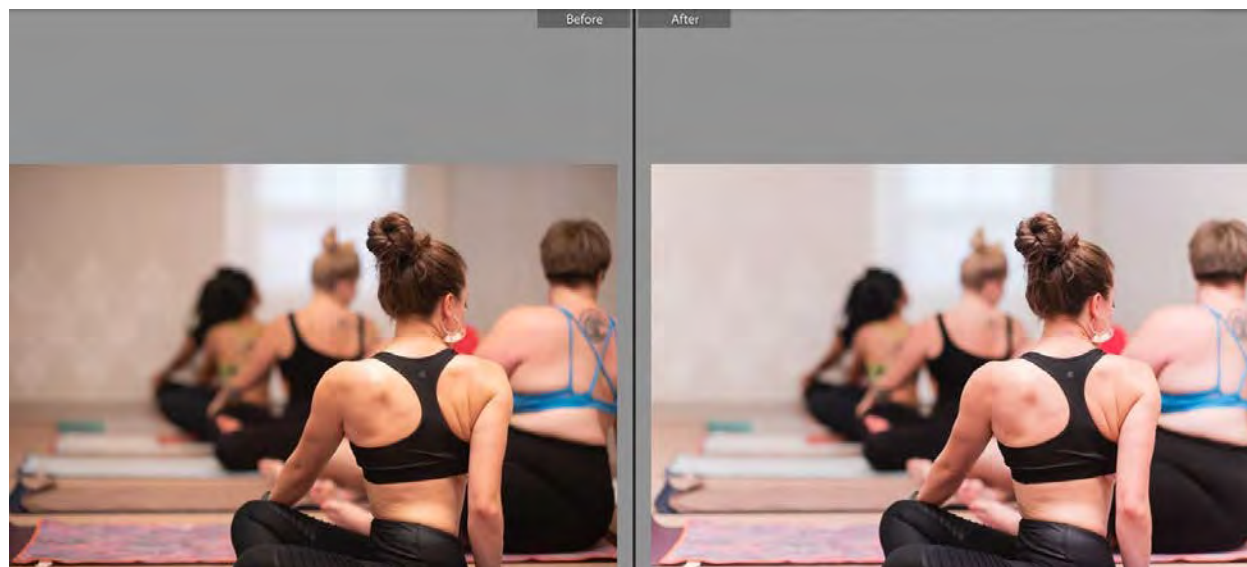


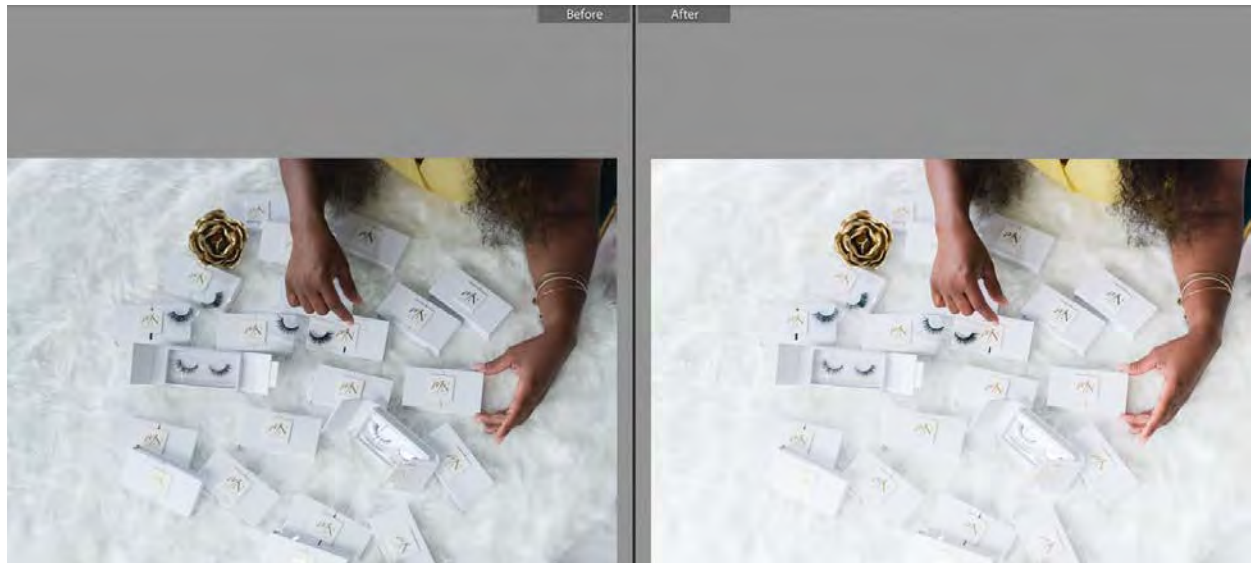


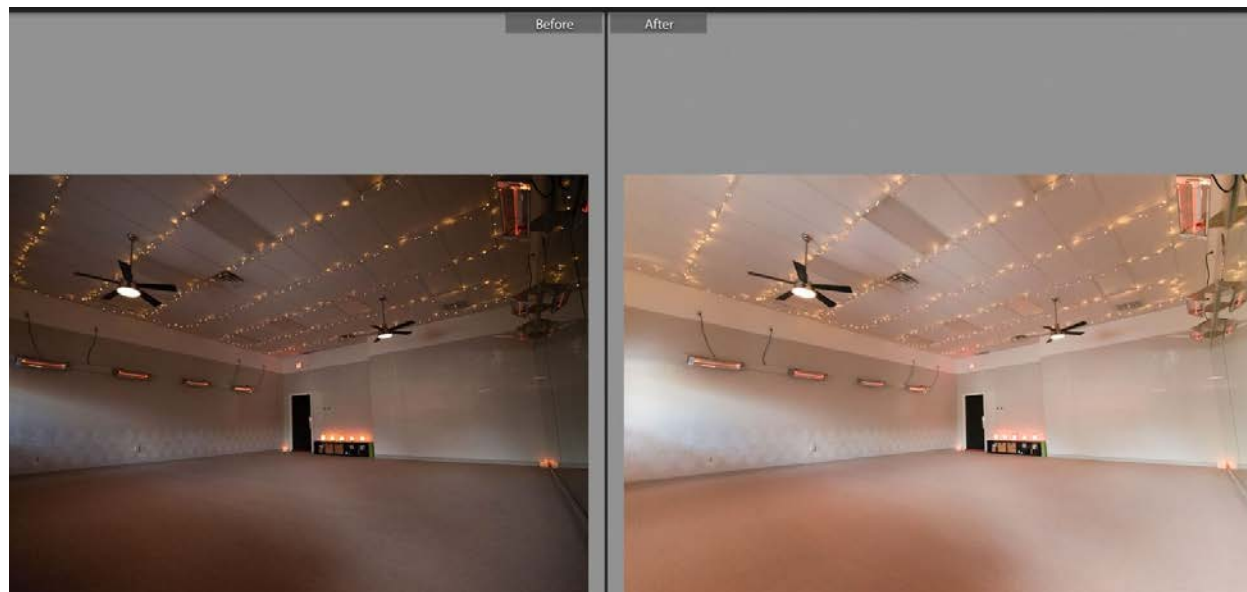














mrs.chelseynelson • Follow



mrs.chelseynelson One of the hardest parts of a wedding day is saying goodbye to the bride and groom at the end of the night! Strangers turn into clients, and then clients turn into friends.

You're likely to see me tearing up in the corner of a room sharing a tissue box with the mother of the bride at some point. I can't help it!

All of the happiness and connection definitely gets me feeling high on life, but my second favorite part is actually post production - all of the editing in my home office with Hugo sitting in my lap! 🐶



59 likes

AUGUST 7, 2018

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Please & Thank You on the Avenue



mrs.chelseynelson
#fridayintroductions

+ One of my goals as a photographer is to convey a feeling - sometimes that's coziness (cozy is a feeling for me), romance, euphoric happiness, silent wonder - there's always something beautiful to show off in God's creation!

+ It's just a matter of time before my vocabulary shifts over to Home Alone quotes. #90skid

+ I love planning fun/cozy things to do leading up to the holidays! Homemade pumpkin spice lattes and pumpkin bread are on this weekend's



65 likes

NOVEMBER 3, 2017

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Butchertown, Louisville



mrs.chelseynelson I've been dedicating a lot of time lately to lifting the layers of what I believe about marriage to understand how it influences the way I see the world, and with that, how it translates to my philosophy of photography.

Reflecting on these truths gives me that thump in your heart, tear in your eye, deep conviction that, love me or leave me, this is what I'm all about.

I believe God's vision for marriage is beautiful, and one of his sweetest gifts to us in this life to be treasured and held in honor.

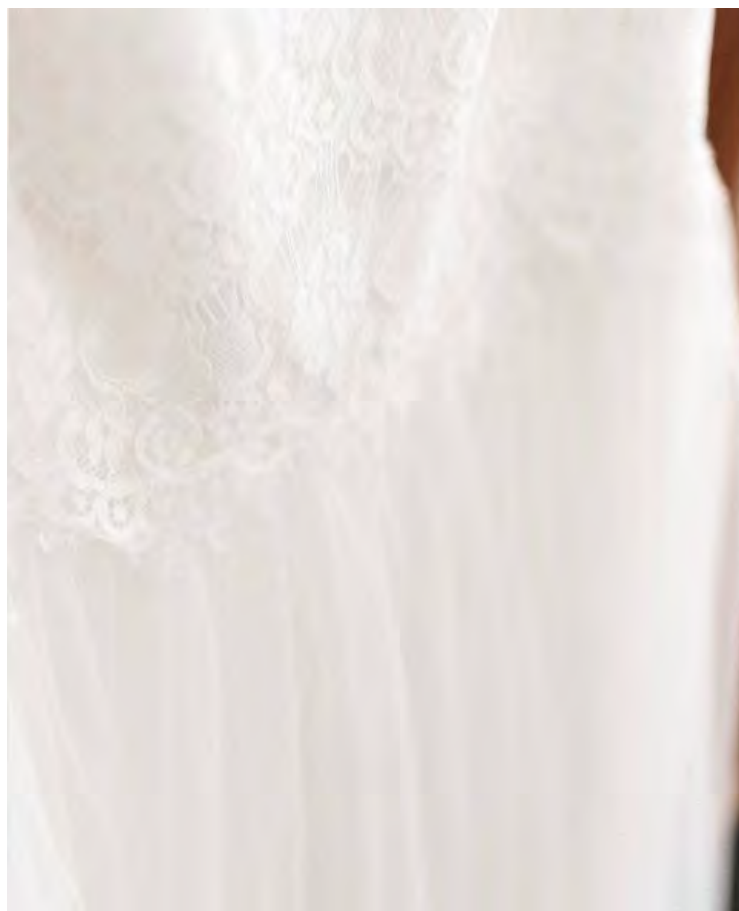
I believe it's incredible to be able to



36 likes

SEPTEMBER 27, 2017

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 **mrs.chelseynelson** • Follow ...

 **mrs.chelseynelson** Ah, the details. I always gravitate to them. So much time and thought are built into each detail of a wedding, it's important to document it. 💕

143w

 **mrs.chelseynelson** •

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-
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-

#weddingphotographer
#weddingphotography
#marthastewartweddings
#mykentuckybride #louisvillebride
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72 likes

FEBRUARY 8, 2017

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I'm recapping my styled shoot at @21hotels in Louisville on the blog today (link in profile)! I hope you enjoy the golden glamour. While gold spoons and intricately made wedding dresses make weddings look beautiful, my favorite aspects really surround what I like to call the substance behind the pretty. Your wedding is likely the only time in your life you'll have such a group of loving friends and family all in one place, celebrating you. It's pure magic when that sentiment is reflected in how a couple plans the day that marks the start of their new family. #styledshoot #ontheblog #thebusinessyouwant #chelseynelsonweddings



105 likes

JANUARY 30, 2017

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Every bride deserves that moment when they can't help but smile from ear to ear at the fact that they just married their best friend. ❤️

#louisvilleweddingphotographer
#joyfulbride #chelseynelsonbrides

Credits:
Wedding Planning/Design:
@VSIEvents; Venue: #21cLouisville
@21chotels and @ProofOnMain; Bride
Model: @mirandagopp; Groom
Model: @billybadboysmith; Dress and
Jewelry: @moderntrousseauLouisville;
Chairs and Tableware Rentals:
@reliablerentalsky; Linens and Chair
Decor: @milleniumeventsky;
Photography: @mrs.chelseynelson;
Cakes: @louisvilliciouscakes; Floral
Design: @candybush; Hair: @mrs.chelseynelson



57 likes

JANUARY 10, 2017


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 **mrs.chelseynelson** I've found that photography helps point me to cherishing God's creativity. Sunsets, celebrating marriages, mothers holding their children for the first time - all beautiful gifts from God. I'm sharing some musings on the blog this week on chelseynelson.com. What helps you notice God's creativity? #photography #marriage

169w

 **studiozehra** 😊

167w Reply






20 likes

AUGUST 10, 2016

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JEFF & MICHELE

FINE ART WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHERS

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about us

OUR TYPE OF BRIDE

So, you might be thinking, "do Jeff and Michele have a specific type of person they like working with the most?" And though we'd love to be the perfect fit for everyone we honestly feel that there's a certain "bride" that is a "Jeff & Michele" kind of bride. It's a fairly broad description, but we've noticed that most of our brides that we jive with are...

- Deeply committed to family
- Hard working, but knows how to have fun and relax
- Very personal and friendly, yet professional
- Appreciative of the details in our photos
- Lover of being organized, but can be spontaneous
- Focused on caring for others/not all about themselves
- IN LOVE with our photos
- Comfortable with us

We strongly believe that our best work is produced by the relationships we form. Natural-looking photos are a result of connecting with people. It's these people we most want to connect with so that we can make something awesome together!

If you think you're one of these, please contact us right now and we'll get back with you as soon as we can!

todd pellowe

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Frequently asked questions

Do you shoot family photographs?

Not at this time. I specialize in wedding photography. It's kind of a passion. I've found that in life you've got to say no to really good things so that you can say yes really well to the best things.

TAMMY HOWELL

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WHY TAMMY HOWELL?

You and your family will remember your wedding day through the eyes of your photographer. The person you choose to capture those moments is one of the most important and long-lasting decisions you will make about your wedding.

Every photographer has a style that can be consistently be seen in their work. My style has often been described by clients as "crisp" and "clear." I take that as a compliment, as my goal is to use creative lighting techniques and a mastery of technical skills to create perfect images. Of course a perfect photo means nothing, if there is no meaning in the photo.

Each of these photos below has a story, and I feel so privileged to be able to tell it. If you think my style and vision is how you want to remember your day, please contact me! I would love to document the start of your new family :)

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



|| HOW WOULD YOU DEFINE YOUR STYLE? ||

I love to shoot up close, natural and bright images. I try to stay away from extreme "fad" images so your wedding photos will stay classic and timeless for so many years to come. I edit in a film style using Lightroom and Photoshop.



David and Amanda Orr · April 28, 2017

Cosplay, Superhero Comic Book Wedding



Newly engaged couples often feel overwhelmed by the traditions and expectations that go into planning their wedding day. But the truth is that you can break away from tradition, while still creating a special event that your guests will love attending. JeriLyn and Randy are the perfect example of a couple that made their wedding day truly their own

in a way that both celebrated their unique hobbies and loves (comic books, cosplay, gaming, superheroes), while still honoring and actively involving their family and guests. JeriLyn and Randy were awesome enough to share the details of their wedding day, and even some DIY and cost-saving wedding planning tips.

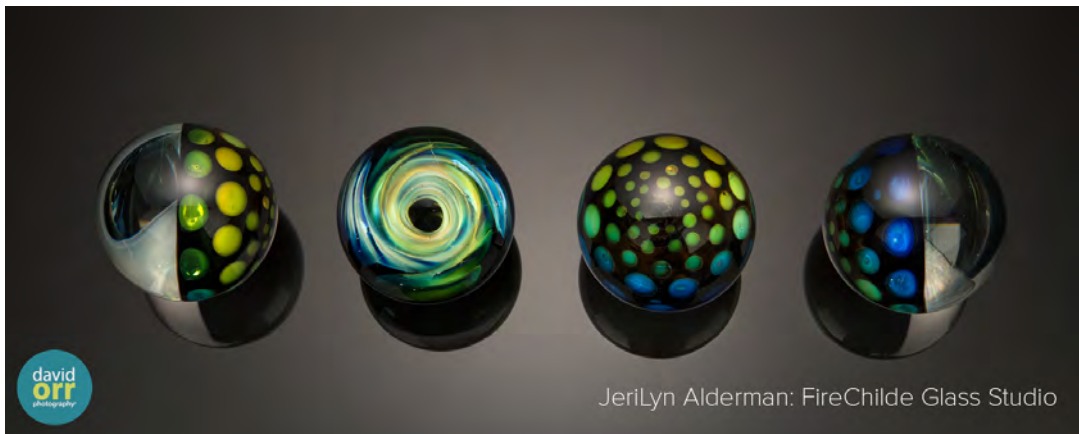


**How did you come to select the theme for your wedding day?
Why was this important to you?**

Randy: "Instead of a traditional wedding where you buy/rent clothes and supplies that we knew we were only going to use once before throwing in a mothball-ridden closet for years to come, we decided we wanted to do something we could reuse. Because we are both so heavily inspired by comics, movies and games, and attend MANY pop-

culture conventions in a business and pleasurable capacity (as well as a lot of our friends and family) we felt doing a sort of 'cosplay' themed wedding was ideal. People could dress up as their favorite characters/people and the costumes could be reused. We now use our outfits as our 'cosplay' clothes at conventions we attend."

(JeriLyn and Randy make amazing collectible [art glass pieces](#). You can catch them at the upcoming Phoenix Comicon on May 25 - 28th, 2017 at the Phoenix Convention Center. Visit [FireChilde Glass Studio](#) for more info.)



How did you encourage guests to participate?

Randy: "It didn't take too much encouragement as a lot of our friends and family are as quirky as us and really enjoyed the experience. An added bonus was that Halloween was a week and a half prior to our special occasion, which made the costume-building process as difficult or as easy as people really wanted to make it. Also, the promise of free booze helped a lot."



Describe any personal or handmade touches that you incorporated in your wedding.

Randy: "We had made flower bouquets (including the bride's) out of paper flowers we painstakingly made out of comic books that were repurposed from our comic shop, as they were just titles the shop had amassed but couldn't really sell. (Fun fact: the more violent the comic book, the

prettier the flower... because blood.) We also used some of our favorite comic book titles as table decorations for people to read and look at while dining, and to take as party favors."

"We also wanted to avoid having a traditional wedding cake as they're not something people typically go gaga over anyway. It was actually suggested to us to do a big stack of donuts, which were a big hit with our guests (out of 8-9 dozen, we walked away with a small box of 6 donuts at the end of the evening). It definitely was a fun addition that we feel was better than a traditional cake."

Tell us about the design of the wedding dress. Did JeriLyn make it herself? What inspired her? What were the advantages of doing a custom-designed dress versus purchasing from a chain store?

Randy: "The wedding dress was basically made from pieces and parts we'd found from different vendors at the conventions we attend. The inception was from JeriLyn's love for Superman... so she dubbed herself the *'Bride-of-*

Steel,' and we worked around that. The outfit consisted of a black leather corset, a black skirt with white petticoats, a Victorian-era high collar, white button-down shirt with frills, a leather Victorian-era riding hat (that we emblazoned with a silver and black Superman logo), black and white 'spat'-esque boots (later exchanged for black Chuck Taylors for dancing later), and a silver Superman pendant on a silver chain."



"The main advantage of doing a custom designed outfit was really the fact that we were able to help out a lot of the other vendors we attend conventions with, and not throwing money at a big chain store that wouldn't consider my ideas but would rather show me the dresses worn by a hundred other brides that day alone. It

was a treat to spread our joy around to independent artists who we've known for years. We also have the opportunity to mix-and-match aspects of this outfit into other designs in the future for other fun events."



Tell us about the design of the groom's suit. Did Randy make it himself? What inspired him?

JeriLyn: "Randy's "Bat-Groom" outfit was inspired by his favorite character Batman (obviously). The relationship between Batman and Superman over the years has been (what we describe as) a *'Bro-mance.'* They always have one another's back and rely on each other in times of need. His costume was a little less elaborate as it consisted of a regular black button-down shirt, a black vest with silver striping, black jeans with a Batman belt

buckle, black Chuck Taylor shoes and a giant top hat with the Batman logo on the front. It was simple, but matched the overall fun-aesthetic we were going for."

Were there any special traditions that were a part of your wedding day?

Randy: "The only semi-"traditional" aspect was we had decided that we wouldn't see each other as soon as we hit the venue until the moment of the ceremony. Other than that, we were making it as easy-going and stressfree as possible. Throwing tradition out the window allowed us to really cut loose and not adhere to a bunch of rigid guidelines that'd sap the fun out of the whole process. The only real stress was being the center of attention and making damned fools of ourselves in front of our most cherished people ... and even that was great."

What were some of your favorite moments from your wedding day?

JeriLyn: "As generic of a statement as this is... the vows. We had them written for us by

one of our best friends who knows us to a "T". Being able to speak words that were funny and eloquent to my husband-to-be was a great feeling because normally I just stare at him slack-jawed and drooling on myself wondering how I got so lucky. But honestly, the whole thing feels like a quick blur and I loved every moment."



Randy: "As JeriLyn said, the vows were my favorite part. Talking about superheroes and cats and bad comic movies right before getting hitched was a good laugh for us as well as our guests. My other favorite is that David Orr piled us in his vehicle right after the ceremony, and we went down to our comic book shop (about a block away), and we had a good time goofing off and having pictures taken."



How did you come to select the location for your wedding? What was special about this place to you?

Randy: "We wanted to be in an area we frequent fairly often. [Regency Garden](#) is about two blocks away from the [Mesa Arts Center](#) where JeriLyn works and also really close to our [comic book shop](#) we frequent as well. We found Regency kind of by chance. The well-deserved awesome reviews, located in an area we know and frequent, with extremely nice employees and they already had David Orr working as their photographer (which we didn't know until our initial visit when we all bumped into each other at the venue the first day), and the fact it was fantastic looking with reasonable pricing and all inclusive... it felt like it was meant to be "

What advice do you have for couples who are planning their wedding? (Best ways to incorporate a theme, tips to keep costs down, pitfalls to avoid, etc.)

Randy: "Simply put, walk in with a bit of skepticism. Wedding magazines, bridal expos, traditions being jammed down your throat, et cetera ... these resources are meant to sell you something that was already used a hundred times over. There's no need to spend tons of money on customized party favors that guests are going to toss in the trash the next month or that big elaborate stark white dress that will never be seen after that special day. So what if it's *'tradition'* to do this, that or the other thing ... whose tradition? This is your day. You or someone you are close to are the one footing the bill. Why would you want it to be the next generic one sold out of an overpriced catalog? You be you--don't let tradition get in the way."

JeriLyn: "You know those folks who are hired with the venue typically? The 'wedding

coordinators' ... listen to them. There's no need to micromanage since these folks do hundreds of events a year. They'll certainly know what is unique, what is overdone and what is possible ... and they'll be the first ones to tell you. Also, keep things simple. The more elaborate it is, the more expensive, labor intensive and stressful things become. As much as I want a hundred pure white doves to be released over my head from a hot air balloon with me and my husband's name on it ... it just seems like a lot of unnecessary work for something that people will say '*huh... that was cool. Okay, where's the bar?*'

"

Come see David Orr speak on the Phoenix Comicon wedding panel "Geek Weddings on a Budget": Friday, May 26, 2017 at 12noon at the Phoenix Convention Center.



WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHY

Trash the Dress: A Perfectly Messy Photo Shoot

BY BRIDEBOX WEDDING ALBUMS · DECEMBER 10, 2015

You spend a long time **picking out the perfect wedding dress**, which means you're going to do everything necessary in order to preserve it's perfection. But what if perfection didn't mean flawless?

Couples are taking their **wedding photo shoots** to a whole new level with "trash the dress" (also sometimes referred to as "rock the frock")—a style of wedding photography that botches the traditional elegant style... and the dress itself! The unique and fearless approach brings the couple's beautiful look into an unexpected setting and captures as they intentionally ruin the dress by getting it dirty or drenched. Some even choose to destroy or tear the dress entirely. While this style of wedding photography definitely takes a lot of bravery, it also produces incredible shots. The following are beautiful Trash the Dress photographs.



oads/2015/11/Trash-the-dress-photography.ica

Photo Credit: [Jeff Cooke Photography](#)

With Trash the Dress photography, it's important to [find a photographer that you trust](#) and that is experienced in this style of photo shoots. If you are traveling for your shoots (or choose to take them on your honeymoon), research [the best photographers in the area](#).



Photo Credit: [Riveria Maya Photography](#)

Once the bride has chosen the right photographer to capture this adventurous shoot, they discuss just how much they want to destroy the dress. Some brides prefer playing around with the creative idea but still maintaining the original beauty of their dress...



Photo Credit: [Christina Gresslanu Photography](#)

...While others decide to plunge all the way in to the fun.



Photo Credit: Eric Limon Photography



Photo Credit: Sarah Tamagni Photography



Photo Credit: [Erika Tanith Photography](#)

The photo shoot gives the bride an opportunity to let go of all of the wedding stress and just have fun with her spouse-to-be.



Photo Credit: [Jennica Hookstra Photography](#)



Photo Credit: [Jag Studios](#)

There are all sorts of ways a bride can choose to trash her dress, including paint, mud, wine, fire, wedding cake and a swim. If you're nervous but intrigued, you can dip your toes in by researching what kinds of shoots other brides have done.



Photo Credit: [Riviera Maya Photography](#)

If you love the idea but aren't willing to or can't afford to sacrifice your wedding dress, consider [buying a more affordable pre-owned dress](#) or even a formal white dress that is not necessarily intended for weddings. This will allow you enjoy your Trash the Dress photo shoot while preserving your wedding dress in it's original form.



Photo Credit: [Danniel McKnight Photography](#)

However, some brides feel that this “destroyed” version of their dress is exactly what makes it the perfect special wedding dress.



Photo Credit: [Josh Deaton Photography](#)

A WALKING DEAD THEMED ZOMBIE ENGAGEMENT SESSION IN ATLANTA



We are photographing Alyssa and Jared's wedding this year and wanted to photograph / film a rad engagement session in Atlanta, Georgia. With The Walking Dead about to start back up, what better inspiration to get ready for the show than a zombie engagement session!

We planned for weeks getting the cast, sketches, makeup, shot list, lighting and equipment, zombie bait, and much more to make everything happen. The day before the shoot the weather called for 50% chance of rain all day, so we were all a little stressed about it. The morning of the shoot, it rained but cleared up creating the perfect zombie conditions.



Alyssa and Jared's friends and family drove in from all over to make the shoot happen. The day started pretty typically if you are a zombie. Blood, guts, and weapons were prepared and makeup was applied to everyone with careful attention to detail. Although no one was a professional actor or zombie for that matter, we wanted everything to be realistic with a hint of the cheese factor.

Our original location fell through, so with just a week to find a new location, we opted for one closer to home. In order to get to the main shooting location, everyone had to climb down a really steep hill and obviously do it without falling. The mud and rain soaked leaves made for very slippery conditions and I was lucky enough to slide down the side of the hill a number of times carrying



equipment on-site.

We started by shooting everyone separately for the cast photos, and a couple key "movie poster" type photos, before moving on to shooting the storyline. Considering the wet and cold weather conditions there was a little suffering being out in the cold and crawling around in the mud for three plus hours.

All in all, everyone had a blast and amazingly did a freaking awesome job in their roles. Here are some of my favorite photos from Alyssa and Jared's zombie engagement session.











NAVIGATE E



Game of Thrones Bridal Photos

As a [professional wedding photographer](#), I sometimes get requests for wedding shoots outside of my regular packages. Do I mind? Nope! I love providing bespoke portraits sessions for my couples when they request them. It's often an opportunity to really get creative and make beautiful photos that my clients can use as wall art. Maureen and I met at The Quarry Knoxville for a gorgeous Game of Thrones bridal photos. Maureen is one of the sweetest people in the world. She and her (now) husband are kind, personal, and purposeful. The couple had a Game of Thrones themed wedding and of course, the bridal gown and details totally fit!

Their Love Story

Maureen shared that Thom is her absolute best friend, and she thinks life would be so incredibly boring without him! They've been together for four years, and got engaged last November. He proposed with a custom made ring all, lovingly hand crafted, and it is so her! It is actually a funny story because last Thanksgiving, Maureen's cousin shared that he was going to propose to his girlfriend in two weeks. He was showing them pictures of the ring at their Tennessee family get together. Maureen gave Thom such a hard time, teasing over how her cousin was going to propose soon! Little did she know, not two days before, Thom had gotten a call to tell him her ring was ready!

When they got back home from their Thanksgiving trip, on Monday he picked up the engagement ring on his lunch break. He got home that evening, and couldn't even make it into the living room. He told Maureen to close her eyes, and that he gotten something special for me while he was at work. Unassumingly thinking he had brought home a cookie or something, standing there in her PJs... Maureen obliged and closed her eyes. And when she opened her eyes, Thom was on one knee with the ring in his hand. Perfection.

The Quarry Venue Knoxville

I loved their proposal story so much. Maureen also shared that while she and Thom have very different professional lives, when they are at home, they love all the same things. Nerdy, fun things that keep them both young at heart. So, it goes without saying that their wedding would echo some of the things they loved! This bridal portrait shoot channeled some of the fantasy of their Game of Thrones wedding. With her handmade ring and handmade crown, she truly looked like she stepped from the pages of a fairy tale. Her flowing blonde hair, stunning bridal gown from [Hayden Olivia Bridal](#) and her green velvet cloak all added to her stunning, regal look. As she walked through the wooded areas of The Quarry Venue, she truly looked like she was from another time. Of course, her iron longsword made her look like she could sit on the Iron Throne!

[The Quarry Venue](#) was the perfect backdrop for these Game of Thrones bridal photos. This stunning, historic marble quarry was such a unique backdrop for her portrait session. Nestled in the heart of West Knoxville, this amazing wedding venue is actually in a real quarry that was once known for its pink marble. What really elevates this outdoor event space is their one-of-a-kind location called "The Canyon." We took full advantage of this breathtaking natural feature. With 100' soaring rock walls and trees dripping with ivy, it was truly unique.

Professional Bridal Portraits

Thank you so much to Maureen for asking me to be her photographer for these Game of Thrones Bridal photos! I had such an amazing time with you, and it was so fun! I wish more brides would get back into their dresses to have professional bridal portrait shoots like this one!

If you are interested in a bridal portrait session, please don't hesitate to contact me! I love to do them and would love to find creative ways for you to wear that beautiful dress again. Or, if you'd like to have a session before your wedding, professional photos are a great way to test drive your hair and makeup before the big day. Make sure to fill out my [contact form](#) and I will be in touch!









Resolution On Homosexual Marriage

New Orleans, Louisiana - 1996

Tags: [gay marriage](#), [homosexuality](#)

Menu

WHEREAS, In May 1993, the Hawaiian Supreme Court ruled that the state's exclusion of same-sex couples from marital status may be contrary to the Hawaiian state constitution because it amounts to invidious discrimination; and

WHEREAS, The Hawaiian Supreme Court has instructed the state of Hawaii to prove compelling state interests for limiting marriage to heterosexual couples; and

WHEREAS, The instructions of the Hawaiian Supreme Court shift the burden of proof from persons seeking to change existing law and places it instead on officers of the government who support norms of conduct long established in the Western legal tradition; and

WHEREAS, The compelling state interests standard is extraordinarily difficult to prove before a court already disposed to regard the exclusion of same-sex relationships from the definition of marriage as a matter of invidious discrimination, and therefore the state of Hawaii is soon likely to grant full legal status to the marriage of homosexual couples; and

WHEREAS, Under the full faith and credit clause of the Constitution of the United States, any marriage performed in the state of Hawaii will, apart from the enactment of state-by-state exceptions or the enactment of a new and comprehensive federal law, have to be legally recognized in every other state; and

WHEREAS, Homosexual couples from every other state are preparing to obtain marriage licenses in Hawaii and then to challenge the courts, legislatures and institutions in their home states to treat their same-sex relationship as having identical status to the recognition of marriage between a man and a woman; and

WHEREAS, Challenging the exclusion of homosexual couples from the definition of marriage as sanctioned and protected by civil law is a strategy to appropriate the moral capital of marriage in order to enforce acceptance of homosexual conduct and homosexual desires in the public arenas of American life; and

WHEREAS, There is much scientific evidence showing that homosexual attractions are pathological, abnormal, and mostly if not entirely a matter of external influence, learned behavior, acquired taste and personal choice; and, although there have been speculations, no conclusive scientific evidence has been found to support claims that homosexual attractions are biologically fixed and irreversible; and

WHEREAS, Even should a biological link with homosexuality be discovered, it could not settle the morality of homosexual behavior, and could not serve to justify, much less require, any society to grant the status of marriage to homosexual couples; and

WHEREAS, God, who is both Moral Ruler of the Universe and the Creator of all that is, and who knows and understands the physical and psychological composition of all and every human life better than any human scientist will ever know it, has stated in Scripture that homosexual conduct is always a gross abomination for all human beings, both men and women, in all circumstances, without exception ([Lev. 18:22](#) and [20:13](#)); and

WHEREAS, God makes it clear in Scripture that even desire to engage in a homosexual sexual relationship is always sinful, impure, degrading, shameful, unnatural, indecent and perverted ([Rom. 1:24-27](#)), so any effort to extend the meaning of marriage in order to sanction the satisfaction of such desire must also be in every case sinful, impure, degrading, shameful, unnatural, indecent and perverted; and

WHEREAS, God by saying their blood will be on their own heads ([Lev.20:13](#)) has explicitly ruled out any effort by homosexual couples to justify their behavior, or to claim their homosexual relationship deserves protected legal status, by shifting blame or responsibility for their same-sex relationship to the Creator who made them; and

WHEREAS, Marriage is God's idea established in the order of creation to be a permanent union of one man with one woman ([Gen. 1:28](#), and [2:24](#)), and marriage is therefore first and foremost a divine institution ([Mat. 19:6](#)) and only secondarily a cultural and civil institution; and

WHEREAS, Jesus reaffirmed the origin of marriage in the order of creation and declared marriage to be a sacred, monogamous and life-long institution joining one man with one woman ([Matt. 19:4-6](#)); and

WHEREAS, Any action by the government giving homosexual unions the legal status of marriage denies the fundamental immorality of homosexual behavior and causes the government of any nation so doing to jeopardize seriously the favor of Almighty God on whom the security, welfare and stability of every nation, even Gentile nations ([Lev. 18:24-25, 28](#); [Ps. 2](#); [Am. 1:3,6, 9, 11, 13](#); [Isa. 13-21](#)), ultimately depends; and

WHEREAS, Separating marriage from the complementary union of male and female trivializes the concept of marriage in the laws, public policies, educational systems, and other institutions of society; and

WHEREAS, Only the marriage of male and female serves to tame the impulses of self-centered individuals by inter-generational obligations and commitments; and

WHEREAS, Failure in the courts and institutions of civil law to recognize the unique importance of heterosexual family units, by granting moral equivalence to the idea of same-sex relationships, will surely and very seriously undercut the formation of stable heterosexual family units in future generations; and

WHEREAS, The future of the United States of America will be placed at risk because no society can survive that does not recognize, protect, defend the unique importance of heterosexual marriage to its own health and stability; and

WHEREAS, The legal recognition of homosexual marriage carries the potential use of force, a force that will likely be turned against those who do not or cannot accept the moral equivalence of homosexual marriages; and

WHEREAS, The enforcement of marriage laws, standards of educational instruction in schools, and the regulation of fair business practices will be adjusted to require public recognition of homosexual marriages, and this adjustment will certainly undermine, and may even restrain, the public communication, influence, and independence of individuals, groups and institutions who believe and teach that homosexual marriage is immoral in both concept and practice; and

WHEREAS, Legalizing homosexual marriage will force public schools to teach the acceptability of homosexual marriage and will likely lead to laws requiring that businesses remove distinctions between homosexual and heterosexual relationships in the way they treat marriage benefit for their employees; and

WHEREAS, Legalizing homosexual marriage raises the specter of new laws and policies intended to marginalize, privatize, or silence the social and moral influence of parents and churches which teach that homosexual marriage is wrong or that heterosexual marriage is morally superior; Now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the messengers of the one hundred thirty-ninth meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention, assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, June 11-13, 1996, do clearly and steadfastly oppose the legalization of homosexual marriage by the state of Hawaii, or by any other state, or by the United States of America; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we affirm the Bible's teaching that promotion of homosexual conduct and relationships by any society, including action by the governments to sanction and legitimize homosexual relationships by the legalization of homosexual marriages, is an abominable sin calling for God's swift judgment upon any such society ([Lev. 18:22, 28](#); [Isa. 3:9](#)); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we commit ourselves to pray faithfully against the legalization of homosexual marriages in American law, and to preach and teach the truth concerning what the Bible says about homosexuality, homosexual conduct and the institution of marriage, and against the foolishness, danger and moral wickedness of any government action to accept, sanction, approve, protect, or promote homosexual marriage; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we commit ourselves to pray for, affirm, and support legislative and legal efforts and all persons involved in efforts to oppose the legalization of homosexual marriages through judicial actions, through public policy decisions and through legislation introduced at both the state and federal levels of government; and we call upon all judges, all persons in public office, and all candidates for public office, to do all they can to resist and oppose the legalization of homosexual marriages; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, That because any law, or any policy or regulation supporting a law, that legalizes homosexual marriage is and must be completely and thoroughly wicked according to God's

standards revealed in the Bible, we do most solemnly pledge our decision never to recognize the moral legitimacy of any such law, policy or regulation, and we affirm that, whatever the stakes ([Dan. 3:17-18](#)), we will never conform to or obey ([Acts 4:19](#)) anything required by any governing body to implement, impose or act upon any such law. So help us God.

[View all 1996 Resolutions.](#)

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- Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary
- New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
- Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary
- Southern Baptist Theological Seminary
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Resolution On Strengthening The Marriage Covenant

Salt Lake City, Utah - 1998

Menu

Tags: [marriage](#), [family](#)

WHEREAS, Marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime; and

WHEREAS, The husband and wife forming a two-parent family is God's ideal, ordained by God to perform a unique role in the birth, loving discipline, and nurture of children; and

WHEREAS, American culture and public policy have failed to prevent a dramatic decline in the number of traditional two-parent families; and

WHEREAS, The growing social problems of child poverty, child abuse, juvenile delinquency, violent crimes committed by children, sexual promiscuity and teen pregnancy are often related to broken marriages and fractured families; and

WHEREAS, Some states have enacted legislation intended to strengthen the marriage covenant between husband and wife, including a model statute called "Covenant Marriage"; and

WHEREAS, The covenants involved in such model statutes are entirely voluntary, but once entered by a man and woman, either before or after marriage, constitute a legally binding commitment which requires greater care to be married, and greater caution to be divorced than is provided under many "no fault" divorce laws; and

WHEREAS, The new marriage covenant focuses on pre-marital and marital counseling to better equip and prepare couples for marriage; and

WHEREAS, The model programs recognize the limitations of law and public policy to change attitudes, and involves willing churches to participate by providing counseling and training prior to marriage.

Therefore, be it RESOLVED, That the messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention, meeting June 9-11,

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1998, in Salt Lake City, Utah, express our enthusiastic support for such public policies and programs which aim to strengthen the marriage commitment and to reverse the trend of the disintegration of the nuclear family; and

Be it further RESOLVED, That we applaud the cooperation between the policy-making bodies, married couples, and participating churches, in those states where such programs have been enacted; and

Be it further RESOLVED, That we encourage other states to examine and adopt public policies such as Covenant Marriage which aim to strengthen marriages and families; and


Be it finally RESOVLED, That we encourage Southern Baptist churches and ministers to make it a priority to provide pre-marital or marital counseling, or to develop effective referral relationships, and we urge the appropriate agencies of the Southern Baptist Convention to provide information and resources for use in strengthening marriages, whether through Covenant Marriage or other programs.

[View all 1998 Resolutions.](#)

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Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

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On Same-Sex Marriage

Phoenix - 2003

Tags: [gay marriage](#), [homosexuality](#)

Menu

WHEREAS, The Vermont legislature established “civil unions” which bestow the rights of marriage on same-sex couples; and

WHEREAS, Since the law became effective in July 2000, eighty-five percent of the more than 5,600 civil unions performed in Vermont were for out-of-state homosexual couples; and

WHEREAS, The legislative Assembly of the state of California has passed a bill that says registered partners “shall have the same rights” that are “granted to and imposed upon spouses”; and

WHEREAS, Courts in Massachusetts and New Jersey currently are considering the legalization of same-sex “marriage”; and

WHEREAS, The Full Faith and Credit Clause of the United States Constitution requires that marriages solemnized in one state be recognized in all fifty states; and

WHEREAS, The Vermont experience indicates that if same-sex unions are recognized as “marriage” in a state court, then same-sex couples wishing to marry will inundate that state to “marry” and return home demanding that their states recognize their “marriages” and provide all rights and benefits afforded to traditional marriages; and

WHEREAS, Proponents of same-sex “marriage” have indicated their intention to challenge state laws and the federal Defense of Marriage Act, which define marriage as between one man and one woman; and

WHEREAS, Same-sex “marriages” are now legal in Belgium and Holland; and

WHEREAS, An appellate court in Ontario, Canada, has changed the definition of marriage from a union of one man and one woman to the “voluntary union for life of two persons to the exclusion of all others”; and

WHEREAS, Newspapers are beginning to recognize homosexual unions by publishing announcements of same-sex commitment ceremonies; and

WHEREAS, A vast segment of the entertainment industry has pursued an agenda of legitimizing homosexual relationships; and

WHEREAS, Public school textbooks and curricula are beginning to portray families with two homosexual “parents” as equivalent to families with a mother and a father; and

WHEREAS, Jesus states that marriage is a sacred, lifelong bond between one man and one woman ([Matthew 19:4–6](#)); and

WHEREAS, Legalizing same-sex “marriage” would convey a societal approval of a homosexual lifestyle, which the Bible calls sinful and dangerous both to the individuals involved and to society at large ([Romans 1:24–27](#); [1 Corinthians 6:9–10](#); [Leviticus 18:22](#)); now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Phoenix, Arizona, June 17–18, 2003, affirm that legal and biblical marriage can only occur between one man and one woman; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we continue to oppose steadfastly all efforts by any court or state legislature to validate or legalize same-sex marriage or other equivalent unions; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we commit ourselves to pray for and support legislative and legal efforts to oppose the legalization of same-sex unions; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we call upon all judges and public officials to resist and oppose the legalization of same-sex unions; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we oppose all efforts by media and entertainment outlets and public schools to mainstream homosexual unions in the eyes of our children; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we call on Southern Baptist churches to commit to guard our religious liberty to recognize and perform marriages as defined by Scripture; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That we call on Southern Baptists not only to stand against same-sex unions, but to demonstrate our love for those practicing homosexuality by sharing with them the forgiving and transforming power of the gospel of Jesus Christ ([1 Corinthians 6:9–11](#)).

View all [2003 Resolutions](#).

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On The California Supreme Court Decision To Allow Same-Sex Marriage

Indianapolis, IN - 2008

Menu

Tags: [gay marriage](#), [homosexuality](#), [religious liberty](#)

WHEREAS, On May 15, 2008, the California Supreme Court struck down the state's ban on same-sex marriage thus frustrating the will of the people who, on March 7, 2000, voted in favor (61.4%) of Proposition 22 which affirmed, "Only marriage between a man and a woman is valid or recognized in California"; and

WHEREAS, This decision has dire national implications because California law will allow same-sex couples from any state to marry in California, return to their home state, and challenge that state's traditional marriage laws based on the full faith and credit clause of the Constitution of the United States; and

WHEREAS, The United States Congress has repeatedly refused to pass a constitutional amendment defining marriage as exclusively between a man and a woman, thus providing no federal protection from attacks against traditional marriage; and

WHEREAS, Marriage is ordained by God as a permanent union of one man and one woman ([Genesis 1:27-28](#); [2:24](#)); and

WHEREAS, Jesus reaffirmed marriage as a sacred, monogamous, and life-long institution joining one man and one woman ([Matthew 19:4-6](#)); and

WHEREAS, Any action giving homosexual unions the legal status of marriage denies the fundamental immorality of homosexual behavior ([Leviticus 18:22](#); [Romans 1:26-27](#); [1 Corinthians 6:9-11](#)); and

WHEREAS, The people of California have collected over 1.1 million signatures on a petition requiring the state to place a referendum on the ballot in November defining marriage as exclusively between a man and a woman; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana, June 10-11, 2008, wholeheartedly support the people in California who have worked tirelessly to place this

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referendum on the ballot; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we strongly urge all Southern Baptists in the state of California to be informed about this issue and to exercise their civic and moral duty by working diligently to support and voting to pass this referendum; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we encourage all Christian pastors in California and in every other state to speak strongly, prophetically, and redemptively concerning the sinful nature of homosexuality and the urgent need to protect biblical marriage in accordance with God's Word; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we call on all Southern Baptists and believers from all denominations everywhere to pray for the people of California as they seek to right this terrible wrong that has been forced upon them by the California Supreme Court's overturning of the vote of the people and to pray for the people of every state where biblical marriage is under attack; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we reaffirm our historic and consistent support of the biblical definition of marriage as an exclusive union between a man and a woman; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That we once again call on the United States Congress to pass, the President to sign, and the states to ratify a constitutional amendment defining marriage as exclusively between a man and a woman.

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On The Call To Public Witness On Marriage

Columbus, OH - 2015

Tags: [marriage](#), [family](#)

Menu

WHEREAS, God in His divine wisdom created marriage as the covenanted, conjugal union of one man and one woman ([Genesis 2:18–24](#); [Matthew 19:4–6](#); [Hebrews 13:4](#)); and

WHEREAS, The Baptist Faith & Message (2000) recognizes the biblical definition of marriage as “the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime,” stating further, “It is God’s unique gift to reveal the union between Christ and His church and to provide for the man and the woman in marriage the framework for intimate companionship, the channel of sexual expression according to biblical standards, and the means for procreation of the human race”; and

WHEREAS, God ordains government to promote and honor the public good and recognize what is praiseworthy ([Romans 13:3–4](#)); and

WHEREAS, The public good requires defining and defending marriage as the covenanted, conjugal union of one man and one woman; and

WHEREAS, Marriage is by nature a public institution that unites man and woman in the common task of bringing forth children; and

WHEREAS, The Supreme Court of the United States will rule in 2015 on whether states shall be required to grant legal recognition as “marriages” to same-sex partnerships; and

WHEREAS, The redefinition of marriage to include same-sex couples will continue to weaken the institution of the natural family unit and erode the religious liberty and rights of conscience of all who remain faithful to the idea of marriage as the conjugal union of husband and wife; and

WHEREAS, The Bible calls us to love our neighbors, including those who disagree with us about the definition of marriage and the public good; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Columbus, Ohio, June 16–17, 2015, prayerfully call on the Supreme Court of the United States to uphold the right of the citizens to define marriage as exclusively the union of one man and one woman; and be it further

RESOLVED, That Southern Baptists recognize that no governing institution has the authority to negate or usurp God’s definition of marriage; and be it further

RESOLVED, No matter how the Supreme Court rules, the Southern Baptist Convention reaffirms its unwavering commitment to its doctrinal and public beliefs concerning marriage; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the religious liberty of individual citizens or institutions should not be infringed as a result of believing or living according to the biblical definition of marriage; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Southern Baptist Convention calls on Southern Baptists and all Christians to stand firm on the Bible’s witness on the purposes of marriage, among which are to unite man and woman as one flesh and to secure the basis for the flourishing of human civilization; and be it finally

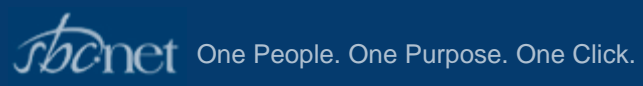
RESOLVED, That Southern Baptists love our neighbors and extend respect in Christ’s name to all people, including those who may disagree with us about the definition of marriage and the public good.

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Statement of Faith

I. The Scriptures.

The Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments were given by inspiration of God. Therefore, all scripture is authoritative, infallible and inerrant. The Scriptures are the only sufficient rule for faith and practice (Ps. 19:7; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:20-21).

II. God.

There is but one God, the Maker, Preserver and Ruler of all things, having in and of Himself, all perfections, and being infinite in them all; and to Him all creatures owe the highest love, reverence and obedience that springs from faith (Deut. 6:4; Ps. 145:3; John 1:3; 1 Cor. 8:4-6; 1 Tim. 1:17).

III. The Trinity.

The Scriptures reveal that the one God eternally exists in three persons: the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Each person has distinct personal attributes, but without division of nature, essence or being (Matt. 3:16-17; 28:19; 2 Cor. 13:14)

IV. Providence.

God from eternity, decrees or permits all things that come to pass, and perpetually upholds, directs and governs all creatures and all events; yet so as not in any wise to be the author or approver of sin nor to destroy the free will and responsibility of intelligent creatures (Isa. 46:9-11; Prov. 16:33; Col. 1:17; Heb. 1:3; Jas. 1:13-15).

V. Election.

Election is God's eternal choice of some persons unto everlasting life—not because of foreseen merit or foreseen faith in them, but of His mere mercy in Christ—in consequence of which choice they are called, justified and glorified (Rom. 8:28-30; 1 Cor. 1:27-29; Eph. 1:4, 11).

VI. The Fall of Man.

God originally created Man in His own image, and free from sin; but, through the temptation of Satan, Adam transgressed the command of God, and fell from his original holiness and righteousness; whereby his posterity inherit a nature corrupt and wholly opposed to God and His law. As a result they are under condemnation, and as soon as they are capable of moral action, become actual transgressors (Gen. 1:26-27; 3:1-7; Rom. 5:12-19; Eph. 2:1-3).

VII. The Mediator.

Since Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, is fully God and fully man, He is the divinely appointed mediator between God and man. Having taken upon Himself human nature, yet without sin, He perfectly fulfilled the law; suffered and died upon the cross for the salvation of sinners. He was buried, and rose again the third day, and ascended to His Father, at whose right hand He ever lives to make intercession for His people. He will return again visibly and bodily. He is the only Mediator, the Prophet, Priest and King of the Church, and Sovereign of the Universe (Isa. 53:10-12; John 1:1, 14; Acts 1:9-11; Rom. 3:21-26; 8:34; 1 Cor. 15:3-4; Gal. 3:13; 1 Tim. 2:5; Heb. 1:1-3).

VIII. The Holy Spirit.

We believe that God the Holy Spirit brings glory to the Father and the Son. He applies the work of Christ to believers and distributes spiritual gifts to every believer according to His sovereign

good pleasure for the purpose of building up the body of Christ. He is the Comforter, the Spirit of Adoption, the Seal of our Salvation and the Guarantor of our inheritance in Christ (John 14:16-17; 16:14; Acts 5:3; Rom. 8:14-17; Eph. 1:13-14).

IX. Regeneration.

Regeneration is a change of heart, wrought by the Holy Spirit, who gives life to those dead in trespasses and sins, enlightening their minds spiritually and savingly to understand the word of God, and renewing their whole nature, so that they love and practice holiness. It is a work of God's free and special grace alone, so that the ultimate cause of regeneration is God's grace, not man's free will (Eph. 2:1-6; Tit. 3:5; 1 John 5:1).

X. Repentance.

Repentance is an evangelical grace, wherein a person being by the Holy Spirit, made sensible of the manifold evil of his sin, humbles himself for it, with godly sorrow, detestation of it, and self-aborrence, with a purpose and endeavor to walk before God so as to please Him in all things (Acts 2:37-38; 11:18; 2 Cor. 7:10-11).

XI. Faith.

Saving faith is the belief, on God's authority, of whatever is revealed in His word concerning Christ; accepting and resting upon Him alone for justification and eternal life. It is wrought in the heart by the Holy Spirit, and is accompanied by all other saving graces, and leads to a life of holiness (Rom. 3:27-28; 4:1-5; 4:17-25; 10:14, 17; Phil. 1:29; Eph. 2:8; Jas. 2:14-26).

XII. Justification.

Justification is God's gracious and full acquittal of sinners, who believe in Christ, from all sin, through the satisfaction that Christ has made; not for anything wrought in them or done by them; but on account of the obedience and satisfaction of Christ, they receiving and resting on Him and His righteousness by faith (Acts 13:38-39; Rom. 3:21-26; 8:34; 10:3-4; 2 Cor. 5:21; Phil. 3:9).

XIII. Sanctification.

Those who have been regenerated are also sanctified by God's word and Spirit dwelling in them. This sanctification is progressive through the supply of Divine strength, which all saints seek to obtain, pressing after a heavenly life in cordial obedience to all Christ's commands (Jer. 31:31-34; Ezek. 36:27-27; Rom. 8:1-17; Gal. 5:13-24; 2 Pet. 1:3-11).

XIV. Perseverance of the Saints.

All those whom God has regenerated will never totally nor finally fall away from the state of grace, but shall certainly persevere to the end; and though they may fall through neglect and temptation, into sin, whereby they grieve the Spirit, impair their graces and comforts, bring reproach on the church, and temporal judgments on themselves, yet they shall be renewed again unto repentance, and be kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation (John 6:37-40; 10:28-29; Rom. 8:28-39; 1 Cor. 1:8-9; Phil. 1:6).

XV. The Church.

The Lord Jesus is the head of the church, which is composed of all His true disciples, and in Him is invested supremely all power for its government. According to His commandment, Christians are to associate themselves into particular churches; and to each of these churches He has given needful authority for administering that order, discipline and worship which He has appointed. The regular officers of a church are Elders (Pastors) and Deacons (John 10:16; Acts 20:17, 28; Eph. 1:22; 5:23; 1 Tim. 3:1-13; 5:17-18; Tit. 1:5-9; Heb. 10:25).

XVI. Baptism.

Baptism is an ordinance of the Lord Jesus, obligatory upon every believer, wherein he is immersed in water in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, as a sign of his fellowship with the death and resurrection of Christ, of remission of sins, and of giving himself up to God, to live and walk in newness of life. It is prerequisite to church membership and to participation in the Lord's Supper (Matt. 28:19; Acts 2:38; Rom. 6:3-5; 1 Cor. 12:13).

XVII. The Lord's Supper.

The Lord's Supper is an ordinance of Jesus Christ, to be administered with the elements of bread and the fruit of the vine, and to be observed by His churches till the end of the world. It is in no sense a sacrifice, but is designed to commemorate His death, to confirm the faith and other graces of Christians, and to be a bond, pledge and renewal of their communion with Him, and of their church membership (Matt. 26:26-29; 1 Cor. 10:16-17; 11:23-34).

XVIII. The Lord's Day.

The Lord's Day is a Christian institution for regular observance, and should be employed in exercises of worship and spiritual devotion, both public and private (Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 16:1-2; Rev. 1:10).

XIX. Liberty of Conscience.

God alone is Lord of the conscience; and He has left it free from the doctrines and commandments of men, which are in anything contrary to His word, or not contained in it. Civil magistrates being ordained of God, subjection in all lawful things commanded by them ought to be yielded by us in the Lord, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake (Matt. 15:9; Rom. 13:1-7; 14:4; Acts 5:29; Col. 2:20-23).

XX. Marriage

Marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime. It is God's unique gift to reveal the union between Christ and His church and to provide for the man and the woman in marriage the framework for intimate companionship, the channel of sexual expression according to biblical standards, and the means for procreation of the human race.

XXI. The Resurrection.

The bodies of men after death return to dust, but their spirits return immediately to God—the righteous to rest with Him; the wicked, to be reserved under darkness to the judgment. The bodies of all the dead, both just and unjust, will be raised (John 5:28-29; 1 Cor. 15:12-28; 2 Cor. 5:1-10; Phil. 1:23).

XXII. The Judgment.

God has appointed a day, wherein He will judge the world by Jesus Christ, when every one shall receive according to his deeds; the wicked shall go into everlasting and conscious punishment; the righteous, into everlasting life (Matt. 25:46; John 5:22, 27-29; Acts 17:31; Rom. 2:6-11; 2 Cor. 5:10; 2 Thess. 1:7-10; 2 Tim. 4:8; Rev. 7:13-17; 14:9-11).

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Should I Attend a Homosexual Wedding?

by *Kevin DeYoung*

Why might a Christian refuse to attend, cater, or participate in a same-sex marriage ceremony? For simplicity's sake, let's assume this is a discussion among traditional Christians who believe—as the church has always believed and as most of the global church still believes—that same-sex behavior is sinful and that marriage is a covenantal, conjugal union of a man and a woman.

With that clarifying comment, we can address the question head-on: Why would a Christian feel conscience bound not to attend or participate in a gay wedding? It's not because of bigotry or fear or because we are unaware that Jesus spent time with sinners that leads us to this conclusion. It's because of our desire to be obedient to Christ and because of the nature of the wedding event itself.

A wedding ceremony, in the Christian tradition, is first of all a worship service. So if the union being celebrated in the service cannot be biblically sanctioned as an act of worship, we believe the service lends credence to a lie. We cannot in good conscience participate in a service of false worship. I understand that does not sound very nice, but the conclusion follows from the premise, namely, that the “marriage” being celebrated is not in fact a marriage and should not be celebrated.

Moreover, there has long been an understanding that those present at a marriage ceremony are not just casual observers, but they are witnesses who are granting their approval and support for the vows that are to be made. That's why the traditional language speaks of gathering “here in the sight of God, and in the face of this congregation.” That's why one of the sample marriage services in the Presbyterian Church in America still has the minister say:

If any man can show just cause why they may not lawfully be wedded, let him now declare it, or else hereafter forever hold his peace.

Quite explicitly, the wedding is not a party for friends and family. It's not a mere ceremonial formality. It is a divine event in which those gathered celebrate and honor the “solemnization of matrimony.”

Which is why—as much as I might want to build bridges with a lesbian friend or reassure a gay family member that I care

for him and want to have a relationship with him—I would not attend a same-sex wedding ceremony. I cannot help with my cake, with my flowers, or with my presence to solemnize what is not holy.

In taking such a position, I’ve often heard things like this in response:

But Jesus hung out with sinners. He wasn’t worried about being contaminated by the world. He didn’t want to turn people of to God’s love. He was always throwing open the foodgates of God’s mercy. He would say to us, “If someone forces you to bake one cake, bake for him two.”

Okay, let’s think through these objections. I mean actually think for a few sentences, and not just with slogans and vague sentimentality.

Jesus hung out with sinners. True, sort of (depends on what you mean by “hung out”). But Jesus believed marriage was between a man and a woman (Matt. 19:3–9). The example of Christ in the Gospels teaches us that we should not be afraid to spend time with sinners. If a gay couple next door invites you over for dinner, don’t turn them down.

He wasn’t worried about being contaminated by the world. That’s not the concern here. This isn’t about cooties or sin germs. We have plenty of those ourselves.

He didn’t want to turn people of to God’s love. But Jesus did so all the time. He acted in ways that could be unintentionally, and more often deliberately, antagonistic (Matt. 7:6, 13–27; 11:20–24; 13:10–17; 19:16–30). Jesus turned people of all the time. This is no excuse for us to be unthinking and unkind. But it should put to rest the unbiblical notion that says if someone feels hurt by your words or unloved by your actions that you were ipso facto sinfully and foolishly unloving.

He was always throwing open the foodgates of God’s mercy. Amen. Let’s keep preaching Christ and preach as He did, calling all people to “repent and believe in the gospel” (Mark 1:15).

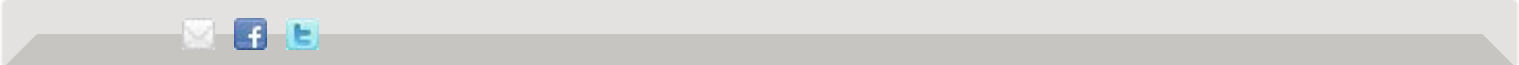
If someone forces to you bake one cake, bake for him two. This is, of course, a true and beautiful principle about how Christians, when reviled, must not revile in return. But it hardly can mean that we do whatever people demand no matter our rights (Acts 4:18–20; 16:35–40; 22:22–29) and no matter what is right in God’s eyes.

A wedding is not a dinner invitation or a graduation open house or retirement party. Even in a completely secular environment, there is still a sense—and sometimes the wedding invitations say as much—that our presence at the event would honor the couple and their marriage. It would be difficult, if not impossible, to attend a wedding (let alone cater it or provide the culinary centerpiece) without your presence communicating celebration and support for what is taking place. And, as painful as it may be for us and for those we love, celebrating and supporting homosexual unions is not something God or His Word will allow us to do.

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DATE November 1st, 2015
TOPICS [Christianity and Culture](#), [The Teaching of Christ](#), [Worship](#)

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Should Christians Attend Gay Weddings? Does It Matter Whether They're Religious or Secular?

BY RANDY ALCORN • JULY 3, 2017



As Kevin DeYoung, one of my favorite bloggers, attests, the question of whether a believer should attend a homosexual wedding is now frequently asked. (I've addressed the question previously in [a video](#), and also shared [some ideas](#) for how someone could lovingly decline attending such a wedding.)

I'm well aware that my response to this issue will not only offend unbelievers, but also many believers. I've received pushback before and will again. But for what it's worth, I have honestly tried to find a biblical way to conclude that love and grace, which I feel in my heart toward the people seeking to be married, means it is good to demonstrate friendship by joining in the celebration. But partly because love needs some reference point in truth to be true love, I've simply been unable to come to this conclusion.

I have talked with a number of people, including some pastors from good churches, who advocate saying yes to attending homosexual weddings. Their argument centers on the fact that Jesus was and is a friend of sinners and is full of grace. So true. But I have never seen a single wedding invitation that doesn't request people's presence to join in celebrating the couple's union.

When you attend a gay person’s birthday party, you’re joining in celebrating their birthday, right? That’s great. When you invite your gay or lesbian friend over for dinner, you’re celebrating friendship and life—no problem. When you toast to good health, great. But when you raise your glass and toast to a wedding that you are convinced dishonors God, or is not a true wedding at all, isn’t that radically different?

There are countless ways you can love those who identify as homosexuals without joining them to celebrate their marriage, which in God’s sight is not a marriage, and not to be celebrated. Let’s love them in the other ways, but not feel we must join them in celebrating what God’s Word shows us is not to be celebrated. (For more on that subject, I highly recommend Kevin’s book *What Does the Bible Really Teach about Homosexuality?*)

Is it possible to attend a wedding without sending the message of participating in the celebration? I honestly don’t see how. Loving unbelievers doesn’t mean endorsing their beliefs about what constitutes a true marital union when those beliefs are contrary to God’s Word. My loyalty to Christ and to the welfare of people means that I should not encourage or celebrate their sins any more than they should encourage or celebrate my sins (which are many). Of course, that will come across as judgmental and unloving to many people. But is there a time when we need to be willing to accept such condemnation because of our commitment to God and what He says is true? If it incurs God’s judgment to commit homosexual sin, just as it incurs his judgment to commit heterosexual sin, is it really “loving” of us to encourage and celebrate such sins?

Yet because I know sincere brothers and sisters in Christ, who love Jesus and believe His Word, see it differently, I do not want to point an accusing finger. I can only say how I think Christians should approach this issue. While I’ve tried to see it differently, I haven’t found a biblical basis for it. Jesus ate and drank with sinners, of course. But in doing so He did not celebrate gluttony or drunkenness. He didn’t attend a feast dedicated to the purpose of applauding what dishonors God and brings harm to people.

I can’t believe that weddings are *not* celebrations, nor can I believe that celebrating sin can honor God. That’s why I’ve not gone to heterosexual weddings where a believer is marrying an unbeliever. Yes, I want the marriage to last once it takes place, and yes, I will later gladly do what I can to help the marriage stay together. But I can’t join in the laughter and toasts and feasting and dancing, which are a celebration of what Scripture, in my opinion, makes clear is

wrong.

I can wish that the unequally yoked man and woman will stay together because God recognizes their marriage and wants them to remain married, even though they shouldn't have gotten married in the first place. But this isn't true of a homosexual marriage. Can I really hope and pray in good conscience that the couple will continue to live together? No. It isn't God's will, nor is it in their best interests.

In fact, if I believe their union dishonors God and is bad for them, as all sin is bad for all of us, don't I need to pray they'll come to faith in Christ and as their minds are renewed and the eyes of their hearts are opened, God will convict them of sin, including the sinfulness of their union, which in fact is not a true marriage? So I'm praying not that they'll stay together, but that they will separate (I don't believe divorce is the right word here). How can I participate in the celebration of a union that is not a true marriage, and that I hope for their sake will not last?

Regardless of people's individual opinions, one thing is certain: this is an issue that will NOT go away. While there is a strong trend toward evangelicals attending gay weddings in the name of Christ's love, I have to say I believe it is more loving to God *and* to the participants to not encourage them to think their union is good and healthy, when God's Word shows otherwise.

Before I hand this over to Kevin, I encourage Christ-followers not to believe the propaganda that says sexual orientation can never be changed or redirected. Here's Jackie Hill Perry's ["Love Letter to a Lesbian"](#) in which she tells her story. On the other hand, I know people who've never experienced any attraction to the opposite sex, but who live fulfilled and faithful lives of celibacy, just as every single and divorced and widowed heterosexual is called upon to do, for the rest of their lives, unless and until they marry. And there are any number of heterosexuals who never marry. Their road is not easy, but there are advantages to it, as Paul points out in 1 Corinthians 7.

Anyway, here's what Kevin has to say:

Should I Attend a Homosexual Wedding If the Service Is Completely Secular?

In speaking about homosexuality in my church and in different venues around the

country (and sometimes around the world), the most common question I've received (by far) is whether a Christian who believes homosexual behavior is wrong should attend a gay wedding.

The question is often a painful one. It's one thing to hold to biblical views on marriage and sexuality in a culture that increasingly hates those views. That's hard enough. But to tell your son or daughter or brother or sister or mom or dad or cousin or buddy from college that you won't attend their (ideally) once-in-a-lifetime event feels like too much offense to give and too much of a burden to bear. I sympathize with sincere believers who really want to honor God and communicate love to their friends and family at the same time. These are difficult days to be Christians with convictions about marriage.

And yet, as much as we can feel the weight and the heartache of the question, the answer should be no.

I've written on [this subject before](#), but my response assumed in part that the wedding ceremony would have some religious component to it:

A wedding ceremony, in the Christian tradition, is first of all a worship service. So if the union being celebrated in the service cannot be biblically sanctioned as an act of worship, we believe the service lends credence to a lie. We cannot in good conscience participate in a service of false worship. I understand that does not sound very nice, but the conclusion follows from the premise, namely, that the "marriage" being celebrated is not in fact a marriage and should not be celebrated.

That was the gist of my argument. I went on in the article to address a number popular objections (e.g., Jesus hung out with sinners; we should fear being contaminated by the world; we don't want to turn people off to God's love), and at the end I made a passing reference to ceremonies that were not religious in nature. But I didn't deal head on with the question posed in the title of this post: What if the wedding is thoroughly secular, does that change the moral calculus?

You may be thinking, "I get your point about a Christian wedding ceremony. But my friend doesn't claim to be a Christian. He and his partner are total agnostics. Their

service won't be religious in the least. I'm not going to worship God. I'm just going so my friend knows I care about him." I've heard conservative Christians make similar arguments several times. I see their appeal. I don't, however, find them intellectually or spiritually compelling.

In short, as personally painful as it may be, and as much as the world will call us names and castigate our motives, those who believe marriage is between a man and a woman should not attend a ceremony that purports to be the marrying of a man and a man or a woman and a woman, even if that ceremony is completely secular in nature.

Why such a "hard line" stance? Here are three reasons.

1. The purpose of a wedding ceremony is to celebrate and solemnize. No matter the formal liturgy or no liturgy at all, the reason a couple puts together a wedding ceremony is so that others can join in celebrating with them. Isn't this why invitations speak of "honoring us with your presence" or "join us as we celebrate"? Isn't this why at a reception the couple invariably takes time to thank all their friends and family for coming? Isn't this why we throw rice or blow bubbles or release balloons? Isn't this why we wait in line to give the newlyweds a hug?

Two (unmarried, of age) people can fill out the necessary paperwork and get married at the courthouse or on a beach or in the basement without any planning, any fanfare, or any guests. But hardly anyone gets married in this way. Instead they plan a party. They line up food and drink and music and invite their friends. There is nothing in the secular nature of a wedding ceremony that makes it less of a celebration. And there's the rub: how can we celebrate what we deem to be a serious moral transgression and an definitional impossibility?

2. Wedding ceremonies are almost always public in nature. Many Christians are quick to parse out their support: "They know where I stand. They know what I believe. I'm not coming to support the marriage. I'm coming to support my son and let him know that I still love him." Again, I sympathize with this reasoning and do not dismiss lightly. But in addition to minimizing the previous point about celebration and solemnization, this line of thinking ignores the public aspect of a wedding (and no matter how small the event, if you are being invited to attend it is a public ceremony).

Attendees at a wedding bear witness to the exchanging vows and the making of promises. In a Christian understanding, they do so before God and man. In a secular environment, they still do so before a watching world. Why do we go to the trouble of having ceremonies for graduation or retirement or Super Bowl champions? Because the occasion calls for celebration, solemnization, and public recognition. Whatever beliefs we may espouse privately, when we attend a wedding we state publicly that the union, which the event creates and commemorates, is legitimate and deserving of honor.

Consider an analogy. Suppose your friend was an avowed racist. You've known this friend for a long time. You've told him before that you don't agree with his racist views. He finds those conversations offensive and hurtful, but the friendship endures. One day he invites you to his white robe and hood ceremony at the local chapter of the Klan (I have no idea if they have such a thing, but let's imagine they do). There will be a small event at the local park to bestow this rank upon your friend. He would love for you to attend. Will you? I doubt any of us would. (1) We'd be too embarrassed to be seen in public at such an event, no matter what we've said in private about it. And (2) however much we care for our friend, we can't have anything to do with an event that is so repugnant to the beliefs we hold dear.

Yes, I understand analogies are imperfect. No, I am not suggesting that racism and attending a gay wedding are the same thing. The point of a negative analogy like this is to get you to reconsider one position you do like by comparing it with one you don't like. Why would we normalize what would be better stigmatized? How can we publicly endorse what we claim to privately condemn?

3. The stark either/or options are not of our making. The emotional plea is strongly felt by friends and family members who want to maintain biblical fidelity without burning bridges: "If you really loved me, you would be there. You say you care about me, but you don't care to show up on the most important day of my life. If you can't be happy for me, how can we have a real relationship?" Most evangelicals don't wake up in the morning looking for ways to compromise. It happens with a tug here and a pull there, often with the best of intentions, usually because of people we love. Who wants to burn bridges? Who wants to be a hater? Who likes upsetting people we care

about?

But this is where we need to remember that the either/or options were not (I trust) our idea. Not supporting a child’s decision in one area does not mean you are no longer interested in supporting him or her in other areas. Loving across our differences is a two way street. If traditional Christians have to learn to love gay and lesbian friends and family members despite decisions they disagree with, then gays and lesbians should learn to love their Christian friends and families despite decisions they disagree with. We should take time to hear why our attendance means so much to them. And then, hopefully, they will take time to hear why our faith in Christ and obedience to the Bible mean so much to us. We won’t agree. But maybe we can begin to almost, possibly, just a little bit, agree that we are going to be in this for the long haul so we better find out how to care for each other, even when we think the other person is living according to convictions that we can’t support.

“I can’t say yes to your wedding invitation, but I’d love to have you over for dinner.”
Give that a shot.

Photo: Pixabay



Randy Alcorn (@randyalcorn) is the author of fifty-some [books](#) and the founder and director of [Eternal Perspective Ministries](#).



YOU MIGHT ALSO LIKE



Ask Pastor John

Would You Attend a Gay Wedding?



00:00

Episode 191 October 10, 2013

Download

Interview with [John Piper](#)Founder & Teacher, [desiringGod.org](#)

Audio Transcript

Pastor John, if one of your family members invited you to their so-called same-sex marriage ceremony, would you attend it?

Just contemplating that thought is heartbreaking. My answer is no. I wouldn't. And that would be a kind of shattering of the cornerstone of a father's broken heart at that moment. Here is why. I assume that is what they really want to know — not just whether I would go or not, but why. Why wouldn't I?

Defining 'Marriage'

One, it is not a wedding, because it is not a marriage. Therefore, attending it as a wedding is to be false, like everyone there is being false. There is no such thing as a so-called same-sex marriage.

God has defined marriage as a covenantal union for life between a man and a woman as husband and wife. This isn't that. Therefore, this is not a marriage, and this is not a wedding. I am not going to lie about it by going.

How Heaven Fastens

Two, this union — if you can dare to call it that — is not being joined in heaven. Jesus said, “What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate” ([Matthew 19:6](#)). This is what makes weddings awesome. They are not human accomplishments. God joins a man and a woman.

In [Mark 10:9](#) Jesus said that marriage is made in heaven — not between two people merely or by a pastor or a judge. This pairing of two men or two women is not being joined in heaven. And to give the impression that it is, is an offense to heaven.

Celebrate No Sin

Three, the blessing of this event would be hateful. It would be hateful for me to do it, because it would be confirming a life and a lifestyle that will lead to hell. The apostle Paul said, “Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God” ([1 Corinthians 6:9–10](#)). They won’t.

To celebrate this lifestyle is to celebrate the destruction of human beings, and that is hateful. It would be like gathering to celebrate theft, gathering to celebrate drunkenness, gathering to celebrate swindling. It would be like saying, “Let’s all have a meeting and celebrate greed. Let’s all have a meeting and celebrate adultery.” Anybody that joins in celebrating sin is sinning. I shouldn’t sin.

“God designed marriage to display Christ’s covenant to his bride, the church.”



Cherishing the Covenant

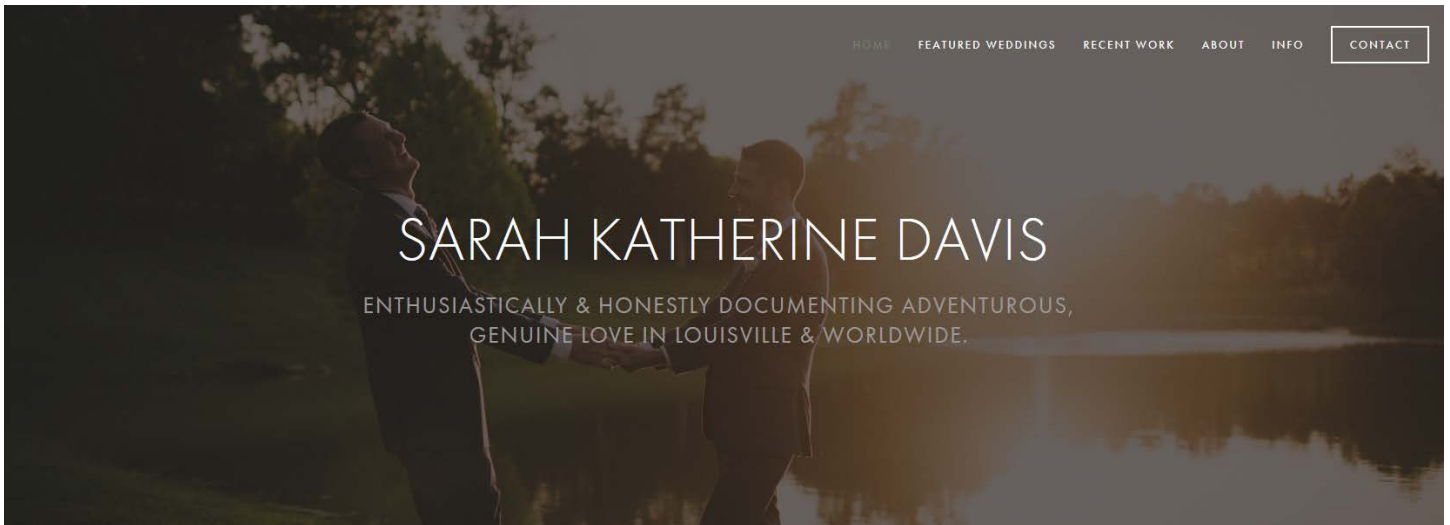
Four, this ceremony will defile the drama of Christ and the church. God designed marriage to display Christ's covenant to his bride, the church. To celebrate a brideless union as marriage is to distort and deface the parable of the most beautiful act in the world.

Sorrowful, Yet Open-Armed

Five, I wouldn't go because the weight of sorrow and love and revulsion would probably overwhelm me. I don't think I could probably get through the ceremony.

And the last thing I would say is: My not going is not my drawing away from my child — but his drawing away from me. I am where I have always been: arms wide open to the home-coming prodigal, ready to forgive anything.

*John Piper (@JohnPiper) is founder and teacher of desiringGod.org and chancellor of Bethlehem College & Seminary. For 33 years, he served as pastor of Bethlehem Baptist Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota. He is author of more than 50 books, including [*Desiring God: Meditations of a Christian Hedonist*](#) and most recently [*Why I Love the Apostle Paul: 30 Reasons*](#).*



HOME FEATURED WEDDINGS RECENT WORK ABOUT INFO CONTACT

SARAH KATHERINE DAVIS

ENTHUSIASTICALLY & HONESTLY DOCUMENTING ADVENTUROUS,
GENUINE LOVE IN LOUISVILLE & WORLDWIDE.

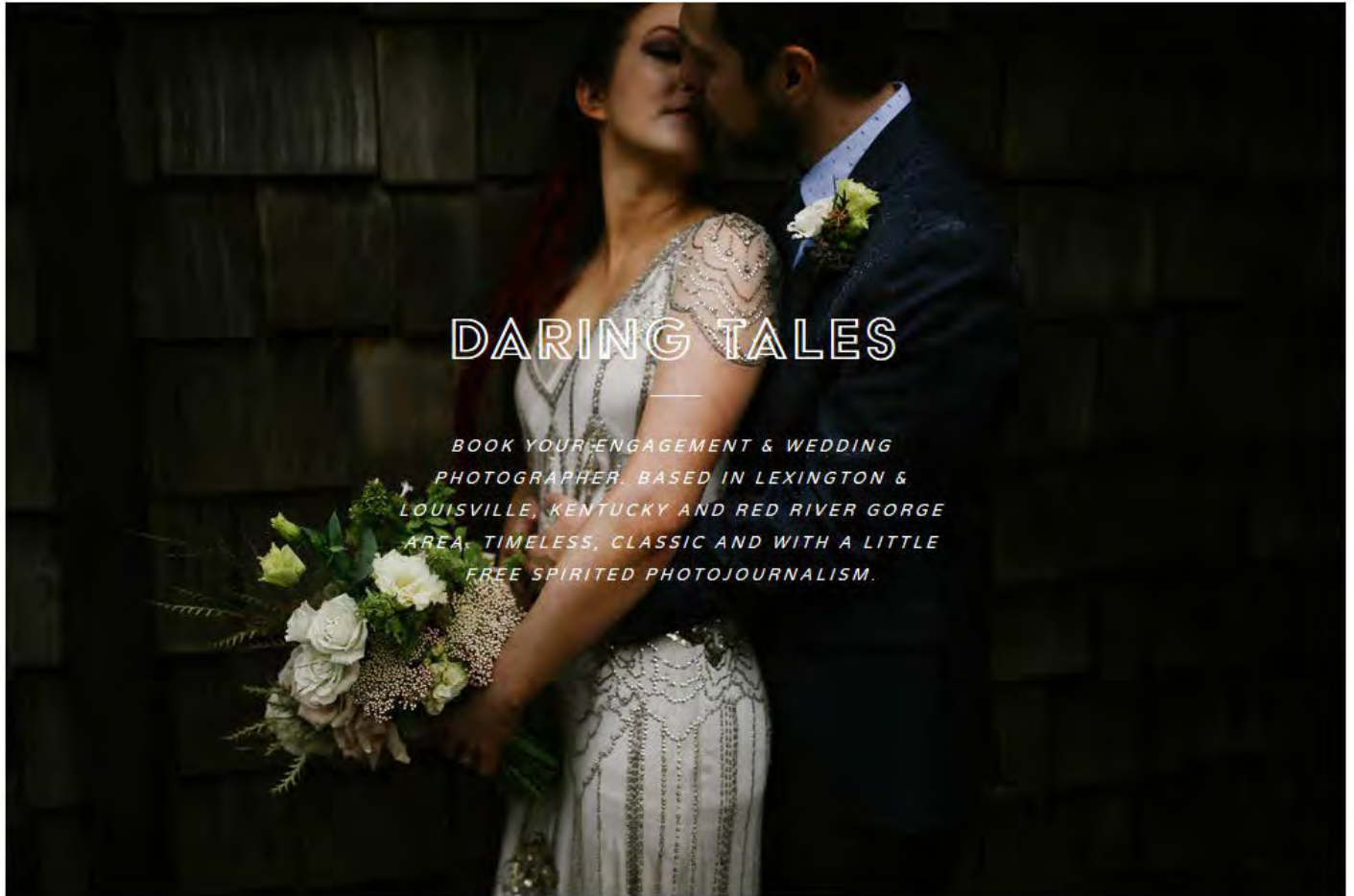
Hey there! I'm a wedding & elopement photographer based out of Louisville, Kentucky.

I've been photographing weddings for the past twelve years — it's my *jam*. A few of my favorite things include: exploring new places, using houseplants to slowly turn my home into a jungle, good (and bad) coffee, and developing film in my free time.

I would love to tell your story!

HONEST PHOTO CO.

INFO ELOPE WEDDINGS



In my own words, my photography is

FLUID, ORGANIC

and heavily dependent on the subjects in front of me. Each client is unique and I don't like limiting myself to a single style. As you browse my portfolio, you'll notice sunny days with bright colors along side overcast rainy days with soft light. You'll probably discover some four legged furry friends, friends with tattoos, family in prayer, and guests dancing their hearts out. You'll enjoy some weddings in churches and some in the woods: some big, some small. Basically, you decide what your photos look like. I just capture those little

DETAILS THAT MAKE YOU TWO, YOU.

I am based in central and Eastern Kentucky, specifically the Red River Gorge area. I frequent the Lexington and Louisville areas often and even include them with Cincinnati in my travel allotment.

I'd love to answer any questions you may have about my classic, timeless and free-spirited photography style. I'd love to describe what that means. I can't wait to hear about your ceremony and reception details or even your elopement plans: the traditional and the non-traditional.

PSA

I believe Love is Love. Regardless of your age, race, religion, sexuality, gender, my Portfolio is built on clients & couples who are themselves. I do not book clients based on what I can gain for social media, politics or what have you.

Whoever & Whatever you are, you are

BEAUTIFUL

and I want to photograph you. Bring the love.

App. 402

CRYSTAL LUDWICK

PHOTO

HOME WEDDING FAMILY COUPLES ABOUT PRICE

Hey there, fellow photography lovers! You have come here to make sure I am a real person and you are correct! I would love to photograph your wedding day, elopement, family, baby bump & more! I shoot lifestyle photography, which means I don't use a studio or studio lighting. I prefer the aesthetic of natural lighting and how moody it can be.

I am based out of Louisville, Kentucky, but I love traveling and an adventure, so let's go!

I have a BFA in Fine Art Photography & a BA in Cultural Anthropology from the University of Louisville. I am an LGBTQ Photographer. All are welcome here. My pronouns are she/her and I would love to know yours.

For a quote or to set up a meeting, please email me at:
crystalraeludwick@gmail.com



Gretchen Bell

OPEN MENU



GETTING TO KNOW GRETCHEN BELL

I am a west coaster turned southern girl that, above all, believes in love, and I think that everyone you hire on your wedding day should care about you. I want to show up to your wedding and guide you so that you're relaxed (and look oh so natural) for photos.

At my core, I am a caretaker, and I want to go above and beyond to ensure you receive beautiful, magazine worthy images from your day.

MY PROMISE

Honesty, transparency and attention to detail are my top priorities, and I will do what it takes so that you and your crew look your best. Flyaways? Im on it. Crooked ties? I've got your back. I'm not afraid of jumping in and making sure everything is in its right place.

MY PAST

I've always had an artistic personality and a flare for the dramatic, and my passion began when I started work as an editorial photographer. My career has taken me to events including Bridal Fashion Week, the Kentucky Derby, galas, runway shows and festivals. My client list outside of my wedding work features television personalities, celebrity chefs, fashion designers, museums, liquor brands and event planners and businesses large and small from around the globe.



My Values

HONESTY

There is a lot of information out there and I am here to help you navigate it all seamlessly. You can rely on me for honest council during the entire process of working together to help make the best choices for you and your day.

◀ MORE ▶



MY INSPIRATION

I love showing people the best parts of themselves.

My inspiration is you. A driving force for the work that I do is to elevate my clients through photography. I want to showcase people in a way that the people closest to them will understand and cherish.

I love love. I love bold attitudes. I love color and life and emotion so big a body can hardly contain it. I love style and art. I'm obsessed with color and texture.

I love that photographer literally means light painter...it makes me think of myself as an artist, spreading thick, luxurious, luminous oils over a canvas to preserve someones most precious possession: their memories.

my people
The reason why.

App. 405

LET'S HEAR IT FOR THE BOYS

Meet my babes, lovingly known as Uno and TT. They get all the credit in regard to my career. They are the Cheese to my Macaroni and my number one Motivators. Forever my biggest fans, they are both budding photographers themselves (Uno says he wants to be one when he grows up...If he doesn't become Batman instead). My career gives me the freedom to take them to the beach every summer, buy video games, and be home most nights to tuck them in.



CHRIS, PARTNER AND THEN SOME ...

My name is Chris, and I'm Gretchen's right hand man. I've had a camera in my hand since I was 8 years old and realized that Peter Parker had a job other than Spider-Man. After college, I followed in the wall-crawler's footsteps and worked for a newspaper for five and a half years. After a number of Kentucky Derby's, a countless number galas and parties, and a basketball championship that apparently now never happened, I made the move over to the private sector to hang out in rickhouses and photograph bourbon. On weekends I can be found capturing moments alongside my partner and better half, Gretchen Bell.

Ready to Make Magic Together?

CONTACT ME FOR MORE INFO ▶



on Instagram
[@hernameisgretchen](#)

Gretchen Bell

WEDDING & LIFESTYLE PHOTOGRAPHY
LOUISVILLE, KY · CHICAGO, IL · USA

E. GRETCHEN@HERNAMEISGRETCHEN.COM
P. 502-435-5787

- HOME
- GRETCHEN
- GALLERIES
- EXPERIENCE
- BLOG
- CONTACT





hi! thanks so much for taking the time to learn more about me & my work.

so, i'm megan & that's my partner, bryan & our babes finn & maya leigh. we've recently moved our family back to louisville, ky after living in phoenix, az for 9 years. i'm an artist. i love to make things.

sew things. paint things. knit things. we are also nature lovers. we hike. bike. kayak. hangout in hammocks. camp & explore. i'm trying to become a gardener! i'm also trying to become a foodie, but pbjs & pizza are just sooo good!

& i love to travel, whether back roads or out of the country.

and i'm a photographer.

i feel so lucky to have found my passion so early in life. i majored in photojournalism (& ceramics) in college. friends asked me to photograph their weddings & i was done. stick a fork in me! i was a documentary wedding photographer. i'm usually pretty loud, with my cackle n all, but being a quiet observer & capturing incredible moments in someone's life is one of my most favorite things to do.

it's such a gift.

© megan resch photography



KRIECH-HIGDON PHOTOGRAPHY

portraits.wedding.commercial.life



A bit about us...

Jessie + Chris + Ewan + Wilder

We met in 2002 working together at the kitchy **Louisville** original Lynn's Paradise Cafe. So to say we've literally always worked together would be a true statement! Two years later we decided to get married and start a photo business together. With complimentary-though quite different styles we aim to document our clients lives- not just take their photos. We continue to be inspired by our clients and the many, many friends we've made through the years. Looking forward to meeting many more!

photo by the lovely Crystal Ludwick

App. 410

BIO


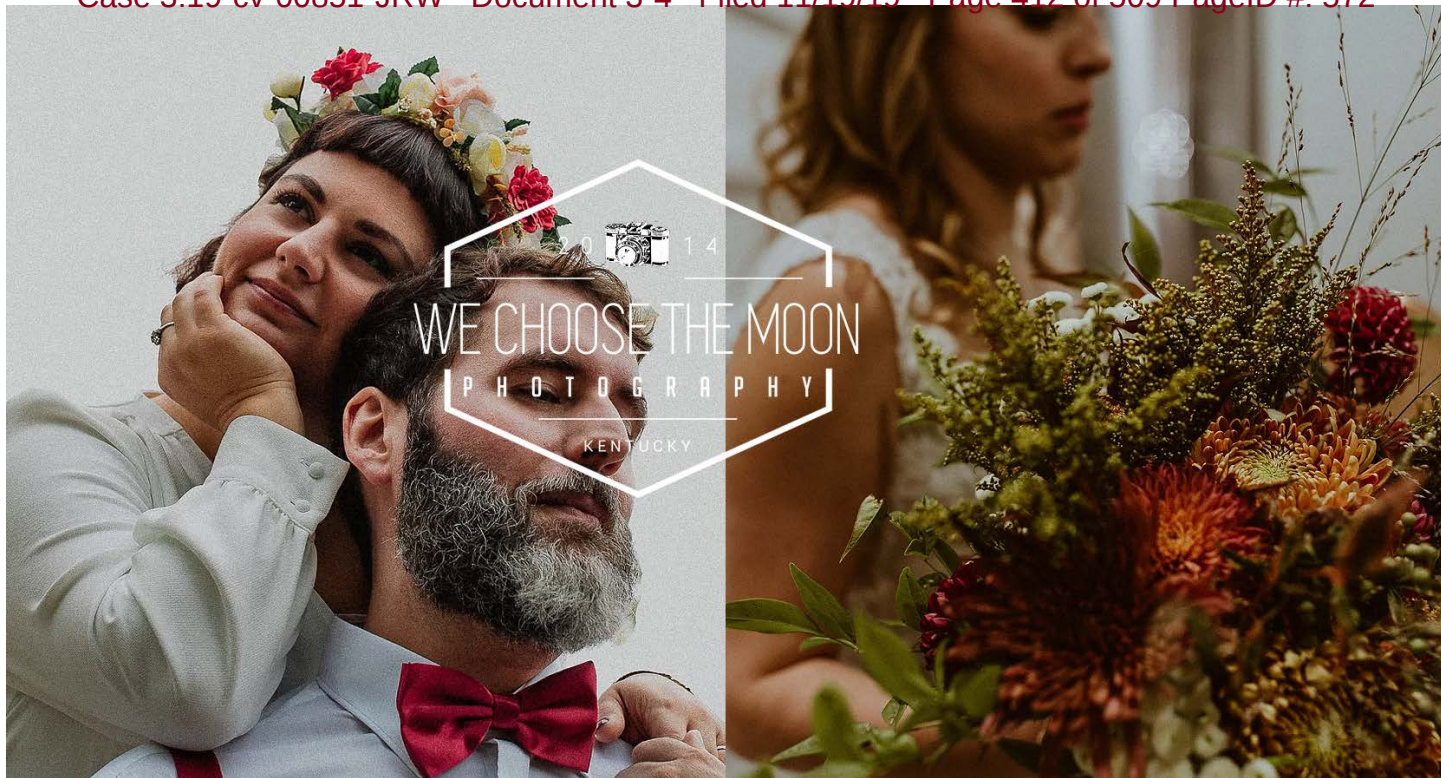


MY NAME IS TRAVIS SALISBURY AND I AM THE OWNER AND PHOTOGRAPHER BEHIND R.T. PHOTOGRAPHY. THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR EXPRESSING INTEREST IN MY COMPANY. I HAVE MANY PASSIONS IN LIFE BUT PHOTOGRAPHY IS UP THERE AT THE TOP. I FEEL VERY PRIVILEGED THAT I GET TO SHARE IN CAPTURING CLIENTS' SPECIAL MOMENTS IN LIFE AND I WORK VERY HARD IN DOING THAT IN A UNIQUE AND ARTISTIC WAY. ONE THING I STRIVE TO ACCOMPLISH WITH EVERY PERSON I PHOTOGRAPH IS CAPTURING A MOMENT IN TIME THEY CAN REMEMBER FOR THE REST OF THEIR LIVES.

BASED IN LOUISVILLE, KY, I ATTENDED THE UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY AND EARNED MY BACHELOR'S IN ART, WITH AN EMPHASIS IN PHOTOGRAPHY. I GAINED A GREAT DEAL OF KNOWLEDGE FROM THE WONDERFUL STAFF AND STUDENTS IN MY THREE YEARS IN THE ART DEPARTMENT. MOST IMPORTANTLY WOULD BE A GREAT UNDERSTANDING OF HOW LIGHT AND THE PHOTOGRAPHIC PROCESS WORK TOGETHER. BORN AND RAISED IN SHELBYVILLE, KY, I ALSO LOVE PHOTOGRAPHING KENTUCKY'S BEAUTIFUL LANDSCAPE. FALL AND SPRING IN KENTUCKY ARE MY FAVORITE SEASONS AND I'M BLESSED TO BE ABLE TO SHOOT MANY WEDDINGS IN GORGEOUS KENTUCKY LOCATIONS.

I WILL TRAVEL TO ANY LOCATION TO MAKE SURE YOUR PHOTOS ARE SPECIAL. IF YOU HAVE A LOCATION IN MIND OR NEED ME TO FIND A LOCATION THAT FITS YOUR DESIRES, I WILL MAKE IT HAPPEN FOR YOU. NO IDEA IS OUT OF REACH AND NO LOCATION IS TOO FAR AWAY.

ON A PERSONAL NOTE, I HAVE AN AMAZING FAMILY, INCLUDING MY WIFE, GINA, AND TWO CHILDREN, PORTER AND PAISLEY, THAT I LOVE SPENDING TIME WITH AND AM SO THANKFUL THAT PHOTOGRAPHY ALLOWS ME TO DO JUST THAT. WE ALL LOVE BASEBALL AND ENJOY ATTENDING GAMES TOGETHER.



HOT DAMN!
YOU FOUND ME!

I'm a wedding photographer based in **LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY** and my work is a little more modern, alternative, dark, moody, radder (however you describe it) than the rest. If you're up for a bona fide experience and wedding photos just bit different, you're in the right place.

[MORE INFO >](#)



LATEST SHENANAGINS

WEDDING

COUPLES

AFTER WEDDING

COUPLES

ADAM + KINSEY

Private Residence
Shelbyville, Kentucky

ELIZABETH + CHRIS

Mellwood Art Center
Louisville, Kentucky

AUSTIN + JESSIE

Private Residence
Brandenburg, Kentucky

SARA & TJ

In Home Session
Louisville, Kentucky

MY STYLE

I know it can get really awkward in front of the camera which is why you won't find plastered on smiles when looking through my photos. Fake grins and looking directly into the camera isn't really my thing (and it's probably not yours either). You don't want a bunch of copy cat images of your wedding day or stuffed into cookie cutter poses that feel weird (and looks stiff). Your wedding day isn't a photoshoot, you want the real shit.

LOUISVILLE, KY BASED

I might be rooted in the Bluegrass State (Louisville area) but I'm more than happy to come to you if you're getting married else where. I'm no stranger to travel and my MINI loves zipping around in new areas. Kentucky isn't all backwoods and barns and because I live so close to this commonwealth's largest city, I'm comfortable shooting your urban wedding just as much as I am your wedding at the old family farm house. Also, I know how to read a map so I'm able to get to those places where you have zero cell signage.

FIND YOUR PHOTOG!

You want to hire someone who will do more than just show up and take some photos. You want an experience, and a good one at that. You want someone who understands its your freakin' wedding day and will treat it as such; not just another job. And while I'd be thrilled to photograph your wedding, I know my work isn't for everyone and I'm ok with that. If you're just "meh" about my images, or you do just want someone to show up and shoot your list of must-haves, I'd recommend shopping around.

FEATURED SESSIONS

— DAVID + SAMMIE

Summer Engagement
in Corydon, Indiana



— ASHLEY + BRAD

Summer Wedding at
The Gallerie in
Versailles KY



RACHEL+TONY

Summer, At Home
Session in Indiana



MARY SLINGER-CARREER
THE DARK SIDE OF THIS MOON

I like my orange with extra pulp (and champagne) and I love my coffee basically black (just a drizzle of creamer). Turquoise jewelry & a plate of chicken & waffles ranks up there pretty high too. I'm in the 3rd decade of my life and I still haven't read the Harry Potter books or drank a margarita. But I have met Tom T. Hall and had the best damn pina colada in the sketchiest looking pub in Freeport, Bahamas. Additionally, I prefer Gene Wilder as Willy Wonka over Johnny Depp and my weather overcast and brisk. My engagement ring was my grandmother's 25th anniversary ring and no, I don't color my hair to look ashy; that's just what it is all on it's own. (Thanks Genetics)

[MORE ABOUT ME >](#)

READY TO INQUIRY?
OF COURSE YOU ARE
HEAD RIGHT THIS WAY >





Dynamic, colorful photography for modern couples living in the moment.



Welcome!

Hi! I'm Leslie Rodriguez - welcome to my photography home. I am a full-time wedding photographer based out of Louisville, Kentucky and I will absolutely travel for your wedding. I love music, travel, languages, and indulging my creative impulses. I'm married to a wonderful Chilean named Javier and we have a beautiful daughter Penelope and three crazy dogs.

Love on the move is my specialty; those fleeting moments that can't be posed are the ones that mean the most, and I want you to see them exactly as they happened.

Your wedding is made up of thousands of tiny moments that culminate in the most FUN you'll ever have. I want your photos to reflect that unfettered joy. I document everything from the big picture to the minute details so you can relive your day over and over again, exactly as it was.

A Little About Me

I am a Louisville native and returned to my hometown with Javier after spending twelve years in Nashville, TN. While in Nashville I completed two graduate degrees at Vanderbilt University in Latin American Studies and Sociology. Thanks to extended stints abroad in Spain, Chile, and Brazil, I am fluent in both Spanish and Portuguese. In 2010 I began shooting weddings and writing music, and in 2013 left academia and joined the Nashville-based band **Humming House** as the female vocalist and percussionist. I spent four amazing years touring and performing all over the country, and I took my camera with me on every tour and onto every stage. I continued my photography business while touring with Humming House, and in 2017 I left the band to start my family and continue with wedding photography full-time in Louisville. Want to hear me sing? Check out this rendition of **Justin Timberlake's "My Love"**, or a Humming House original "**Great Divide**" (I wasn't kidding when I said I had my camera with me on tour - I captured most of the footage for the Great Divide video!).



LGBT WEDDING ×

Weddings

Pride Month LGBTQ Wedding at Hazelnut Farm in Kentucky by Sarah Katherine Davis Photography

July 10, 2019



HONEST PHOTO CO.

INFO

ELOPE

WEDDINGS

MAGGIE & SARAH

June 21, 2018



Red River Gorge Cliffview Lodge Photography

CRYSTAL LUDWICK

PHOTO

HOME WEDDING FAMILY COUPLES ABOUT PRICE



Red River Gorge Styled Shoot



Deanna & Audrey



Marlowe & Cory



Styled Shoot The Foundry on Broadway Frankfort, Ky



Catherine & David



Jason & Jay



Ellen & Lee



Kelsey & Daniel



Katie & Brad



Renée & Rhys



Ellie & Logan



McKenzie & Colby



Emily & Gil



Hannah & Lucas



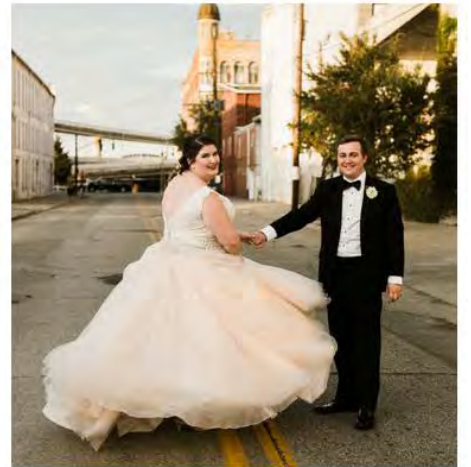
Beth & Bobby



Lauren & Ryan



Haylee & Nick



Andy & Grace



Mary Anne & Chris



Britt & Lee



Sam & Andrew



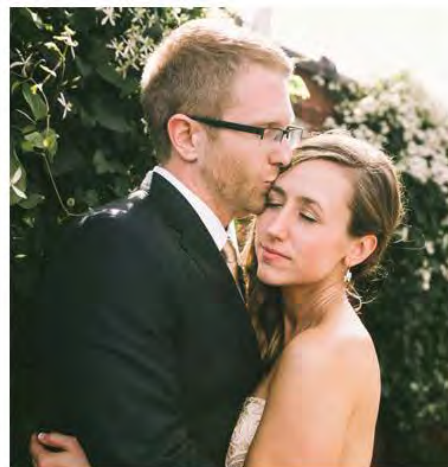
Lauren & Ryan



Natalie & Jessica



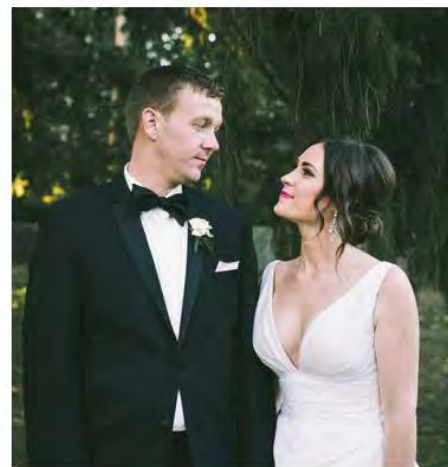
Maggie & Ben



Kate & Jordan



Kirsten & Matt



Morgan & Daniel



Elizabeth & Brandon



Emily & Joe



Kate & Mike



Stephanie & Ashleigh



Abby & Tyler



Megan & Josh



Carrie & Pete



Colleen & Jim



Emily & Ben Ceremony



Emily & Ben Reception



Jill & Matt



Emilia & Chris



Scott & Josie

Crystal Ludwick Photo LLC

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hernameisgretchen • Follow
Omni Louisville Hotel



hernameisgretchen Nick and Chris has a classic, glamorous, intentional day surrounded by a bevy of loving humans. I'm so grateful and humbled to have been a part of their wedding day team.

@shafoxweddings
@woodlandandivory
@kristaboltphotography
@stateandarrow @omnilou
@hazelnutfarmevents @bandlux1
@sweetsurrendercafe @kingsleycaters

#grooms #loveislove #samelove
#classicwedding #kentuckywedding
#luxurywedding #groomandgroom
#partyslatepro #mensvows #wedding



216 likes

OCTOBER 13

Add a comment...

Post



Megan Resch
PHOTOGRAPHY

christy & laurie : california engagement photographer

this couple...

i was so excited to book this wedding. i felt like i knew them already.
i worked with christy's sister in phoenix for 9 years.

i flew out a couple days early so we could do a little family session on the beach
with their daughter, hope.

& here are my favorites!

check back soon for their wedding images :) it was incredible.



KRIECH-HIGDON PHOTOGRAPHY



HANNAH + MADELINE MCGINTY-HOLMES AT OLD BLUE RIBBON FARM

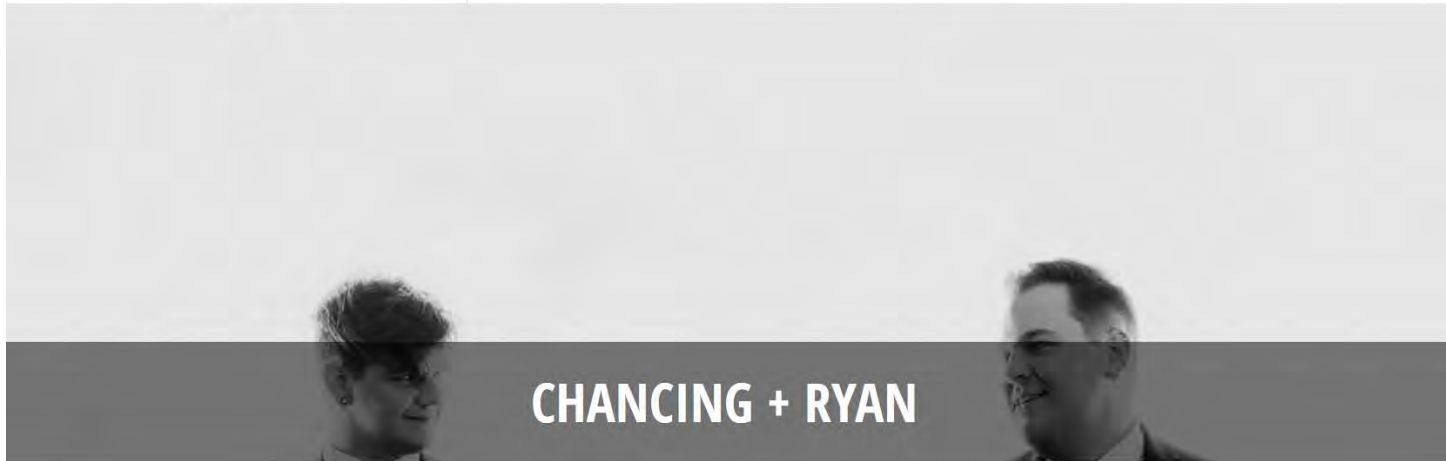
MARCH 1, 2019 — WEDDING

October 20, 2018 was such an amazing day. Right down the road from where I live is an amazing wedding venue. Old Blue Ribbon Farm sits just outside of Louisville, Ky but is so worth the short hike. It is a gem and set the scene for a perfect fall wedding with an even more perfect couple!

Hannah and Madeline both shared the historic farm house that sits on this working farm in Henry County. Hannah got ready upstairs with her bridal party and Madeline was downstairs with hers! It was great to be able to move freely between them and really allowed me to spend more time with each group.

The moments captured really speak for themselves and show the love these two share for one another. High school best friends turned high school sweet hearts. Their engagement story below is a much read. Thank you both so much for allowing R.T. Photography to be a part of this story! It was truly an honor. Please take a few minutes to read over their story and view their day captured through my eyes!





CHANCING + RYAN

September 16, 2018 • wctmphotography

What a fantastic way to kick off my Fall 2018 Wedding Season!
From completely foregoing a first look and waiting to see each other at the aisle and just getting ready together and 100% trusting me and not blinking an eye when I ask them randomly stand places knowing I had some crazy idea in my head. These two have many happy years together and are surrounded by some amazing people. 😊

[HOME](#) [WORK](#) [PRESS](#)

LESLIE RODRIGUEZ

[INFO](#) [CONTACT](#) [BLOG](#)

Paul & Brandon | Wedding at Pepin Mansion

January 17, 2019















































































RT photography
rtphotographyonline.com

























Documenting Love

IS MY FAVORITE THING

I can't explain how surreal and amazing it is to wake up each morning and have the career I've wanted since I was a child... all because wonderful folks like you allow me to photograph your love. So thank you for literally making my dreams come true every single day, it means the world to me.

A little background on me: I first stepped into a darkroom when I was 11 years old and immediately knew that photography was what I wanted to do for the rest of my life. When I turned 16, I started working at a portrait studio doing post-production and editing. By 18, I had taken every single photography class my school offered and I realized my favorite part of it all was documenting the relationships around me. My art teacher hired me to photograph her sister's wedding that year and something just clicked. I went on to receive my Bachelor in Fine Arts from U of L and began shooting more and more weddings. I still love documenting the relationships around me just as much as when I was 18, and I would absolutely love to tell your story.

I officially founded my business in 2010. Since then, I've photographed over one hundred and fifty weddings, my work has appeared in publications more than 50 times, & I was voted as The Knot's Best of Weddings Pick for KY six years running.

I'm a proud member of Louisville's [Fair Event Vendors Alliance](#) and love working with LGBTQIA+ folks. I do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, creed, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, or disability. I routinely research ways to be more inclusive and best serve all my couples, so rest assured I have your back.

If you'd like to hear what other couple's say about working with me you can check out my reviews over on [The Knot](#).

Weddings

Pride Month LGBTQ Wedding at Hazelnut Farm in Kentucky by
Sarah Katherine Davis Photography

July 10, 2019



Ever since Will & Nate's Buffalo Trace engagement session, I have been counting down the days until their wedding. When I asked them what they were looking forward to and what inspired them when planning they said, "Our venue is a barn meets ballroom feel so we tried to focus on an upscale Kentucky vibe. Looking forward to everything coming together and having a relaxed evening celebrating."

Their wedding was only the second at Hazelnut Farm—a new venue that was designed with the help of the ladies over at Honeycomb Wedding Planners. I was freaking out about the gorgeous blue velvet couch in one of the getting ready rooms when Nate let me know that he and Will helped pick it out...which made total sense because it was the perfect backdrop for all their little details. They both wore rainbow socks that complimented each other's but didn't match — same with their boutonnières. All their details were perfect— Will's shoes and belt were both vintage, he carried a handkerchief that was his father's, and the pin her wore over his boutonnière was a family heirloom as well. Nate wore an intricately patterned loafer as well as floral patterned tie & pocket square.

It made me so happy to see that the venue had two quality getting ready rooms— so often the heteronormative attitudes that run rampant the wedding industry mean one "bridal suite" that is big and beautiful and one "man cave" type tiny hideaway room. Regardless if a wedding is LGBTQ or not, everyone deserves to get ready and spend time in a nice room before their wedding.

During the wedding ceremony, family members gave a couple of readings and in-lieu of a sand ceremony they did a bourbon bottling ceremony...which might be my new favorite thing. One of their best friends officiated, which made it really personal and sweet. Speaking of friends helping out, at the reception each table had beautifully handwritten table numbers made by my best friend (and one of their best friends!) Michelle Marie Calligraphy who is as kind as she is talented. I loved that their good friend Denizen used actual potted plants in addition to florals on the table— bird's nest ferns are always my favorites (mainly because I struggle growing them myself.) There were also tiny little succulent babies at each seat that each guest was able to take home. They ended up having an extra one that is now living in my kitchen and it makes me smile every time I see it.

I didn't cry until the first dance— it was "Here I AM" by Dolly Parton & Sia. Something about Dolly always hits me right in the heart and I hadn't heard this one before. During the mother-son dances, Nate cut in and danced with Will's mother at the very end and it gave me all the feels. The night ended with glow sticks, light up jewelry, dancing on chairs, and White Castles so you know it was a good time. Now that I've written a novel, shall we hop to the vendor credits & the images?

WEDDINGS

Elle & Suzy // Spring Wedding at the Lincliff Estate // LGBTQ Kentucky Wedding and Elopement Photographer

March 1, 2018

It's always really hard for me to choose a favorite moment on wedding days, but I will never forget Suzy's face when she saw Elle for the first time at the ceremony. It's way up at the top of my list of best moments from the day (although it was full of amazing moments). If you're short on time, scroll down to the start of the ceremony photos because I really don't want you to miss those reaction shots.

When I first pulled up to the Lincliff Estate I was blown away and I have never been SO GLAD to get to a venue early. There was enough time for me to explore the gardens and once again I found myself fangirling over plants at a wedding. It ended up raining throughout the ceremony (and well into the reception), but it made it feel really intimate and fun. Their grandmothers were the flower girls and one of their best friends was the ring bearer. They had several friends and family members do readings throughout the ceremony— it felt personal, intentional, and romantic.

I would be lying if I said I didn't get a little teary during the toasts and as Elle & Suzy danced with their families. With every interaction, you could tell how much everyone there adored them. Also, EVERYONE was tearing it up on the dance floor— I don't know if I've ever seen a dance floor so packed and full of energy.

If you're wanting to see even more gorgeous spring florals Angela & Jon and Lauren & Joey brought their A-game to the floral department as well. Also Elle & Suzy's engagement session was so much fun— you really should check it out if you haven't seen it already. Or even if you've already seen it because it's that good. As always, I've linked to all the amazing vendors at the bottom of the post.

Elle & Suzy's wedding was featured over on Catalyst Wedding Co!



 **hernameisgretchen** • Follow
Nouvelle Bar & Bottle

 **hernameisgretchen** Celebrating with and for my clients is just part of what makes this job dreamy. These two grooms have a wedding at @hazelnutfarmevents just around the corner and I couldn't be more excited for them! They were my first couple to book for 2019 and I have been looking forward to it all year 🥂
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JULY 24

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HANNAH + MADELINE MCGINTY-HOLMES AT OLD BLUE RIBBON FARM

MARCH 1, 2019 — WEDDING



Hannah & Madeline met in high school, when Madeline was a freshman and Hannah a sophomore. They played softball together & quickly became best friends. In January 2017, Madeline planned a trip to California for that upcoming May with plans to propose. She bought a ring shortly after at Shane Co., with her friend Brittany. Little did Madeline know, in February Hannah had gone with the same mutual friend (both to Shane Co.) to buy Madeline's engagement ring. Both were convinced there was no way the other was proposing anytime soon. Hannah had just bought a new car, so Madeline thought there was no way she could have saved up for a ring. Madeline was in school at the time, and was never really the one to initiate anything; so Hannah thought there was no way she had a ring. Come May, the first day in California (or Nevada actually), in Lake Tahoe, Madeline nervously pulled out a ring and popped the question. Hannah's response was "What?! Yours is in the car!!", then of course she said "Yes." Both were in complete shock and then even more shocked to find out friends and family both knew, keeping the secret from the other one. Hannah later proposed that week in Yosemite in front of a waterfall.



I'm not gonna lie, this is the first wedding I've photographed where I got a little teary eyed. And it wasn't even during the ceremony, it was during the toasts; toasts that were added last minute. It was Kat's parents who gave the very moving words. Although I do get to know my clients, I never get to really really know them. I 100% believe in personal privacy and never try to dig too big into their lives. I always ask basic things like "where did you meet" "what do you like to do" "I like bourbon, how about you". Although I like to have a personal connection with my clients, I don't think its my business to know what makes them tick. Afterall, I'm just some stranger you hired to take your photos. Although I knew Kat and Kayla are very kind and generous human beings, it was brought to light (at least for me) just HOW kind and generous and amazing they are; and I felt incredibly honored to be able to not just photograph their wedding, but to also be present at the union of these two kind souls.



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Pandora Productions

Pandora Productions is the only theatre company in the Louisville Metro region that is exclusively devoted to telling the stories of the LGBTQ Community.

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Mission

We believe in the transformational power of theatre. To fulfill our vision, we will, with the curiosity of Pandora herself seek to:

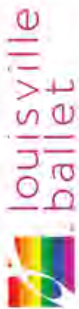
- Entertain, engage and inspire our audience, our community and the greater human community by presenting bold, cutting edge and unique theatrical pieces that speak to the Gay, Lesbian, Bi-Sexual, Transgender and Questioning community.
- Reveal the commonality of all people while investigating the diversity of human nature and particularly the nature of sexual orientation through artistic expression.
- Examine our individual and collective accountability for our society and community, exposing the beauty and dignity of all people and finally
- Ignite and celebrate the unfailing hope and triumph of the human spirit.

AN OPEN LETTER AGAINST HATRED AND PREJUDICE

Our hope is that, whoever you are and whoever you love, you'll feel celebrated at Louisville Ballet. This is a space where everyone should feel represented and welcome. It's a space where everyone should be able to enjoy the experience of dance in ways that reflect their lives, their beliefs, and their aspirations. While we've come so far, we still have a good distance to go...and we're committed to traveling that path with you.

We aim to mirror the city we've all chosen to call home. In that spirit, we'd like to share Human Abstract, a dance performance that tells the stories of the LGBTQ community in honest and unique ways. This particular community's past is one of resilience, loss, and most importantly, love. And from the first brick at Stonewall nearly 50 years ago to the historic marriage-equality decision only four years ago, we feel it's a fundamental part of our mission to express narratives that honor those who've consistently fought against bigotry and discrimination.

We cannot and will not be bystanders to hatred and prejudice. As artists, we have a duty to challenge preconceptions respectfully and to tell the stories of those individuals and groups who make our city what it is and what it should aspire to become. We must lift up those around us in positive ways and provide support when needed. We challenge you to do the same, today and every day.



For more details on Human Abstract,
or for tickets, please visit
kentuckycenter.org/all-shows/human-abstract.



NEWS ALERT



Kentucky GOP claims 'serious violations' against Matt Jones over possible Senate race
Updated 10 min ago

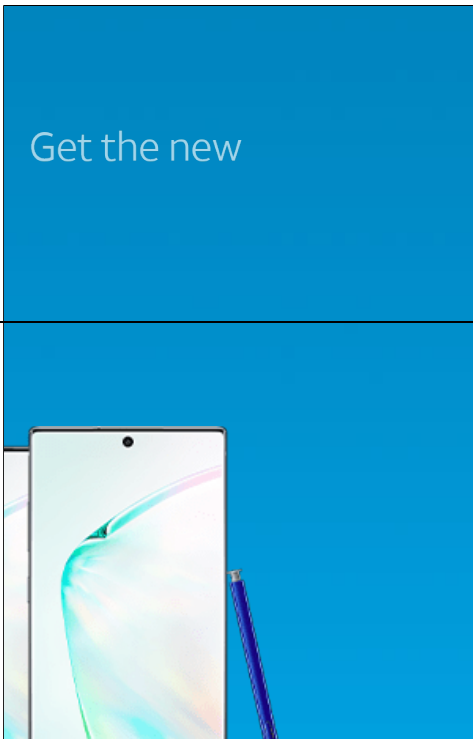
PREV

NEXT

Highlands tattoo business offers 'equal sign' tattoos as part of LGBTQ art exhibit

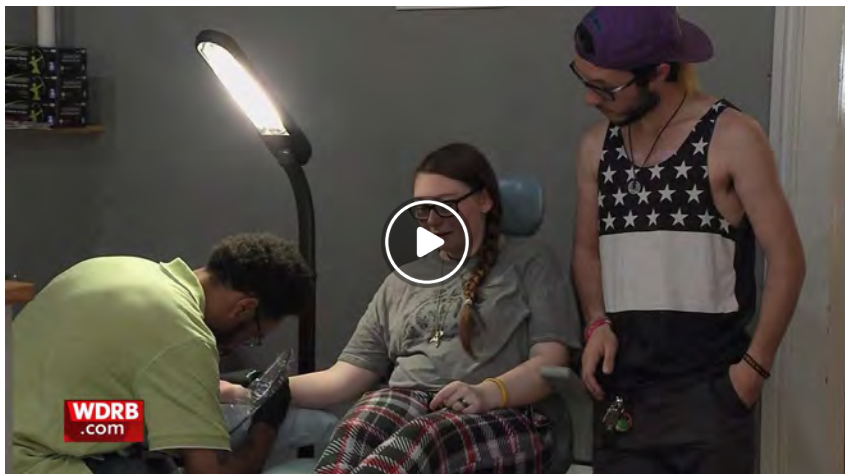
Jul 13, 2019

1 of 2



LOUISVILLE, Ky. (WDRB) -- Proponents of a new exhibit at a local tattoo parlor say it mixes gay pride with art and expression.

The exhibit at Prophecy Ink Tattoo Studio and Fine Art Gallery, a business in the Highlands, is called "Out of my Head and Back to Life" and showcases artists Mel Taylor and Patrick Gittings.



At the event Saturday night, the Fairness Campaign teamed up with Prophecy Ink to offer tattoos of an equals sign, considered by the LGBTQ community as a symbol of equality.

The tattoos were \$20 and half of the proceeds went to the campaign's mission.

"We've sold a lot of stuff," said Juanita Mondragon, the event organizer. "There is a lot of stuff to see and you get a tattoo -- an equality tattoo -- something that symbolizes something that is so important to so many people."



WEATHER FORECAST



WDRB Meteorologist Katie McGraw's Wednesday afternoon forecast

Upcoming Events

- TUE 12** Don't Go Broke in a Nursing Home
Hampton Inn | Clarksville, IN
- WED 6** Locating My Files
Jeffersonville Tow... | Jeffersonville, IN
- WED 6** The Chainsmokers: World War Joy ...
KFC YUM! Center | Louisville, KY
- WED 6** Texas Roadhouse Chief Informatio...
University of Loui... | Louisville, KY
- WED 6** Disney Presents The Lion King (To...
Whitney Hall | Louisville, KY
- WED 6** PNC Broadway in Louisville Disney...
Kentucky Center fo... | Louisville, KY
- WED 6** Pigeons Playing Ping Pong with DI...
Headliners Music H... | Louisville, KY

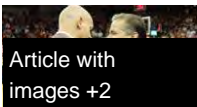
<input type="checkbox"/>	WED 6	THU 7	FRI 8	SAT 9	SUN 10	MON 11
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See all events Add your event



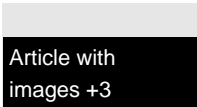


SPORTS



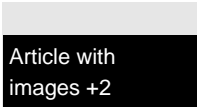
BOZICH | Louisville, Kentucky make it safe to believe the hype

Updated 3 hrs ago



CRAWFORD | Return of the boom? Louisville shows knockout punch at Miami

Updated 13 hrs ago



BOZICH | Maxey outplays Winston, lifts Kentucky past No. 1 Michigan State

Updated 14 hrs ago

Organizers say the event was so successful another event is being planned for later this fall.

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Tags **Lgbtq** **Highlands** **Prophecy Ink Tattoo Studio And Fine Art Gallery**

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We started this LGBTQ+ Boutique and Gift Shop on a mission and a whim and like you, I have no clue what the future holds, but, I will do my best to make it better for those whom I can, and I will always fight for my personal mantra. **"Everyone equal – all the time."**
-Ren & Travis



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INSPIRATION

I'm inspired by ya'll. Even if you have the same wedding colors at the same venue the weekend after another client, your photos will be unique because I draw my inspiration FROM YOU. It's backed up with my love and admiration for film noirs movies of the 1940's & 1950's. Also paintings from the Renaissance, Baroque and Neoclassical periods. I'm also pretty intrigued with surrealism; its just so mind-blowing to me. I understand it, but I also don't understand it all. And I really dig being so lost in it.





















