



Rev. Ann Fuller

Wedding Receptions

Wedding etiquette is not nearly as complicated as the shelves upon shelves of books in the library and bookstore would have you believe. You really only have to do one thing. Think COM.

COMmon Sense, COMmon Courtesy and COMpassion

Sadly, I have seen brides and grooms practically destroy the enjoyment of their special day because they were so concerned about doing things the "correct way." One young man was distraught because according to a book on wedding etiquette, the woman who had raised and nurtured him since he was three years old was supposed to sit in the second row while the woman who had given birth to him whom he had not seen in five years was supposed to sit in the front. Similarly, one young bride planned to walk down the aisle alone because she could not choose between her father and her step-father to escort her down the aisle.

In the first case, I spoke to the family and the two gracious women both sat in the front row in seats of honor. In the second, we widened the aisle and the two men walked on either side of the bride. Family dynamics are going to vary greatly from wedding to wedding. Not all dilemmas will have happy endings like the ones above, but with common sense, common courtesy and compassion most can be resolved creatively to everyone's satisfaction.

By all means consult wedding etiquette books if you have questions, but please consider their information suggestions rather than hard and fast rules. There is no "correct way" to have a wedding. We have traditions and superstitions—not dictates. If something feels awkward or might hurt someone's feelings don't do it. If something feels right and accommodates both your circumstances and people's feelings do it.

It shouldn't be a "correct" wedding, it should be "your" wedding!

You decide how you want to enter, decide on the content for your ceremony, decide how you will exit and decide how you will celebrate. That is pretty much it.