

## Wedding Picture Recommendations

### Prior to the ceremony

#### *The Dressing Room*

All my packages come with a full-day of coverage (about 7 hours) so I usually start taking pictures while you are getting ready. Having me take pictures of you starting while you are getting ready at a hotel room, salon, or just at your home is important if you want to really remember your whole day. Even though you may not feel photogenic while hair and makeup are being done, these pictures are often some of the most memorable. My advice to brides is to put some thought into your dressing room. Try and find somewhere with some windows, nice light, and spruce it up a bit. Put some opaque fabric over the windows if you can and clean up the room a little. Taking some care in creating a cool atmosphere in this room will help tremendously with getting great images. And when it is time for your dress to come on, it's up to you on when to call me in to begin taking pictures. Some brides just have me turn around until they are ready to begin the photographs, but the more pictures we get of the dress going on, the better.

#### *The Bride and Groom*

Ideally these work best if we can take at least 30 minutes at some point before the ceremony and find a somewhat secluded location to take pictures of the two of you. This means you will have to be intentional about building time into your schedule in order to make this happen. Some like to keep it traditional and have the first moment of seeing each other when the bride walks down the aisle. Of course, you can do this, but what many couples choose to do is to create a special moment an hour or two before the ceremony. This looks different depending on the couple, but typically the bride walks down looking beautiful while the groom has his back turned to her. When she gets up to him, he turns around and they can have a special moment which is observed by just the photographer and maybe one other family member. This creates some special memories and photographs plus you'll have plenty of time for group pictures before the ceremony starts. I have documented some of these moments on my website. Go to [www.lukejonesimages.com/gallery/videos/videos.html](http://www.lukejonesimages.com/gallery/videos/videos.html). There you will find "special moments" videos. My experience has been that after the ceremony you may be tired, lots of people want to talk to you, and natural daylight is quickly fading. This can make pictures a bit more stressful than they need to be. When searching for a good location or for these pictures, look for backdrops that would make a good background. Parks, walking paths, barns, mountains, college campuses, and streams are just some items that make nice scenery, but our options are limited only by our creative imagination. These pictures can be taken before the ceremony, after the ceremony or even both. There is often good lighting after the ceremony when the sun is setting, so if you can get away from even 20 minutes for a few pictures during this light you'll get some great images. Try to avoid timing the bride and groom pictures at noon when the sun will be directly overhead and bright. Early morning and sunset are typically some of the best time to take pictures outdoors. Whenever you decide to plan out these pictures, I usually remind brides that they will want at least 20-30 minutes just prior to walking down the aisle to have some quiet moments. If the bride and groom take portraits for 30-45 minutes before that and the group shots take about 30-40 minutes prior to those beginning, then you are looking at about 90 minutes of total time taking group and couple shots. Add in the 30 minutes before the wedding starts and that's two hours of time to plan for. That's a conservative estimate, so of course planning in some extra time for more pictures or things that just come up in the course of a wedding day is a good idea.

#### *Group Pictures*

I will arrive early enough at your wedding location to help scout out a location for group pictures. However, it doesn't hurt for you to take a look around and see what appeals to you. You might even ask your wedding coordinator or someone who works at the wedding site location to give you some recommendations. The most important thing to look for is a nice big spot of shade. The more even the lighting the better and getting a good spot of shade helps to keep people cool on a hot day. It also helps if you can have someone there to gather up the people for each shot. If they have a list of the pictures and

who is in them, this will speed things up a great deal. If group pictures are planned ahead of time they can be done in as little as 30 minutes.

### **The Ceremony**

I usually am positioned towards the back of the room while the ceremony is happening. Depending on how your space is set up and your preferences, I can move around towards the front at various points, but keep in mind that for the most part, when your back is to the audience, your back will be towards me as well. So if you want pictures of the two of you during the lighting of the unity candle, a first communion, or pouring sand into a glass bowl, position yourself so you face the audience.

### **The Reception**

If you can, spend some time lighting the reception. Dark lighting is great for setting the mood, but having some lights in the background can spruce up the pictures and make things much more exciting. Hang some lights in the trees, use rope lights along the edges of an outdoor tent or around the edges of a room. Having an indoor room with very low lighting or an outdoor event with no tent ensures that a flash will have to be used the whole time, which can work, but will result in less variety in the night time pictures. When you get ready to throw those flowers or the garter, don't be in a huge hurry. Give a fake throw if you feel like it, have fun with the ladies or guys who are waiting, and make sure the photographer is ready.

### **After the Event is Over**

The number of shots can range in a wedding from 1500-2000 images which will result in lots of great shots and some that are just ok, either way you are going to get them all on several DVDs in color and in black and white. As soon as I process these, usually in about a couple of weeks, I'll put the best ones on a website which you can share with all your friends and family. This site presents your images in a very elegant web show format complete with music. These pictures will also be the ones which make up your DVD slideshow which I will give to you as well. Through this site you can order high-quality prints. These prints from the website will be slightly more expensive than getting them printed on your own at Wal-Mart or online using Shutterfly, but when it comes to printing photographs, you get what you pay for. Ordering from this website would be similar in price and quality if you were to go to a local print lab which does its own color correcting and printing. If you have some basic image editing software you can very easily convert your pictures into sepia tone or apply other image effects. If you are looking for something specific I can work with you to offer a wide variety of printing effects, different borders, metallic paper, canvas prints, coffee table books, and lots more.