

Pictures Before or After the Ceremony

By Michael Moore

Back in the day, tradition dictated that it was bad luck for the groom to see the bride before the wedding ceremony. While not seeing each other until the ceremony may seem like a romantic idea, modern times have seen this custom bow to practicality.

Here are a few things to consider:

- With all the time and preparation invested, you will be looking *your absolute best* before the ceremony. All the hugs, kisses and tears of joy collected in your receiving line will likely wrinkle clothing and mess make-up. Stains on your wedding dress can be restored digitally but that kind of retouching gets very expensive.
- Seeing each other for the first time in front of all your guests will *surely* intensify your nervousness. Pre-ceremony photography is a great tension-breaker.
- With the time limitations of post-ceremony formals, *you will not have as many options* for posed pictures. Considerable attention to detail in creating a beautiful set of wedding images does require substantial time. Even the “natural and spontaneous” images require a certain amount of effort to create.
- Your wedding party, family, and your guests are all interested in getting to the reception and it is very difficult to keep their attention for pictures. Some may even inadvertently leave before their participation in pictures is completed.

It is for these reasons that we very much advocate pre-ceremony formals!

Here's a little ritual that will make your first vision of each other very special. We would like to propose that before your pre-ceremony formals, you and your fiancé arrange for a little private time alone with each another. Make that moment special because *this will be the only time for just the two of you* until the reception is over. If you like, we can capture a few candid images to add to your collection.

Of course, the photography doesn't have to end right after you leave the church. Many superb images are taken candidly after the ceremony as well as at the reception.