

# Ten Recommendations That Will Create Great Moments For Your Wedding Photographer To Capture



RAY ANTHONY

documentary weddings

# 1. Create an energetic atmosphere

“Getting ready” photos are more than just a bride getting into her dress, or having her hair and makeup done. Great photos can be captured of the bridesmaids hanging out together - before getting ready. This time is usually in the morning when everyone is arriving to the location where your hair and makeup artist will be doing their thing. If everyone was out late the night before, this can be a very low energy time. It can be difficult for the photographer to find interesting moments to capture. When there is music in the air, the mood changes. Before long everyone is loosening up, laughing, singing and getting excited. Create a playlist of your favorite music to play in the room, play a game of “Heads Up” or dance! This will create a fun and relaxed atmosphere. The more fun, the more laughter, the more spontaneity, the better the photographs.



## 2. Work together, guys!

Having all the guys working together to figure out the proper way to tie a Windsor knot, a bow tie, fold a handkerchief or help each other tighten their vest straps provides great candid moments to be photographed. Have YouTube videos available for instruction. It's important that your photography team have a dedicated photographer for the groom's getting ready time. It's nearly impossible for one photographer to spend time with both the bride and groom before the ceremony unless you're getting ready at the same location.



### 3. Here's to you!

Toasting always makes a great moment to be captured. Whether it's champagne, mimosas, beer, or Jack Daniels! Gather your bridesmaids or groomsmen together and make a toast to them before leaving for the ceremony. Let them know how you feel about them and how much you appreciate their friendship. Toasts to the entire wedding party in the limo or party bus also create great moments to photograph. When possible, use real (or even clear plastic) champagne or martini glasses or brandy snifter glasses instead of red plastic cups. This adds elegance to the photos.



## 4. Going to the Chapel!

Make your trip to the church memorable. Be sure to leave with all of your bridesmaids escorting you out of your hotel or getting ready location to the limo and have them all escort you from the limo to the church or ceremony location. The same with the men. It always looks great to have all your friends dressed in formal attire at your side. Have them stay together with you in front and in the middle of your party. Have your bridesmaids sing “going to the chapel” on the party bus and definitely pump up the music as you ride along. Be sure to insist that your photographer rides with you to the ceremony. If you are driving separately with your father or parents, have them rent a vintage car with a chauffeur to drive you to the church. Consider a grand entrance to your ceremony, walking directly from the limo, into the church and up the aisle. This is a dramatic moment that will require more than one photographer on staff to provide multiple angles of coverage. Of course, arriving by horse and carriage, ski lift or canoe will also make a unique and memorable moment!



## 5. Don't forget Mom & Dad!

Find time before the ceremony to have a moment with your mother and father. A quiet moment when your father can see you for the first time in your wedding dress, or when you are waiting together for your time to walk up the aisle are always heart felt and genuine moments. It almost goes without saying that there will be moments between a bride and her mother - getting ready, adjusting the veil, helping with her shoes or buttoning up the back of her wedding dress. Make sure your mother knows in advance that she needs to be with you at this time. Think about giving them a gift, letting them know how much they mean to you. Hold their hands, look into their eyes, tell them you love them. Nothing is better than these last minute photos with your parents! Moments between the groom and his parents can also be powerful. Have the groom's father participate during the time the groom is getting into his tuxedo, or his proud mother putting his boutonniere on his coat can create great, spontaneous moments.



## 6. Make eye contact.

When walking up the aisle, keep a constant smile on your face, make eye contact with your guests, and especially look at your groom. It's very common for the bride to look at the ground when she knows all eyes are on her. Many brides are shy because they are the center of attention. Also, remember to keep your bouquet at your belly button. This same advice should be practiced when you are coming back down the aisle after the ceremony with your groom. Look at each other, make eye contact with your guests, let yourselves show the real emotion you are feeling, now that you are officially married!



## 7. Go Unplugged!

Cell phones and i-Pads are now the pocket camera of choice and everyone has one! For whatever reason, it also makes everyone feel as if it is their personal responsibility to photograph the processional of the bride walking up the aisle. Unless you want this once in a lifetime moment photographed with all your guests holding up their i-Phones, you will need to take pre-emptive action. Make a sign and put it on an easel at the entrance of the church, or ceremony location, that requires your guests to put away their cell phones during the ceremony. Let them know that your professional photographers will be able to take much better photos without guests holding up their phones. Go so far as to have your officiant make the same request before the ceremony begins.



## 8. Exit in style!

Consider having a formal exit from the church into your limo, and/or a send off at the end of your reception. Both will create memorable and spontaneous moments for your photographer to capture. Make sure someone organizes your guests so there is a clear pathway for you to walk through from the church doors to your limo. No need for rice or bubbles, just excited guests cheering you on as newlyweds. At the end of your reception have your band or DJ form a circle of the remaining guests while you do a last dance, surround you in a group hug, or a plan for your guests to give you a sparkler send off. Remember to include your photographer in the plans. It should be thought out before the wedding and someone needs to be in charge of making it all happen. If there are sparklers involved, your wedding planner or venue manager need to be in the know and in charge so it can be done safely. Of course, if your photographer has limited hours, you may need to consider contracting him to stay to the end, or hire a photographer who provides you with unlimited hours (like Ray Anthony Photography!).



## 9. Relax and celebrate!

Instead of just doing portraits around the city with your wedding party between the ceremony and reception, do something that will be fun and that will allow everyone in your wedding party to truly celebrate your marriage. Go to a favorite pub, or to an out-of-the-ordinary place. How about bowling in your wedding attire? Rather than staged portraits, let your photographer capture fun candids of you and your best friends chilling out? Your photographs will be spontaneous, fun and memorable and your wedding party will thank you!



## 10. Keep on dancing!

Stay on the dance floor as a couple all night long and party with your guests! This is a sure way to keep your guests dancing all night and not have an empty dance floor! Nothing is more boring than empty dance floor photos! Often, the groom is nowhere to be found after the formal dances are over. We have attended many weddings where the bride is alone on the dance floor. Celebrate, laugh, and dance together with everyone around you and have a blast! The more you are together, the more opportunities your photographer will have to capture great moments. Remember, this is the most important day of your lives, celebrate it together! Again, having your photographer stay to the very end of the night is essential to getting great dancing photos!





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This document highlights ten recommendations that we consider to be, not only very important, but commonly overlooked when the wedding day finally arrives. So much is going on during this incredible day, who has time to sit down and prepare for what to do? We sincerely hope that they will give you some valuable tips that will help make your wedding day as special as you envisioned it.

**Here's what I strongly recommend you do TODAY!**

Call me at 866-UNPOSED (867-6733) to ask if I still have your wedding date available. Our calendar does get filled up quickly, so please don't wait on this! If you like the ideas we've shared here, and are drawn toward natural, emotion-filled, documentary wedding photos, you have already found the best!

We work with couples who want to celebrate throughout their entire day, without interruption, resulting in stunning photographs! We will become your eyes and your ears, attentive to everything around you, focusing on capturing the genuine, unaltered story of your day, exactly as it unfolds. We dedicate ourselves to being mindful and present with you, without distraction, all day long. You will not find any other wedding photographers more dialed into capturing photos, like the ones described in this document, from the minute we arrive, until the very last dance.

Why not call me NOW? The call is free and there's no obligation. We can chat for a bit about your exciting wedding plans, and see if your date is available. Then, if you would like to, we can set up a time to get together in person so you'll be in a better position to make the decision about who the right photographer is for your wedding.

Sincerely,

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