

## Wedding Photography

Mentor: Jerry Ghionis\*

# Must Have Wedding Shots

Whether you are starting out or are a seasoned professional, it's important to be reminded of "the shots" you must take on a wedding day; photographs that sell and tell the story. This list is more about what images to create instead of how they are created. Of course, I don't expect anyone to hold the sheet in front of the couple and check off all the images. These are just suggestions for some standard images you may not want to miss.

## Individual Client's Coverage (to be repeated for each client)

Detail shots of accessories and getting-ready shots with the attendants, e.g. shirt cuff, cufflinks, belt, tie, vest, jacket, cologne, shoes, watch, or headpiece, earrings, ring, front and back of dress, necklace, bracelet, bag, bouquet, etc.

Client by themselves (full length or 3/4 and close-up)

Client with all attendants (including ring bearers and/or flower girls at location)

Client with each attendant and ring bearers and/or flower girls at location

Client with mom and dad

Client with mom only and then with dad only

Mom and dad by themselves

Client with immediate family

Client with brothers and sisters only

Client with each brother and each sister

Client with each brother and each sister and their respective families

Any other requests

A few more shots of the client and attendants (more creative)

Client leaving home/getting ready location

Entering the car, if appropriate

## Wedding Photography

Mentor: Jerry Ghionis\*

# CEREMONY

Client in car doorway (if appropriate)

Dad escorting client out of car (if appropriate)

Attendants adjusting dress outside ceremony location (if appropriate)

Client walking up to ceremony location

Client and attendants waiting at front of ceremony (if appropriate)

Client and dad (or escort) and attendants in doorway of ceremony entrance

Children and attendants walking down the aisle

Client walking down the aisle

Couple at front of ceremony

Wide ceremony shot from front and behind

Look for detail shots

Formalities including ring exchange, kiss, etc.

If you are photographing a ceremony from a culture that you don't understand, a basic rule of thumb is: if it moves, shoot it

Couple signing register/marriage certificate, if appropriate (also with celebrant, if expected)

Couple walking down the aisle, congratulating, etc.

Group shot from balcony or at front of ceremony location

Couple in doorway of entrance

Confetti shots, mingling etc.

Wide shot of couple in front of the ceremony location

Big group shot of all guests, make sure that all members of both families and the drivers know where the group shots will be. Give your cell number to anyone who needs it

## Wedding Photography

Mentor: Jerry Ghionis\*

# FAMILY SHOTS

Couple with client #1's parents

Couple with client #1's parents and their brothers and sisters (spouses and children included, with and without grandparents)

Couple with both sets of parents

Couple with client #2's parents

Couple with client #2's parents and their brothers and sisters (spouses and children included, with and without grandparents)

Couple with siblings only, both sides

Couple with each brother and sister's family (if requested or appropriate)

Couple with each set of grandparents

Any other requests... uncles, aunts, friends, etc.

Each mom and dad by themselves, if not done earlier in the day

Be sure to photograph the elderly family shots, pregnant women, families with children first

# TRADITIONAL COUPLE/WEDDING PARTY SHOTS

Couple full length (nothing fancy, show detail)

Couple close-up

Couple with flower girls and ring bearers

Couple with full wedding party

Each client alone full length (dress/suit detail) front and back

Client #1, attendants and flower girls/ring bearers

Client #2 with attendants and flower girls/ring bearers

## LOCATIONS

Shoot at least one full length of the couple at every location

Shoot a blend of contemporary, classical and candid shots

Shoot a few car shots (full length & close-ups) using different parts of the car, if it is a special rental.

Shoot at least one series of intimate close-up shots of the couple

## RECEPTION (IF DOING A SHORT COVERAGE)

Detail shots of reception

Wedding party and parents entering

Couple entering/being introduced into the reception

Couple dancing (full length and close-up)

Couple cutting the cake

Couple toasting

Cake only

Rings only

## RECEPTION (ALL NIGHT COVERAGE)

As above

Each couple and each set of parents dancing

Each person saying a speech, reactions to speeches

General candid shots of dancing

Garter and bouquet toss (if appropriate)

Couple leaving

Creative shots at reception, something moody to conclude the album

## NIGHT SHOTS AFTER RECEPTION (IF APPLICABLE)

Do whatever you want (but make sure the shots are not repetitive)

## Wedding Photography

Mentor: Jerry Ghionis\*

# REMINDERS

If you are shooting with 2 or more cameras, sync the time and date before the wedding

Charge plenty of batteries the night before

Look for detail shots (still life, etc.)

Shoot any requests, happily

Take two shots of anything important

Take at least 2 shots when subject(s) are looking in the camera (4 people or less)

Take at least 3 shots when subjects are looking in the camera (5 people or more)

Don't overshoot

Look for panoramic opportunities (shoot subject on left or right with negative space)

Focus, focus, focus

Shoot for the wedding album, design the pages as you shoot

Tell the story, explore relationships

Don't leave the wedding until you have a well-rounded album and at least a couple of "wow" shots

Slow down and take your time