



## Dear Dr. Book

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*Dear Dr. Book,*

*I am getting married this summer and want to use my grandmother's Bible as "something old." However the hundred-year old Bible is rather shabby and I am afraid it will fall apart as I walk down the aisle. What can I do with the Bible?*

*August Bride*

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Dear August Bride,

Congratulations on your upcoming wedding!

There are several conservation treatments possible for your family Bible, depending on the condition of the Bible and your budget. My first suggestion is that you take your Bible to a trained conservator and have the Bible's physical condition evaluated. The treatment recommended by the conservator may be fairly simple or rather complex depending on how well the Bible has been preserved over time.

If the pages and the cover of the Bible are falling apart, the best solution may be to leave the Bible in its well-used condition and to make a custom-constructed case or box for the Bible. For example, a conservator could create a box with either a leather or cloth cover to match your wedding colors and stamp the box with gold lettering to commemorate the special occasion. After the wedding, the box would be used to protect the Bible for future generations.

If the textblock of the Bible (the pages as they are fastened together) is in good condition, the Bible may only need a new cover.

A conservator can make a replica of the original cover or create a more modern cover, again as plain or fancy as you wish. If any pages have been torn, they also would be mended. The Bible would then be ready for your walk down the aisle.

For information on preservation topics, please write to "Dear Dr. Book" in care of the *University Libraries Newsletter*, Colorado State University Libraries, Fort Collins, CO 80523 or visit the Libraries Preservation Services Web site at: <http://lib.colostate.edu/preserv/>.

