

♥ Introduction

We are gathered here today to celebrate one of life's greatest moments, to give recognition to the worth and beauty of love, and to add our best wishes to the words which shall unite

_____ (Groom)

and

_____ (Bride),

in marriage.

Marriage is not to be entered into lightly, thoughtlessly or irresponsibly. Marriage by its nature is a state of giving rather than taking, of offering rather than receiving, for marriage requires the giving of one's self to support the marriage and the home in which it may flourish.

Therefore

If there is anyone here who can show just and sufficient reason as to why this couple may not be united in marriage, they must speak now or forever hold their peace.

I now call upon you both, in the presence of these witnesses, to repeat after me:

OFFICIATOR: *repeated by Bride*

I do solemnly declare - that I do not know - of any lawful impediment - why I, _____ (*Bride*), may not be joined - in matrimony to _____ (*Groom*).

OFFICIATOR: *repeated by Groom*

I do solemnly declare - that I do not know - of any lawful impediment - why I, _____ (*Groom*), may not be joined - in matrimony to _____ (*Bride*).

OFFICIATOR:

“Who is it that brings this woman to this man?”
(i.e. Father, mother brothers and sisters, friends):

REPLY: “I / WE DO” or “I / WE DO on behalf of family and friends”)

OFFICIATOR:

_____ *(Groom)* and _____ *(Bride)*,

*life is given to each of us as individuals and yet,
 we must learn to live together.*

Love is taught to us by our family and our friends.

We learn to love by being loved.

*Living together is one of the
 greatest challenges of life*

--- and is, the shared goal of “married life.”

With this understanding,

_____ *(Groom)* and _____ *(Bride)*

wish to be joined in matrimony.

The Marriage Vows

OFFICIATOR:

Please face each other and join hands.

_____ (Groom), do you take _____ (Bride)
to be your Wife? *Reply: I DO*

Do you promise to love, honor, cherish and protect her, forsaking all others and holding only unto her? *Reply: I DO*

_____ (Groom) please repeat after me:

**I call upon those persons present
to witness that I, _____ (Groom)
do take you _____ (Bride)
to be my lawful wedded wife,
to have and to hold,
from this day forward,
in whatever circumstances or experiences,
life may hold for us.**

_____ (Bride), do you take _____ (Groom)
to be your Husband? *Reply: I DO*

Do you promise to love, honor, cherish and protect him, forsaking all others and holding only unto him? *Reply: I DO*

_____ (Bride) please repeat after me:

**I call upon those persons present
to witness that I, _____ (Bride)
do take you _____ (Groom)
to be my lawful wedded wife,
to have and to hold,
from this day forward,
in whatever circumstances or experiences,
life may hold for us.**

The Ring Exchange

OFFICIATOR:

“Wedding rings are an outward and visible sign of an inward spiritual grace and the unbroken circle of love, signifying to all the union of this man and this woman in marriage.”

_____ (*Groom*) please repeat after me:

As I place this ring upon your finger - symbolizing my never-ending love, - I promise and give to you - the truth and faithfulness - of my life in marriage - and my love to you forever more. - I give you this ring - as a lasting reminder - of our marriage vows.

_____ (*Bride*) please repeat after me.

As I place this ring upon your finger - symbolizing my never-ending love, - I promise and give to you - the truth and faithfulness - of my life in marriage - and my love to you forever more. - I give you this ring - as a lasting reminder - of our marriage vows.

OFFICIATOR:

_____ *(Groom)* and _____ *(Bride)*

*as the two of you
come into this marriage to be united
as husband and wife,
and as this day, you affirm
your faith and love for one another,*

*I would ask that you always remember,
to cherish each other as special and unique,
and that you respect the thoughts, ideas
and suggestions of one another.*

*Be able to forgive, do not hold grudges,
and live each day that you may share it together*

*-- as from this day forward you shall be
each other's home, comfort and refuge,
your marriage strengthened by your
love and respect for each other.*

OFFICIATOR:

*A marriage ceremony represents
one of life's greatest commitments.*

but it is also 'a declaration of love'.

*I wish to read to you what Paul wrote of love,
in a letter to the Corinthians.*

*I believe it is a true 'model of love'
and it is the model of love
that I hope you pursue in your marriage.*

**“Love is very patient and kind,
never jealous or envious, never boastful or proud.**

Love is never haughty or selfish or rude.

Love does not demand it's own way.

Love is not irritable or touchy.

**Love does not hold grudges, and will
hardly notice when others do it wrong.**

**Love is never glad about injustice,
but rejoices whenever truth wins out.**

**¶ you love someone you will be loyal to them,
no matter what the costs.**

***You* will always believe in them, always expect the best in them,
and will always stand your ground in defending them.”**

Prayer

*Read by: _____
(Mother/Sister/Father/Friend/etc... to the Bride / Groom).*

Let us Pray,

Dear Heavenly Father,

Our hearts are filled with great happiness _____(Groom) and _____'s (Bride) wedding day, as they come before you pledging their hearts and lives to one another. Grant that they may be ever true and loving, living together in such a way as to never bring shame or heartbreak into their marriage. Temper their hearts with kindness and understanding, rid them of all pretense or jealousy.

Help them to remember to be each other's sweetheart, helpmate, best friend and guide, so that together they may meet the cares and problems of life more bravely. And with the passage of time, may they find great contentment in the rich joy of senior companionship.

May the home they are creating today, truly be a place of love and harmony, where Your Spirit is always present. Bless this marriage we pray and walk beside _____ (Groom) and _____ (Bride) throughout their life together.

We ask these things in the Lord's Name. Amen.

The Declaration

_____ (*Groom*) and _____ (*Bride*),
*in so much as the two of you
 have agreed to live together in Holy Matrimony,
 have promised your love for each other by these vows,
 the joining of your hands and the giving of these rings,*

I now declare you to be "Husband and Wife"

Whom God hath joined together, let no one put asunder.

CONGRATULATIONS!

YOU MAY NOW SEAL YOUR VOWS WITH A KISS.

It is now my privilege and honor
 to present to you

Bride & Groom