

## MARRIAGE CEREMONY

Prelude Music

Ushers seat everyone waiting on appropriate sides

Bride's Mother Lights candle and is Seated (on left facing altar)

Groom's Mother Light's candle and is Seated (on right facing altar)

Minister & Groom take places (on right facing altar) also Best Man on occasion

Bride's maids come down aisle with Maid of Honor last (with escorts) taking places

Wedding March begins

Bride & Bride's father (father on Groom's side) come down aisle, everyone stands

Wedding March ends

"Please be seated"

Ladies and gentlemen, we have gathered here today at the invitation of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to participate in the celebration of their wedding. The marital relationship is established by God and this ceremony has its roots in ancient times. In the beginning, it was God who said, "It is not good for the man to be alone" and He created a suitable companion for the man from the man's own nature. God also said that a man should leave his father and mother and cleave to his wife and the two shall be one flesh.

The Lord Jesus Christ chose to acknowledge the divine purpose of marriage by His presence and his first miracle, turning the water into wine at a wedding in Cana of Galilee.

The Apostle Paul tells us in the Book to the Ephesians that marriage is intended by God to be a sign revealing the supernatural love relationship between Christ and His Bride, the Church.

The Scripture tells us much about marriage such as the fact that God wants marriage honored among all peoples and nations.

As \_\_\_\_\_ (G) and \_\_\_\_\_ (B) enter into the Holy Covenant of Marriage, may God add His blessing in such a way to display His pleasure in their obedience to Him. Amen.

Declaration of Consent

\_\_\_\_\_ (G) will you have this woman to be your wife; to live in the Holy Covenant of Marriage? Will you love her, comfort her, honor and keep her, in sickness and in health, and forsaking all others, be faithful to her so long as you both shall live? If so, answer "I will". (Groom answers)

\_\_\_\_\_ (B) will you have this man to be your husband; to live together in the Holy Covenant of Marriage? Will you love him, comfort him, honor and keep him, in sickness and in health, and forsaking all others, be faithful to him so long as you both shall live? If so, please answer "I will".

(To the Congregation)

Will all of you who are witnessing these promises this day do all that is in your power to encourage and strengthen these two persons in their marriage? If so, please answer "We will". (Congregation answers)

Song

Who is giving this woman to be married to this man? ("I do" or "Her mother and I do.") (Father takes brides right hand and places it into groom's left hand)

As you two have just joined hands, it is symbolic that a joining of your lives is taking place. In a few minutes, you will be taking vows that are intended to bind you together throughout your lives. These vows are promises not to live your lives any longer for yourselves but for each other. If you live out these vows in practical ways in each day of your lives together, you will find that they will protect and shelter the love that you now have for each other causing it to deepen in affection and commitment. If you seek to meet each others needs in this godly relationship, your will find yourselves being renewed and refreshed in your love over and over again by the Lord. Time and familiarity will seek to erode your affection for each other.

\_\_\_\_\_(G), \_\_\_\_\_(B) must continue to be your bride.  
\_\_\_\_\_(B), \_\_\_\_\_ (G) must continue to be always be your groom. Neither of you can afford to lose the other's affection by taking it for granted. As difficulties arise and they will, you must face them together and prayerfully, knowing that God stands strong for your marriage. As both of you draw near to God, He will draw you nearer to each other.

You have come as bridegroom and bride to be made husband and wife. Will you join both hands together and repeat these vows after me?

I, \_\_\_\_\_(G), take you, \_\_\_\_\_ (B),  
to be my wife,  
to have and to hold,  
from this day forward,  
for better for worse,  
for richer for poorer,  
in sickness and in health,  
to love and to cherish,  
until we are parted by death,  
as God is my witness,  
I give you my promise.

I, \_\_\_\_\_(B), take you, \_\_\_\_\_ (G),  
to be my husband,  
to have and to hold,  
from this day forward,  
for better for worse,  
for richer for poorer,  
in sickness and in health,  
to love and to cherish,  
until we are parted by death,  
as God is my witness,  
I give you my promise.

In the Old Testament, Ruth made a sacred commitment to one that she loved. Would you repeat these words of commitment together after me?

Do not urge me to leave you,  
or turn back from following you,  
for where you go, I will go,  
and where you live, I will live,  
your people shall be my people

and your God, my God,  
and nothing but death shall separate us.

The Word of God describes the kind of love that we are to have for the other;  
Love is patient, love is kind, and is not jealous, love does not brag and is not  
arrogant, does not act unbecomingly, it does not seek its own, is not provoked,  
does not take into account a wrong suffered, does not rejoice in unrighteousness  
but rejoices with the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all  
things, endures all things, love never fails.

Having this love in your hearts, you have chosen to seal your vows by the giving  
and receiving of rings. May we have the rings please?

Bless these Rings Lord to be a symbol of the vows which \_\_\_\_\_(G) and  
\_\_\_\_\_ (B) have taken and bound themselves together this day. Let these rings  
always remind them of their responsibilities to love and to cherish each other  
all the days of their lives. Amen.

\_\_\_\_\_(G) place the ring on \_\_\_\_\_ (B) finger and repeat these words after  
me.

I give you this ring,  
as a symbol of my vow,  
and with all that I am,  
and all that I have,  
I honor you,  
In the name of the father,  
and of the son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

\_\_\_\_\_(B) place the ring on \_\_\_\_\_(G) finger and repeat these words after  
me.

I give you this ring,  
as a symbol of my vow,  
and with all that I am,  
and all that I have,  
I honor you,  
In the name of the father,  
and of the son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

Unity Candle: (Come back facing the audience)

Would you please join me in prayer for \_\_\_\_\_(B) & \_\_\_\_\_ (G).

Eternal God, creator and preserver of life, author of salvation and giver of all  
grace, look with favor upon this man and this woman whom You make one flesh in  
the Holy Covenant of Marriage.

Grant that their wills be so knit together in Your will, and that their spirits  
be so knit with Your Spirit, that they each may grow in love and peace with You  
and one another all the days of their lives.

Give them grace, when they hurt each other, to recognize and acknowledge their  
fault, and to seek each other's forgiveness and Yours. Make their life together  
a sign of Christ's love to this sinful and broken world. Give them such

fulfillment and mutual affection that they may reach out in love and concern for others.

Grant that all married persons who have witnessed these vows may find their lives strengthened and their loyalties confirmed. Through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

Now that \_\_\_\_\_(G) and \_\_\_\_\_(B) have given themselves to each other by solemn vows, before us and before God as witnesses, and have shown their affection and trust by the giving and receiving of rings. I pronounce that they are husband and wife, in the name of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate.

You may kiss your bride.

Please join me in this blessing of this couple:

May Almighty God bless you by the Word of His mouth and unite your hearts in the enduring bond of sacrificial love. May you be blessed in your children, and may the love that you lavish upon them be returned to you a hundredfold.

May the peace of Christ dwell always in your hearts and in your home. May you have true friends that stand by you, in both sorrow and joy. May you be ready with help and consolation for all those who come to you in need; and may the blessings promised to the compassionate descend upon your home.

May you be blessed in your work and enjoy its fruits. May cares never cause you distress, nor the desire for earthly possessions lead you astray; but may your hearts be concerned with the spiritual riches hidden in God.

May the Lord grant you fullness in years, so that you may reap the harvest of a good life and after you have served Him with loyalty in His Kingdom, may you have intimate fellowship with Him until death and forever thereafter. Through the Lord Jesus Christ, His son, who lives and reigns with him in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God forever and forever, Amen.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I now present to you \_\_\_\_\_.