

## **Subject: Weddings - Non-Denominational Ceremony**

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### **Non-Denominational Ceremony**

You may be seated. Who gives this woman to be married to this man? We are assembled in the presence of God and these witnesses to celebrate the joining of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in the unity of marriage.

To the family and friends here, on behalf of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, I welcome you. You have been invited here for a holy purpose, not just to witness, but to participate fully in this occasion with your thoughts and prayers, asking God to bless this couple (and) their marriage (and their family). Know that as you bless them, and as their lives are graced, so are yours. Know that the love that is so evident here with these two is just as much the fabric of your own lives, for we are all one in God's love. And so we thank God that \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ have been drawn together, and they are thankful that all of you are a part of their lives.

\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, there are no obligations on earth more sweet nor tender than those you are about to assume. There are no vows more solemn than those you are about to make, and there is no human institution more sacred than that of the home you are about to form.

You are entering into that holy estate which is the deepest mystery of experience and the very sacrament of divine love. It is a chief moment in life when two people, who once were strangers to each other, are now drawn together by an irresistible attraction, so that their souls cannot be divided by time or by space.

When a man sees in a woman that dream of gentleness and sweetness that has ever haunted his soul. And when in the man the woman finds the rest and the satisfaction that she has been unconsciously seeking, this is a revelation from within which makes all things new. It is the hand of providence and it annuls every argument of worldly experience. So, you are performing an act of utter faith, believing in each other to the utmost.

As the bride gives herself to the groom, let him be to her now a friend, a lover, and a confidant, but most sacred, of course, a husband. And as he gives himself to her, let the bride sustain and inspire his heart, and let her be to him a companion, sweetheart, and most of all, a wife.

And if you wish your new estate to be touched with perennial beauty, cherish those gracious visions which have made spring-time in your heart during the days of your courtship. You must never forget or deny the vision you once saw in each other. You must resolve that it not be blurred by the common-place experiences of life.

For shortcomings may appear that were once hidden in a golden mist; excellencies may seem to fade in the glare of the noonday sun. But still be unmoved in your devotion; remain confident and hopeful. Amid what seems to be imperfections, always believe in the ideal in each other. You saw it once, and it still exists because it really is the final truth.

So, this is the man and this is the woman, and this is the shape of spiritual beauty that God sees and has shown to you. Hide this image in your inmost heart. Make real this ideal in your united lives, and your home will be a place of harbor and repair, a dwelling place of contentment and abiding joy where love is the very air, the kingdom and home of your Father who dwells within. Do you understand these things?

Kahlil Gibran: "Love one another but make not a bond of love. Let it rather be a moving sea between the shores of your souls. Love possesses not nor would it be possessed; for love is sufficient unto love. Love has no other desire but to fulfill itself. And in your love, let these be your desires: To melt and be like a running brook that sings its melody into the night. To know the pain of too much tenderness. To wake at dawn with a winged heart and give thanks for another day of loving. To rest at the noon hour and meditate love's ecstasy; to return home at eventide with gratitude; and then to sleep

with a prayer for the beloved in your heart and song of praise upon your lips."

(If song, here.)

Today your two lives with all their memories, desires, and hopes merge together. Will you bring to this new life, each for the sake of the other, absolutely the best that you have in you? ("I will.")

(If Corinthians, here)

(If Unity Candle, here)

Please face each other and join hands. \_\_\_\_\_, will you give yourself to this woman, whose hands you hold, choosing her alone to be your wedded wife? Will you live with her in the state of true matrimony? Will you love her, comfort her, honor her at all times and will you be faithful to her?

\_\_\_\_\_, will you give yourself to this man, choosing him alone to be your wedded husband? Will you live with him in the state of true matrimony? Will you love him, comfort him, honor him at all times and will you be faithful to him?

(Groom,) repeat after me: "I, \_\_\_\_\_, give myself to you \_\_\_\_\_, to be your wedded husband. To love and to cherish, from this day forward. And there too I pledge you my faith."

(Bride,) repeat after me: "I, \_\_\_\_\_, give myself to you \_\_\_\_\_, to be your wedded wife. To love and to cherish, from this day forward. And there too I pledge you my faith."

May I have the rings? Let us pray: "Bless, O God, these rings that the giver and receiver may ever abide in thy peace, living together in unity, in love and in happiness, and with good purpose to do thy will. Amen."

These rings represent a perfect unity, now to be symbolized in your married life. From time to time, as you look at your ring, remind yourself of these words, and let it symbolize your love all over again.

And you may notice, as the years pass, your ring may start to look a little old and worn on the outside. But if you look on the inside of your ring, you'll see that it's always bright and shiny and new. So may your marriage be like that. No matter what seems to be happening on the outside, keep it bright and new on the inside.

(Give rings to couple.)

Repeat after me, together: "With this ring, I thee wed. Let it ever be to us a symbol of eternal love.

As a token of my faithfulness, I place it now upon your hand."

Or: Repeat after me, together: "With this ring I thee wed. I promise that from this day forward, you shall not walk alone. May my heart be your shelter, and may we walk together through all things. May you feel deeply loved because you

are. With this ring, I give you my heart.”

Prayer: "Eternal Spirit that is the very Life, Truth, and Substance of us all, with whom to be in union is joy, may this man and this woman who have entered into this spiritual union, always be conscious of thy indwelling presence. May they be one with each other as they are now ever one with Thee. May they rejoice in perfect love and peace together, and live always in accord with the true nature of their own divine essence. And so it is. Amen."

Inasmuch as you \_\_\_\_\_, and you, \_\_\_\_\_, have consented together in wedlock and have witnessed the same before God and these present, and have pledged your faith to each other, by the power vested in my by the church and by the state, but most of all by the power of your own love, I now pronounce you husband and wife. Whom love hath joined together, may it never be put asunder. Amen. (The kiss.)

Ladies and gentlemen it is my privilege to present to you Mr. and Mrs.

\_\_\_\_\_.