

**Subject: Wedding Ceremony**

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**Wedding Ceremony**

Friends, we are assembled here in the presence of God, to join in Holy Marriage;  
\_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_.

There are no ties on earth as sweet and tender as those you are about to assume. There are no vows as solemn as those you are about to make. There is no institution on earth as sacred as that of the home you are about to form. You are linking your lives in the closest possible relationship with that of another human soul.

On this momentous day, perhaps you are thinking most of your own happiness. But as the years pass, the happiness of many others will be involved with yours. And may the happiness you have on this day shed its beam of light on all whom you shall know or contact.

You are uniting as an act of faith, believing in each other to the utmost. Let that faith grow through the years so that you remain unmoved in your devotion: always confident and sure. You will find that your two souls have the power to love each other more and more indefinitely. The larger the love becomes, the more lovable do the objects of that love become.

And the consciousness of perfect unity in pure affection will increase constantly as your two souls find your oneness with God. May you through the years, bear witness to this fact.

True marriage is the result of two souls coming together in that union which is the most sacred of all earthly unions. It is to be entered into thoughtfully and with reverence, and with full understanding of its sacredness.

**From Kahlil Gibran, the poet:**

"You (are brought) together,  
and together you shall be forever more.  
Aye, you shall be together  
even in the silent memory of God.  
But let there be spaces in your togetherness,  
and let the winds of the heavens dance between you.  
Love one another, but make not a bond of Love, let it  
rather be a moving sea between the shores of your souls.  
Fill each other's cup but drink not from one cup.  
Give one another of your bread but eat not from (one) loaf.  
Sing and dance together and be joyous,  
but let each one of you be (free), even as the strings of a

Lutes are (free), though they quiver with the same music.  
Give your hearts, but not into each other's keeping.  
for only the hand of (God) can contain your hearts.  
For the pillars of the temple all stand apart,  
and the oak tree and the cypress grow, not in each other's  
shadow, so stand together, yet not too near together."  
Today as your separate lives with their own memories, and hopes are being  
merged into one, I urge you both to  
bring forth the very best that is possible one unto the other.

**Asking the father:** Who gives this woman to this man?

**Father:** "I Do" or "Her mother and I do" (father is then seated and the bride and groom fill in the vacancy between them).

**Asking the groom:** " \_\_\_\_\_ Will you take this woman to be your true wife? Will you love her, comfort her, honor and cherish her at all times and her alone?"

**His Answer:** "I Will."

Then, **asking the bride:** " \_\_\_\_\_ Will you take this man to be your true husband? Will you love him, comfort him, honor and cherish him and him alone?"

**Her answer:** "I will".

**Groom repeating:** "I \_\_\_\_\_ take you \_\_\_\_\_ to be my wife, to love and to cherish and thereto I pledge you my loyalty."

**Bride repeating:** "I \_\_\_\_\_ take you \_\_\_\_\_ to be my husband, to love and to cherish and thereto I pledge you my loyalty."

**Asking the groom:** " \_\_\_\_\_, what token do you give of this vow?"

**Blessing of the ring:** We bless this ring, that he who gives it and she who wears it may abide in they peace and journey in life's happiness together. This ring is the symbol of the unbroken unity of married life.  
As such, will you place it on her finger and repeat after me."

**Groom repeating:** "With this ring I thee wed and let it ever be to us a symbol of eternal love. As a token of our faithfulness each to the other, I place it upon your hand.

**Bride repeating to groom:** "As a token of our faithfulness each to the other, I give it place upon my hand."

**Asking the bride:** \_\_\_\_\_ what token do you give of this vow?

**Blessing of the ring:** We bless this ring, that she who gives it and he who wears it may abide in their peace and journey in life's happiness together. This ring is the symbol of the unbroken unity of married life. As such, will you place it on his finger and repeat after me:

**Bride Repeating:** With this ring I thee wed and let it ever be to us a symbol of eternal love. As a token of our faithfulness each to the other, I place it upon your hand.

**Groom repeating to the bride:** As a token of our faithfulness each to the other, I give it place upon my hand.

### **Bride and groom joining hands**

**Prayer:** Let us pray.

Eternal spirit, from which all things come, and to which all things return; fountain of all light, trust, and being with whom to be with is constant happiness, and from whom to feel separated is darkness; may this man \_\_\_\_\_ and this woman \_\_\_\_\_ who have entered into spiritual union, always be conscious of thy indwelling presence. May they remain one with each other as they are one with thee. May they rejoice in perfect love and peace together, living always in accord with thy law and teaching their children accordingly. Amen.

And now by the authority vested in me by the State of \_\_\_\_\_ and the Church, I pronounce you to be: Husband and Wife.  
You may kiss the bride.

Ladies and Gentlemen, it is my pleasure to present to you:  
Mr. and Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_