

# Wedding Ceremony 7

Dearly beloved, we are gathered here today (*in the presence of these witnesses*) to join this man \_\_\_\_\_ and this woman \_\_\_\_\_ in lawful matrimony.

The honorable state of marriage sanctifies the love between this man and woman.

I charge you both (*in the presence of these witnesses*) to remember that love and loyalty alone will avail as the foundation of a happy and enduring home.

If the solemn vows which you are about to take are kept, and you steadfastly seek to honor each other, your life will be full of peace and joy and the home which you are establishing will abide through every turmoil.

As you know, you are about to enter into a union which is most serious.

Marriage is by its very nature, a solemn institution, requiring of those who enter into it a complete and unreserved giving of yourself.

In marriage there is joy in helping each other fulfill their dreams, and even greater joy in building and achieving dreams together.

This union will bind you together for life, in a relationship so close and so intimate that it will profoundly influence your whole future.

That future, with all of its hopes and disappointments, pleasures and pains, joys and sorrows, is hidden from your eyes.

However, you know that these elements are mingled in every life and are to be expected in your own.

Marriage is a beautiful tribute of your faith in each other, that by not knowing what is before you, you begin your married life by the voluntary and complete surrender of your individual lives in the interest of that life which you are to share.

Henceforth, you belong entirely to each other.

You will be one in mind, one in heart, and one in affection and whatever sacrifices you may have to make to preserve this common life, always make them generously.

No greater blessing can come to your married life than pure love, true to the end.

May then this love, with which you have joined your hands and hearts today, never fail, but grow deeper and stronger as the years go on.

Does anyone have reason why this man and this woman should not be joined in lawful wedlock, let them speak now or forever hold their peace.

(*to groom*) \_\_\_\_\_, will you take this woman, \_\_\_\_\_, to be your lawful wedded wife, to live together in the lawful estate of matrimony?

Will you love her, comfort her, honor and keep her, in sickness and in health, and forsaking all others keep her, so long as you both shall live? (*I will*)

(*to bride*), \_\_\_\_\_, will you take this man, \_\_\_\_\_, to be your lawful wedded husband, to live together in the lawful estate of matrimony?

Will you love him, comfort him, honor and keep him, in sickness and in health, and forsaking all others keep him, so long as you both shall live? (*I will*)

*Please face each other, join hands and repeat after me.*

(*groom repeats*) I, \_\_\_\_\_, take you, \_\_\_\_\_, to be my lawful wedded 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, till death do us part.

(*bride repeats*) I, \_\_\_\_\_, take you, \_\_\_\_\_, to be my lawful wedded 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, till death do us part.

*May we now have the rings?*

The wedding ring is the outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual bond which unites two loyal hearts in endless love.

\_\_\_\_\_ as you place the ring on the Bride's/Groom's finger, please repeat after me.

(*groom repeats*) \_\_\_\_\_, take this ring, as a symbol and constant reminder of my never ending love and my commitment to you.

(*bride repeats*) \_\_\_\_\_, take this ring, as a symbol and constant reminder of my never ending love and my commitment to you.

As \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ have consented together in lawful wedlock and have witnesses the same before this company, and thereto have pledged their faith each to the other, and have declared the same by joining hands and by giving and receiving a ring; by the powers vested in me, as a justice of the peace for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts,

I now pronounce you husband and wife.

You may now kiss the bride.

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