

Wedding Ceremony 4

Dearly beloved, we are gathered here today to join _____ and _____ in lawful matrimony.

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

I encourage you both to remember that love, loyalty, prayer and faith 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 and sacred.

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, are 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.

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 everlasting love.

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.

(to groom) _____, do you take, _____, to be your lawful wedded wife, to live together in 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?

(to bride) _____, do you take, _____, 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?

(groom repeats) I, _____, take you, _____, to be my wife. Knowing that you will be my constant friend, my faithful partner in life and my one true love. On this special day, I give to you, in the presence of our family and friends, my promise to stay by your side as your husband, in sickness and in health. In joy and in sorrow. In good times and in bad. I promise to love you without reservation. Honor and respect you. Trust in you completely. Always be open and honest with you. Worship and love God with you. Comfort you in times of distress. Encourage you to achieve your goals. And cherish you from now till all eternity.

(bride repeats) I, _____, take you, _____, to be my husband. Knowing that you will be my constant friend, my faithful partner in life and my one true love. On this special day, I give to you, in the presence of our family and friends, my promise to stay by your side as your wife, in sickness and in health. In joy and in sorrow. In good times and in bad. I promise to love you without reservation. Honor and respect you. Trust in you completely. Always be open and honest with you. Worship and love God with you. Comfort you in times of distress. Encourage you to achieve your goals. And cherish you from now till all eternity.

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.

(groom/bride) as you place the ring on each other'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.

Your gift to one another today has been your wedding rings-which shall always be an outward demonstration of your vows of love and respect; and a public showing of your commitment to each other. You now have what remains the most honorable title which may exist between a man and a woman-the title of "husband" and "wife." For your first gift as husband and wife, that gift will be a single rose. In the past, the rose was considered a symbol of love and a single rose always meant only one thing-it meant the words "I love you." So it is appropriate that for your gift-as husband and wife-that gift would be a single rose. Please exchange your first gift as husband and wife. In some ways it seems like you have not done anything at all. Just a moment ago you were holding one small rose and now you're holding one small rose. In some ways, a marriage is like this. On some days, tomorrow is going to seem no different than yesterday. But in fact today, just now, you both have given and received one of the most valuable and precious gift of life. One I hope you will always remember. The gift of true and abiding love within the devotion of love and marriage.

_____ and _____, I would ask that where ever you make your home in the future, that you both pick one very special location for roses; so that on each anniversary of this truly wonderful occasion you both may take a rose to that spot both as a recommitment to your marriage and a recommitment that THIS will be a marriage based upon love. In every marriage there are times where it is difficult to find the right words. It is easiest to hurt who we most love. It is easiest to be hurt by who we most love. Sometimes, it may be difficult to find the words to say "I am sorry", "I forgive you" or "I need you", "I am hurting". If this should happen, if you simply can not find these words, leave a rose at that spot which both of you have selected for that rose. That rose says the words: "I still love you." The other should accept this rose for the words, which cannot be found, and remember the love and hope that you both share today.

_____ and _____, if there is anything you remember of this marriage ceremony, it is that it was love that brought you here today, it is only love, which can make it a glorious union, and it is by love, which your marriage shall endure.

As _____ and _____ have consented together in lawful wedlock and 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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