

Baptist Outside of Church

OPENING

Marriage is one of the blessings which, in His infinite generosity, God has given us to enjoy. We do not come to this moment alone or unaided. Parents and family — and friends, too who share this joy, who have helped shape us, are here. They have loved us and helped us and some, though now gone – strengthen us still, by the legacy of their example and the lessons they taught. All this provides a frame of reference for understanding what the Christian family is about. It also provides a goal for which the Christian couple should strive. Not only enjoying a heritage, but also making and leaving one. So today, we begin a new marriage, start a new family, and open a new chapter in a rich legacy. We have come for the exchange of vows and rings and solemn promises of commitment.

Who Presents (Bride) in Marriage?

Escort answers:

Scripture Readings

Ephesians 5: Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave himself for it . . . So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes it and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church . . . ‘For this reason, a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one. . .’ ...Let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself.

I Peter 3:3 “Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as braided hair and the wearing of gold jewelry and fine clothes. Instead it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God’s sight. For this is the way the holy women of the past who put their hope in God used to make themselves beautiful.”

(Groom), hearing these Scriptures, do you accept them as God’s command for you in Marriage and will you obey God in your marriage as you live with (Bride)?

(Groom): I will, God being my helper]

(Bride), the Scriptures say to the bride...“Wives, submit to your husband’s as to the Lord, for the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands”

(Bride), hearing these Scriptures, do you accept them as God’s command for you in marriage and will you obey God in your marriage as you live with (Groom)?

(Bride): I will, God being my helper]

(Groom) and (Bride), the Scriptures command you both to love each other with a biblical love.

First Corinthians 13 summarizes that kind of love this way:

“Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.”

{Bride} and {Groom}, do you come to this altar vowing that you will love one another in the love of Christ?

[
{Bride} & {Groom}: We do, God being our helper]

Vows

(Groom), take the right hand of (Bride) and repeat to her after me:

I {Groom}, take you {Bride},
to be my 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 us do part,
according to God's holy ordinance.

(Bride), now you likewise, repeat to (Groom) after me:

I (Bride), you take (Groom)
to be my 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, to cherish, and to obey,
till death us do part,
according to God's holy ordinance.

Ring Ceremony

As a sign and seal of this covenant (Groom) and (Bride) each possess a ring for the other, In all ages and among all

People, the ring have been used to seal important covenants. In marriage it remains a ceaseless reminder of this lifetime commitment.

(Groom), you will now seal your vows by placing this ring on (Bride)'s finger and repeating after me:
In token and pledge of our constant faith and abiding love with this ring I thee wed in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit Amen.

(Bride), you likewise will now bind your vows by placing this ring on (Groom)'s finger and repeating after me:

In token and pledge of our constant faith and abiding love with this ring I thee wed in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit Amen.

Unity Candle

As a reminder that a couple once married are no longer two but one, three candles are set up.

(Groom) and (Bride) will light the third unlit candle to symbolize the establishment of a new home.

(Groom) and (Bride), you have expressed your desire for a Christ-honoring marriage. It was Jesus, upon whom you are building your marriage, who made this claim:

“I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness” And He told us, that as His people...“You are the light of the world. Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and praise your Father in heaven” As you enter marriage, may the light of His presence in your lives together – and His work through you – shine as light in the darkness. And as you have taken two separate candles and blended them into one new flame, may the Lord unite you as a new family in one faith, with a shared commitment to the one true God.

Prayer Time with Congregation

I am going to ask each member of this assembly to have an important part in this ceremony – not only witnessing the vows, but also – by joining in silent prayer, asking God to bless this union. Let us bow for prayer: With our heads bowed, would you pray that God will protect this union and bless it with many happy and healthy years. Ask God to grow the love (Groom) and (Bride) have for one another as the years go by, enabling each one to delight increasingly in the other. Pray that God would bless them in their Christian walk and service, using them individually and as a couple to be a blessing in the lives of others. Think of the possible challenges ahead. Pray that God will enable them to always rely on His grace. Pray that children to come in the years ahead will come to Christ in their youth and will grow to be strong in the Lord. Father, we thank you that today you are joining together (Groom) and (Bride). We pray that this marriage will be blessed and be a blessing. Amen

PRONOUNCEMENT

{Groom} and {Bride}, you have entered into covenant vows and have exchanged rings as tokens of your commitment. Publicly, legally, and deliberately have you entered into the holy state of matrimony, Wherefore, I now pronounce you husband and wife. And what God has joined together let not man put asunder.

Kiss

You may kiss your bride.

Introduction

Ladies and Gentlemen: I proudly introduce to you, for the first time as man and wife,
Mr. and Mrs. _____