

Christian Wedding Ceremony

(Just the Two of Us)

Or Simple Ceremony

OPENING STATEMENT

"Dearly Beloved: We are gathered here, in the presence of God and of this company, that _____ and _____ may be united in holy matrimony. We are here to celebrate and share in the glorious act that God is about to perform - the act by which He converts their love for one another into the holy and sacred estate of marriage.

This relationship is an honorable and sacred one, established by our Creator for the welfare and happiness of mankind, and approved by the Apostle Paul as honorable among all men. It is designed to unite two sympathies and hopes into one; and it rests upon the mutual confidence and devotion of husband and wife.

May it be in extreme thoughtfulness and reverence, and in dependence upon divine guidance, that you enter now into this holy relationship."

DECLARATION OF INTENTION & Reading combined

"The apostle Paul compared the relationship between husband and wife to that between Christ and the church. Marriage is a decision of two individuals to share the same type of pure, Christian love described by Paul."

1 Cor 13:4-8, 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, and always perseveres. Love never fails....

"This kind of love enriches each part of life and marriage enriches love. Two lives, shared with this kind of love, can hold more fulfillment and happiness than either life alone."

"____ (GROOM). Are you ready to enter into this marriage with ____ (BRIDE), believing the love you share and your faith in each other will endure all things?"

GROOM "I am."

"____ (BRIDE), are you ready to enter into this marriage with ____ (GROOM), believing the love you share and your faith in each other will endure all things?"

BRIDE "I am."

Hand Blessing Optional

For those times when life presents all of us with challenges, I would you to remember this:

"These are the hands of your best friend, young and strong and full of love for you, that are holding yours on your wedding day, as you promise to love each other today, tomorrow, and forever."

"These are the hands that will work alongside yours, as together you build your future."

“These are the hands that will passionately love you and cherish you through the years and with the slightest touch will comfort you like no other.”

“These are the hands that will hold you when fear or grief wracks your mind.”

“These are the hands that will tenderly hold your children and support your grandchildren

“These are the hands that will help you to hold your family as one.”

“These are the hands that will give you strength when you need it.”

“And lastly, these are the hands that – even when wrinkled and aged – will still be reaching for yours, still giving you the same unspoken tenderness with just a touch.”

“Bless these hands that you see before you this day. May they always be held by one another. Give them the strength to hold on during the storms of stress and the dark of disillusionment. Keep them tender and gentle as they nurture each other in their wondrous love. Help these hands to continue building this relationship, rich in caring and devoted to reaching for perfection. May [GROOM’S NAME] and [BRIDE’S NAME] see their four hands as healer, protector, shelter and guide. May these hands and this relationship be blessed for all time.”

MARRIAGE VOWS

Option 1 : Repeat after Vows

_____, repeat after me: I, _____, take you _____, 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 as long as we both shall live.

_____, repeat after me: I, _____, take you _____, 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 and to cherish as long as we both shall live.

Option 2: Respond “I Do” Vows:

Groom Do you take bride to be your wedded wife? (I DO)

Do you promise to be a tender faithful husband? (I Do)

Do you promise to Love, Honor and cherish her in sickness and in Health, for richer or poorer, for better or for worse as long as you both shall live? (I Do)

Bride Do You take Groom to be your wedded husband? (I DO)

Do you promise to be a tender faithful wife? (I Do)

Do you promise to Love, Honor and cherish him in sickness and in Health, for richer or poorer, for better or for worse as long as you both shall live? (I Do)

Option 3: Your own vows

Rings:

Rings are a precious metal; they are also made precious by us wearing them. Your wedding rings are special they enhance who you are. They mark the beginning of your long journey together. Your wedding ring is a circle a symbol of love never ending. It is the seal of the vows you have just taken to love each other with end.

_____ please place the ring on Brides left hand and repeat after me:

A: I give you this ring as a symbol of my vows, I promise to love you today tomorrow always

B: I give you this ring that I am bound to you always through my love, with my soul and all of my heart

C: I give you this ring as a sign of my love that I have chosen you above all else with this ring I thee wed

DECLARATION OF THE MARRIAGE

"Prayer of Love" Author Unknown

"Our prayer for you is this: That you will always remember the qualities that attracted you to each other when you first met and how you felt as your feelings of attraction turned into respect, admiration and finally love. That you will work hard to turn your feelings of love into acts of love so that nothing and no one can divide you, that you will always have kind and loving hearts that are quick to ask for forgiveness when you are wrong as well as to forgive when your partner is wrong. That your love might grow to hear all things, believe all things, and hope for all things, endure all things. We pray you place your marriage in God's hands and that your love increases and overflow, beyond anything you can yet imagine."

"What therefore God hath joined together, let no man put asunder. Forasmuch as _____ and _____ have consented together in holy matrimony, and have witnessed the same before God and this company and have pledged their love and loyalty to each other, and have declared the same by the joining and the giving of rings, I, therefore, by the authority of the state of Florida pronounce that they are husband and wife

"Groom you may now kiss your Bride."

PRESENTATION

"I now present to you Mr. and Mrs. _____ ."