

Presbyterian Marriage Ceremony

OPENING REMARKS

Marriage is a natural form of relationship. The concept of marriage was established by God in creation, and our Lord commanded this manner of life by his presence and first miracle at a wedding. The union of husband and wife in heart, body, and mind is intended by God for their mutual joy, and for the help and comfort given one another in prosperity and adversity.

Marriage is not to be entered into unadvisedly or lightly. It is meant to begin as you are doing now; with preparation, Thoughtfulness and reverence. All in accord with the purposes for which it was instituted

Marriage is a reflection of how God wants us to join ourselves to Him. Marriage is at its best when we love and marry our best friend; when motivated by love, we seek the truth in each event and act on that truth; when we grow in understanding and acceptance of ourselves and our partner; and when God is included as a Companion in our relationship.

THE READINGS

The Scripture declares: Love is patient and kind; it is not selfish or rude. Love does not demand its own way, it is not irritable or touchy. It does not hold grudges. Love is never glad about injustices; it delights when truth wins out. Therefore, let love be your first and greatest aim in life.

(Groom) and (Bride), may these values and this form of love be yours the rest of your lives

A PRAYER

Eternal Father, Divine Mother, Beloved Friend, we ask for your blessing on the marriage of (Bride) and (Groom) who come to you seeking Your blessing. Make them rich with your peace whereby they may enjoy the comforts, and share in the experiences, insights and lessons of life. May they grow individually and as a supportive and loving couple May they experience your presence, love and guidance every day. Amen.

QUESTION TO PARENTS

Do you (Father & Mother) give your blessing to your daughter in her marriage to (Groom) and do you now welcome him into your family?

Do you (Father & Mother), give your blessing to your son in his marriage to (Bride) and do you now welcome her into your family?

QUESTION TO CHILDREN BY A FORMER MARRIAGE (IF THEY ARE WILLING TO PARTICIPATE).

Do you (Names) give your blessing to your father/mother in his/her marriage to(Name), and do you now welcome him/her into your family?

QUESTION TO THE GUESTS

During the wedding ceremony it appears that one individual is marrying another individual. And there is, of course, a way in which that is so. However, the truth is that we marry into one another's families and into each other's extended families. We need people with us not only on days like this

when a once-in-a-lifetime celebration is taking place but also when tragedy and difficulty arise. We need friends who will not abandon us under any circumstances or in any way. You are those friends for (Bride & Groom). Therefore, will all of you witnessing these promises do all in your power to uphold these two persons in their marriage?

THE DECLARATION OF COMMITMENT

(Groom), at this time do you commit yourself to (Bride) and, before God and these friends, declare your intention to be her husband, to share your life openly with her, to speak the truth to her in love to treat her with respect and encourage her own fulfillment through all the circumstances that life may bring?

(Bride), at this time do you commit yourself to (Groom), and, before God and these friends declare your intention to be his wife, to share your life openly with him, to speak the truth to him in love to treat him with respect and encourage his own fulfillment, through all circumstances that life may bring?

THE VOWS

(Bride), I promise, with God's help, to be your faithful husband, to act with love and honor toward you, and do all I can to help you.

(Groom) I promise, with God's help, to be your faithful wife to act with love and honor toward you, and do all I can to help you.

THE EXCHANGE OF RINGS

The circle is a symbol of God, for neither comes to an end. The circle also symbolizes God's love for you which like Himself, will never end.

Your rings also serve as reminders. Throughout your lifetime as you look at these rings, they will remind you of this moment of the vow you have just made, of God's unending love, and of your love for one another. Over the years your rings will gain in value for they are the constant symbol at your lifetime together.

(Bride/Groom) I give you this ring as a symbol of my promise.

THE PRAYER

Eternal God: we ask your blessing on (Groom) and (Bride). Strengthen them with the experience of your love and guidance. Help them to fulfill the vows they have now taken. Guide them in the manner and way you choose so that they may love you and one another all the days of their lives. Enable them to help, encourage, comfort and support one another from now on. In the name of our Lord we pray for them. Amen.

THE DECLARATION

(Groom) and (Bride), for in as much as you have pledged yourself to one another in this affirmation of love and commitment, you are now husband and wife.

THE BLESSING

The Lord blesses you and keeps you. The Lord makes his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lifts up his countenance upon you and gives you peace, both today and forever. Amen.

THE KISS

When this ceremony began you, (Groom), were a groom, and you, (Bride) were a bride. Now. (Groom), you are a husband and you, (Bride), are a wife. (Groom), you may kiss your wife.

THE INTRODUCTION

Ladies and gentlemen, it is my privilege to introduce to you, Mr. and Mrs. (Name).