

# **Standard Wedding Ceremony**

## **Have Everyone Stand!**

### **Opening Remarks - "The Call to Worship"**

Dear friends, we are here assembled in the presence of God to unite \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in marriage. The Bible teaches that marriage is to be a permanent relationship of one man and one woman freely and totally committed to each other as companions for life. Our Lord declared that a man shall leave his father and mother and unite with his wife in the building of a home, and the two shall become one flesh.

### **Who gives the Bride to be married?**

\_\_\_\_\_ have you prayed about this union with \_\_\_\_\_ and do you believe this is God's perfect will for your life? **I Have**

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### **The Opening Prayer**

Heavenly Father, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ are now about to pledge their unending loyalty to each other. We ask you to accept this union which they offer to you. Grant them everything they need that they may increase in their knowledge of you throughout the rest of their life together. We thank you for their love for each other and pray that you will bless them, in Jesus Name. Amen.

### **Congregation is Seated**

### **The Meaning of Marriage**

The home is built upon Love, which virtue is best portrayed in the 13<sup>th</sup> chapter of Paul's first letter to the Corinthians. "Love is patient and kind; love is not jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrong, but rejoices in the right. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends...so faith, hope, love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love." (I Cor. 13: 4-13)

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## **The true meaning of marriage is love.**

By love, I mean not just what we feel but what we do. Love just as a feeling is very flimsy, and up and down roller coaster.

## **Love is an action! Love has to be unconditional!**

## **It's a death to one's self that another may live and benefit from your sacrifice.**

## **The foundation of marriage is love, trust, and forgiveness.**

In marriage, many days will bring happiness, while other days may be sad. But together, two hearts can overcome everything....

Reaching out to each other as a friend, and becoming the confidant and companion that the other needs, is the true magic and beauty of any two people together. It's never giving up no matter what....

**In Malachi 2:14** we see that marriage is a **holy covenant** before God.

In the Jewish custom, God's people signed a written agreement at the time of the marriage to seal the covenant. The marriage ceremony, therefore, is meant to be a public demonstration of a couple's commitment to a covenant relationship.

## **It's not the "ceremony" that's important in a marriage, it's the couple's covenant commitment before God and men.**

## **Romans 12:9-10 - The Message**

Love from the center of who you are; don't fake it. Run for dear life from evil; hold on for dear life to good. Be good friends who love deeply; practice playing second fiddle.

## **The Charge to Bride and Groom**

Marriage is a companionship which involves mutual commitment and responsibility. You will share alike in the joys and responsibilities in life. When companions share a sorrow, the sorrow is halved, and when they share a joy, the joy is doubled.

You are exhorted to dedicate your home to your Creator. Take His word, The Bible, for your guide. Give loyal devotion to His church, thus uniting the mutual strength of these two most important institutions, living your lives as His willing servants, and true happiness will be your temporal and eternal reward.

"What greater thing is there for two human souls, than to feel they are joined for life - to strengthen each other in all labor, to rest on each other in all sorrow, to minister to each other in all pain, to be one with each other in silent unspeakable memories at the moment of the last parting". Penned by: George Elliot

### **The Pledge**

**GROOM:** \_\_\_\_\_, will you have \_\_\_\_\_ to be your wedded wife, to live together in the covenant of faith, hope, and love according to the intention of God for your lives together in Jesus Christ? Will you listen to her inmost thoughts, be considerate and tender in your care of her, and stand by her faithfully in sickness and in health, and, preferring her above all others, accept full responsibility for her every necessity for as long as you both shall live? **!**  
**Do**

**BRIDE:** \_\_\_\_\_, will you have \_\_\_\_\_ to be your wedded husband, to live together in the covenant of faith, hope, and love according to the intention of God for your lives together in Jesus Christ? Will you listen to his inmost thoughts, be considerate and tender in your care of him, and stand by him faithfully in sickness and in health, and, preferring him above all others, accept full responsibility for his every necessity for as long as you both shall live? **!**  
**Do**

### **Wedding Vows: Turn and face each other / Repeat after me**

**Groom:** To you \_\_\_\_\_, before the Lord, I vow and pledge that I will love you and cherish you; I will honor you as the one the Lord and I have chosen to share life with. I will forsake all others to have only you, and in so doing, I will look to you as my equal in sharing the life and the path that the Lord will lead us.

**Bride:** To you \_\_\_\_\_, before the Lord, I vow and pledge that I will love you and cherish you; I will honor you as the one the Lord and I have chosen to share life with. I will forsake all others to have only you, and in so doing, I will look to you as my equal in sharing the life and the path that the Lord will lead us.

**Unity** – (If requested)

## **Exchanging of the Rings (You will have rings before ceremony begins)**

**Minister: Let us pray. Bless, O Lord, the giving and receiving of these rings.**

May \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ abide in Your peace and grow in their knowledge of Your presence through their loving union. May the seamless circle of these rings continue to be the symbol of their endless love and serve to remind them of the holy covenant of marriage, to be faithful, loving, and kind to each other. Dear God, may they live in Your grace and be forever true to this union. Amen."

## **The wedding ring is a symbol of marriage in at least two ways:**

- 1.the purity of gold or silver symbolizes the purity of your love for each other,
- 2.And the unending circle symbolizes the unending vows which you are taking.

## **As a token of your vows, you will give and receive the rings.**

**Minister To Groom:** \_\_\_\_\_, you will give this ring and repeat after me:  
\_\_\_\_\_, take this ring as a seal upon the marriage vows I have spoken and , as you wear it, may it be a reminder of how much I love you, not only on this precious day, but every single day of your life."

**Minister To Bride:** \_\_\_\_\_, you will give this ring and repeat after me:  
\_\_\_\_\_, take this ring as a seal upon the marriage vows I have spoken and , as you wear it, may it be a reminder of how much I love you, not only on this precious day, but every single day of your life."

## **The Pronouncement**

Having pledged your faith in, and love to each other, and having sealed your solemn vows, looking to God for guidance and direction. Let all men take care in the sight of God that these vows shall ever remain sacred.

## **The Kiss**

Minister: \_\_\_\_\_, you may now kiss your Bride.

## **Presentation of the Couple**

Minister: Ladies and gentlemen it is now my awesome privilege to introduce to you,  
Mr. and Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_.