

To Love And To Cherish Is My Solemn Vow Wedding Ceremony

Greeting

The Wedding Minister/Officiant faces the guests. The Bride and her Attendants stand to the right of the Officiant. The Groom and his Attendants stand to the left of the Officiant. The Bride and Groom stand facing the Officiant/Minister.

Officiant:

Dearly beloved, we have come together in the presence of God to witness and bless the joining together of this man and this woman in holy matrimony. The bond and covenant of marriage was established by God. Therefore marriage is not to be entered into unadvisedly or lightly, but reverently and deliberately.

Into this holy union _____ and _____ now come to be joined. If any of you can show just cause why they may not lawfully be married, speak now; or else forever hold your peace.

Invocation

Officiant:

Let us pray,

O gracious God, we give thanks to you for your gift of enduring love and your presence here with us now as we witness the vows of marriage between _____ and _____.

Presentation of the Bride or Bride and Groom

Officiant: Who presents this woman to be married to this man?

Or Officiant: Who presents these individuals to be married?

The parent(s) or designated person(s) responds: I do

Or, in unison: We do.

If the Bride has not already handed her bouquet to her Maid/Matron of honor, she will do so now, and her father gives her hand to the groom, he usually kisses his daughter and shakes the Grooms hand then he takes his seat. This Presentation of the Bride is optional and can be adapted to the situation or can be left out completely.

Charge to Bride and Groom

Officiant:

I require and charge you both, that if either of you know any reason why you may not be united in marriage lawfully that you do now confess it.

Betrothal

Bride and Groom face each other holding hands.

Officiant: *To Groom:*

_____, will you have this woman to be your wife; to love together in the covenant of marriage? Will you love her, comfort her, honor and keep her, in sickness and in health; and, forsaking all others, be faithful to her as long as you both shall live?

The groom answers: I will

Officiant: *To Bride:*

_____, will you have this man to be your husband; to live together in the covenant of marriage? Will you love him, comfort him, in sickness and in health; and, forsaking all others, be faithful to him as long as you both shall live?

Bride answers: I will.

Vows

Officiant: *To Groom:* Repeat after me.

The following can be broken down line by line instead of said all at once.

In the name of God, I, _____, take you, _____, to be my 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, until we are parted by death. This is my solemn vow.

Officiant: *To Bride:* Repeat after me.

The following can be broken down line by line instead of said all at once.

In the name of God, I, _____, take you, _____, to be my 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, until we are parted by death. This is my solemn vow.

Blessing of the rings

Officiant:

To the Best Man or Ringbearer: May we now have the rings?

The designated person gives the rings to the Officiant. Or in a smaller/simpler ceremony without a Best Man or Ringbearer the Officiant will already have the rings.

Officiant:

Bless, O Lord, these rings to be a sign of the vows by which this man and this woman have bound themselves to each other. Amen.

Exchange of rings

Officiant: *To Groom:*

_____ will you take this ring and place it upon _____'s finger and as you do, repeat after me, these words:

The following can be broken down line by line instead of said all at once.

_____, I give you this ring as a symbol of my vow, and with all that I am, and all that I have, I honor you, in the name of God.

Officiant: *To Bride:*

_____ will you take this ring and place it upon _____'s finger and as you do, repeat after me, these words:

The following can be broken down line by line instead of said all at once.

_____, I give you this ring as a symbol of my vow, and with all that I am, and all that I have, I honor you, in the name of God.

Wedding prayer

Officiant:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, giver of all grace, look with favor upon this man and this woman and give them wisdom and devotion in the ordering of their common life, that each may be to the other a strength in need, a counselor in perplexity, a comfort in sorrow, and a companion in joy. Amen.

The Blessing

Officiant:

Most gracious God, by the power of your Divinity, pour out the abundance of your blessing upon this man and this woman. Let their love for each other be a seal upon their hearts so that they may love, honor and cherish each other in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness, so that their home may be a haven of blessing and peace. Amen.

Pronouncement

Officiant:

Now that _____ and _____ have given themselves to each other by solemn vows, with the joining of hands and the giving and receiving rings, I pronounce that they are husband and wife.

You may kiss the bride!

Benediction

Officiant: Peace be with you always.

Announcement as Newlyweds

Bride and Groom turn to face the guests as the officiant presents the couple.

Officiant: It is with great honor I present to you Mr. and Mrs. _____!

The Maid/Matron of Honor hands the bouquet to the Bride. The Bride and Groom walk down the aisle first, followed by their attendants.

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