

Brief Ceremony

Statement of Purpose

Marriage is as old as the family of man. It was given by our Creator in the Garden of Eden in the state of innocence. Moses, the great lawgiver of Israel, first gave legal sanction, and our Lord Jesus Christ, when He was upon the earth, gave it spiritual sanction.

Rightly regarded, marriage is the highest and happiest of human relationships, the preserver of true love, the foundation of the home, and the strength of society. The Scriptures teach us that marriage should "be held in honor among all."

If you have both duly considered this relationship upon which you are about to enter, please indicate by joining your right hands.

The Marriage Vows

TO GROOM: G _____, do you take this woman, whose right hand you now hold, to be your wedded wife, and do you promise before God and these witnesses that you will be to her a true and devoted husband; true to her in sickness and in health, in joy and in sorrow, in prosperity and in adversity; and that forsaking all others you will keep yourself to her, and to her, and to her only, until God shall separate you by death?

If so, answer "I do."

TO BRIDE: B _____, do you take this man, whose right hand you now hold, to be your wedded husband, and do you promise before God and these witnesses that you will be to her a true and devoted wife; true to him in sickness and in health, in joy and in sorrow, in prosperity and in adversity; and that forsaking all others you will keep yourself to him, and to him, and to him only, until God shall separate you by death?

If so, answer "I do."

The Exchange of Vows

If a ring (or rings) will be used, the minister shall say:

May this golden circle, the emblem of an untarnished eternity, be the sign and seal of a pure and imperishable faith you have now pledged to each other.

The minister will give the ring to the groom, who will then place it upon the third finger of the bride's left hand. The minister shall then continue:

The Pronouncement of Marriage

Therefore, by virtue of the authority vested in me as a minister of the gospel of Christ, and in accordance with the laws of God and the sovereign State of _____, I now pronounce you husband and wife—one in name, one in aim, and one, we trust, in a happy destiny. "What God has joined together, let man not separate."

Prayer for the Bride and Groom

Our Father, we thank You for the joy of living, and especially for the joys of love and marriage. You have loved us, and You have made us so that we can love and be loved in return.

Thank You that we need not walk the road alone, but that You provide someone to share our dreams and comfort us in our sorrows. Father bless these Your children today as they begin their lives together as husband and wife. Preserve and protect this love they have expressed. May they know happiness and fulfillment; may they experience contentment and peace.

As they come to know each other better, may they also learn to know You, so that their home becomes a beacon to others of that life and joy which are eternal.

In Jesus' name we pray, amen.