

Nine Sample Ceremonies

Marriage Ceremony No. 1

Convocation

Dear Grm and Bde,

Today, you are surrounded by your friends and family. All of whom are gathered to witness your marriage and to share in the joy of this occasion that should be one of the most memorable and happy days of your life.

Life has no singular meaning so much as it is composed of many meaningful events, some of which can be specified and planned for. One of these events is marriage.

As you know, no wedding officiant can marry you. Only you can marry yourselves, by a mutual commitment to love each other, to work toward creating an atmosphere of care and consideration and respect. By a willingness to face the tensions and anxieties that underlie human life - you can make your wedded life come alive.

On this, the day of your marriage, you stand somewhat apart from all other human beings. You stand within the charmed circle of your love, and this is as it should be. But love is not meant to be the possession of two people alone. Rather, it should serve as a source of common energy, as a form in which you find the strength to live your lives with courage. From this day onward you must come closer together than ever before. You must love one another in sickness and in health, for better and for worse, but, at the same time, your love should give you the strength to stand apart, to seek out your unique destinies, to make your special contribution to the world which is always part of us and really more than us.

The surest basis for marriage is friendship, the sharing of real interests, the ability to discuss ideas together and understand each other's thoughts and dreams.

Music or Reading may be added here.

Today, as you join yourselves in marriage, there is a vast and unknown future stretching out before you. The possibilities and potentials of your married life are great and exciting.

Grm and Bde, I hope you both will remember that love and loyalty alone can avail as the foundation of a happy and enduring home. No other ties are more tender, no other vows more sacred than those you now assume. If you constantly work to keep these vows, your life will be full of joy and the home that you are establishing will abide in peace.

I should like at this time to try to speak of some of the things that we wish for you. We wish for you a love that makes both of you better people, that continues to give you joy and zest for living, that provides you with energy to face the responsibilities of life.

We wish for you a home, not a place of stone and wood, but an island of sanity and serenity in an often-troubled world. We hope that this home is not just a place of private joy and retreat, but rather serves as a temple wherein the values of your lives are generated and upheld. We hope that your home stands as a symbol of people living together in love and peace. We hope that your home encompasses the beauty of nature, that it has within it the elements of simplicity, exuberance, silence, color, and a concordance with the rhythms of life. We wish for you a home with books and poetry and music, a home with all the things that represent the highest strivings of men and women.

We wish for your children to go forth to re-create the values you shall have instilled in them. We hope that you will give your children the freedom to find their own way, that you will stand by them when they need you and will stand aside when it is time for them to seek their personal destinies. But we hope you will pass on to your children the concept of family; which brings people close in times of joy, in times of sorrow, and in times of need.

Finally, we wish that at the end of your lives you will be able to say these two things to each other, "Because you have loved me, you have given me faith in myself; and because I have seen the good in you, I have received from you a faith in humanity."

Music or Reading may be added here.

Expression of Intent

Grm and Bde, please join hands and give your vows.

The Bride hands her flowers to the Maid of Honor.

The Bride and Groom face each other and hold both hands.

To Groom: Will you, Grm, have this woman for your wedded wife, to live together in matrimony? Will you love her, comfort her, honor and keep her in sickness and in health, and forsaking all others, keep yourself only unto her?

If yes, say "I will."

To Bride: Will you, Bde, have this man for your wedded husband, to live together in matrimony? Will you love him, comfort him, honor and keep him in sickness and in health, and forsaking all others, keep yourself only unto him?

If yes say, "I will."

Vows and Exchange of Rings

To Groom: Grm, please repeat after me.

I, Grm, / take thee, Bde, / for 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.

The Best Man passes the Bride's ring to the Groom.

Receive this ring / as a token of my love. / May it always be a symbol / of my eternal love / and faithfulness to you.

To Bride: Bde, please repeat after me.

I, Bde, / take thee, Grm, / for 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.

The Maid of Honor hands the Groom's ring to the Bride.

Receive this ring / as a token of my love. / May it always be a symbol / of my eternal love / and faithfulness to you.

Lighting of Unity Candle

Music

Pronouncement of Marriage

Grm and Bde have joined together in holy wedlock, witnessed the same before God and this company of friends and family, given their love, each to the other, and declared this love by the giving and receiving of rings. By the power vested in me by the State of Minnesota, I now pronounce you husband and wife. Please seal your vows with a kiss.

The Maid of Honor returns the flowers to the Bride.

Benediction

See sample Benedictions

Introduction of the Couple

It is my pleasure to present Grm and Bde, husband and wife.

Marriage Ceremony No. 2

Convocation

Friends, we are gathered here at this hour to witness and to celebrate the coming together of two separate lives. We have come to join this man, Grm, and this woman, Bde, in marriage, to be with them and rejoice with them in the making of this important commitment. The essence of this commitment is the acceptance of another person in his or her entirety, as lover, companion, and friend.

It is therefore a decision which is not to be entered into lightly, but rather undertaken with great consideration and respect for both the other person and oneself.

Love is one of the highest experiences that we as human beings can have. It can add depth of meaning to our lives. The sensual part of love is one of life's greatest joys, and when this is combined with real friendship, both are infinitely enhanced. The day-to-day companionship - the pleasure in doing things together, or in doing separate things but in

delighting to exchange experiences - is a continuous and central part of what two people who love each other can share.

Marriage symbolizes the intimate sharing of two lives, yet this sharing must not diminish, but enhance the individuality of each partner. A marriage that lasts is one which is continually developing and in which each person is individually developing while growing in understanding of the other. Deep knowledge of another is not something that can be achieved in a short time, and the real understanding of the other's feelings can fully develop only with years of intimacy.

This wonderful knowledge of another person grows out of really caring for the other so much that one wants to understand as completely as possible what the other is feeling. Thus it is possible to share not only joys and successes, but also the burden of sorrows and disappointments.

To be known in this way is a priceless thing, because such understanding and acceptance makes it easier to live with our problems, our failings and our worries.

While marriage is the intimate sharing of two lives, it can enhance the differences and individuality of each partner. We must give ourselves in love, but we must not give ourselves away. A good and a balanced relationship is one in which neither person is overpowered or absorbed by the other.

Thus it is out of the tension between separateness and union that love, whose incredible strength is equal only to its incredible fragility, is born.

Music or Reading may be added here.

We are here today to celebrate the love that Grm and Bde have for each other, and to recognize their decision to accept each other totally and permanently. Into this state of marriage these two persons come to be united.

Vows and Exchange of Rings

Grm and Bde, please join hands and give your vows.

The Bride hands her flowers to the Maid of Honor.

The Best Man hands the Bride's ring to the Groom.

To Groom: Grm, please place this ring on Bde's finger.

Do you, Grm, take Bde, as your wife? Do you pledge to share your life openly with her, to speak the truth to her in love; do you promise to tenderly care for her, to cherish and encourage her own fulfillment as an individual through all the changes of your lives?

If yes, say "I do."

The Maid of Honor hands the Groom's ring to the Bride.

To Bride: Bde, please place this ring on Grm's finger.

Do you, Bde, take Grm, as your husband? Do you pledge to share your life openly with him, to speak the truth to him in love; do you promise to tenderly care for him, to cherish and encourage his own fulfillment as an individual through all the changes of your lives?

If yes, say "I do."

May these two people, now married, keep this covenant that they have made. May they be a blessing and a comfort to each other, sharers of each other's joys, consolers in each other's sorrows, helpers to each other in all the challenges of life. May they encourage each other in whatever they set out to achieve. May they trust in each other, trust life and not be afraid. Yet may they not only accept and give affection between themselves, but also together have affection and consideration for others.

Pronouncement of Marriage

We who are present, and those who are absent thinking of these two people, hope that the inspiration of this hour will not be forgotten. May they continue to love one another forever. By the power vested in me by the State of Minnesota, I now pronounce you husband and wife.

Please seal your vows with a kiss.

The Maid of Honor returns the flowers to the Bride.

Benediction

See sample Benedictions

Introduction of the Couple

It is my honor to present Grm and Bde, husband and wife.

Marriage Ceremony No. 3

This ceremony is from the "Old English" traditional vows.

Convocation

For as much as marriage is an estate to be held in honor by all, it becomes those who enter therein to consider the same with reverent and thoughtful minds, and in the complete and unreserved love of each for the other.

We have come together to join this man, Grm, and this woman, Bde, in the bonds of Matrimony. Let us, therefore, remember that God has established and sanctified marriage for the welfare and happiness of mankind.

Expression of Intent

Grm and Bde, please join hands and give your vows.

The Bride hands her flowers to the Maid of Honor

The Bride and Groom face each other and hold both hands.

To Groom: Will you, Grm, have this woman for your wedded wife to live together in matrimony? Will you love her, comfort her, honor and keep her in sickness and in health, and forsaking all others, keeping yourself only unto her?

If yes, say "I will."

To Bride: Will you, Bde, have this man for your wedded husband to live together in matrimony? Will you love him, comfort him, honor and keep him in sickness and in health, and forsaking all others, keeping yourself only unto him?

If yes, say: "I will."

Vows and Exchange of Rings

To Groom: Grm, please repeat after me.

I, Grm, / take thee, Bde, / for my wedded wife, / to have and to hold, / from this day forward, / to love and to cherish, / for better for worse, / for richer for poorer, / in good times and in bad, / in sickness and in health, / as long as we both shall live.

The Best Man hands the Bride's ring to the Groom.

Receive this ring / as a token of my wedded love.

To Bride: Bde, please repeat after me.

I, Bde, / take thee, Grm, / for my wedded husband, / to have and to hold, / from this day forward, / to love and to cherish, / for better for worse, / for richer for poorer, / in good times and in bad, / in sickness and in health, / as long as we both shall live.

The Maid of Honor hands the Groom's ring to the Bride.

Receive this ring / as a token of my wedded love.

By this act of joining hands, and the exchange of vows and rings, you do now solemnly declare, in the presence of God and of these witnesses, that you take each other as husband and wife, and engage to love and to honor, and to comfort and to cherish each other so long as you both shall live.

Pronouncement of Marriage

For inasmuch as Grm and Bde have consented together in wedlock, and have declared the same before me and in the presence of this company, by the power vested in me by the State of Minnesota, I now pronounce you husband and wife. Please seal your vows with a kiss.

The Maid of Honor returns the flowers to the Bride.

Benediction

See sample Benedictions

Introduction

It is my honor to present Grm and Bde, husband and wife.

Marriage Ceremony No. 4 - A short ceremony.

Convocation

Dear Bde and Grm,

In this quiet and special hour, you now appear to solemnize in marriage publicly the covenant you have already made in your own hearts.

Expression of Intent

Grm and Bde, please join hands and give your vows.

The Bride hands her flowers to the Maid of Honor.

The Bride and Groom face each other and hold both hands.

To Groom: Grm, do you take Bde, to be your wedded wife, to share your life with her, and do you pledge that you will love, honor and cherish her, through all the varying circumstances of your life?

If yes, say "I do."

To Bride: Bde, do you take Grm, to be your wedded husband, to share your life with him, and do you pledge that you will love, honor and cherish him, through all the varying circumstances of your life?

If yes, say "I do."

Vows and Exchange of Rings

To Groom: Grm, please repeat after me.

I, Grm, / take you Bde, / to be my wife, / and I commit my life to you, / including all sorrows and joys, / all hardships and triumphs, / all the experiences of life, / a commitment made in love, / kept in faith, / and lived in hope.

The Best Man hands the Bride's ring to the Groom.

With this ring, / I thee wed, / and promise you / my undying love and affection.

To Bride: Bde, please repeat after me.

I, Bde, / take you Grm, / to be my husband, / and I commit my life to you, / including all sorrows and joys, / all hardships and triumphs, / all the experiences of life, / a commitment made in love, / kept in faith, / and lived in hope.

The Maid of Honor hands the Groom's ring to the Bride.

With this ring, / I thee wed, / and promise you / my undying love and affection.

Pronouncement of Marriage

In view of the exchange of vows and rings by Grm and Bde in the presence of family and friends, by the authority vested in me by the State of Minnesota, I pronounce you husband and wife. Please seal your vows with a kiss.

The Maid of Honor returns the flowers to the Bride.

Benediction

See sample Benedictions

Introduction of the Couple

It is my honor to present Grm and Bde, husband and wife.

Marriage Ceremony No. 5

Convocation

In this quiet and special hour, you now appear to solemnize in marriage publicly the covenant you have already made in your own hearts.

There is an old saying that “The course of true love never runs smoothly” and you will find in the early days and months of this marriage that many adjustments will occur, concessions

will be given and sacrifices made because your marriage is to be happy, successful, and permanent.

A true marriage is always entered into thoughtfully, lovingly, reverently, and happily with a deep understanding of the sacredness of such a relationship. A successful and happy marriage is truly the most noble and beautiful of all human relationships, which requires for its success, consideration and respect for the individuality of each other, unselfish love, and the exercise of all that is best in the human heart and mind.

And fortunate indeed are the man and woman who have found the right mate and resolve with high purpose that none of the minor trials and tribulations of life shall, in any way, be allowed to interfere with their happiness, and most of all, their love for each other.

Music or Reading may be added here.

Marriage Vows

Grm and Bde, please join hands and give your vows.

The Bride hands her flowers to the Maid of Honor.

The Bride and Groom face each other and hold both hands.

To Groom: Do you, Grm, take this woman whose hands you now hold, choosing her from all the world, to be your lawfully wedded wife?

If yes, say "I do."

To Groom: And do you promise to endeavor to summon your own highest self, to truly love her, to cherish her, and to uphold her while you walk life's pathway together?

If yes, say "I do."

To Bride: Do you, Bde, take this man, whose hands you now hold, choosing him alone from all the world, to be your lawfully wedded husband?

If yes, say "I do."

To Bride: And do you promise to summon the best there is in you to truly love him, to cherish him, and to encourage the best there is in him as you travel life's road together?

If yes, say "I do."

Exchange of Rings

The Best Man hands the Bride's ring to the Groom.

To Groom: Grm, this ring is a beautiful and fitting symbol of a perfect marriage, for it has no end. In token of your love and faithfulness, please place it upon Bde's finger telling her these following words.

With this ring, / I thee wed, / and may it always be a symbol / of my eternal love / and faithfulness to you.

The Maid of Honor hands the Groom's ring to the Bride.

To Bride: Bde, let this ring bespeak of the tenderness of your heart, and be a symbol of your love and faithfulness. Please place it upon Grm's finger telling him these following words.

With this ring, / I thee wed, / and I pledge to you / my loving understanding, / my faithfulness, / and my true devotion.

May you both keep this marriage harmonious and happy wherever you go with true love, for only true love will sustain you, enfold you, and prosper you all the days of your life.

Pronouncement of Marriage

In accordance with the power vested in me by the State of Minnesota, I now pronounce you husband and wife. Please seal your vows with a kiss.

The Maid of Honor returns the flowers to the Bride.

Benediction

See sample Benedictions

Introduction of the Couple

It is my honor to present Grm and Bde, husband and wife.

Marriage Ceremony No. 6

Convocation

Beloved family and friends, we are gathered here at this hour to witness and to celebrate the coming together of two separate lives. We have come to join Grm and Bde in marriage, to be with them and rejoice with them in the making of this important commitment. The core of this commitment is the acceptance of another person in his and her entirety, as lover, companion, and friend.

Music or Reading may be added here.

Grm and Bde, marriage is the joining of two lives, the physical and emotional union of two human beings who have separate families and histories, separate destinies and tragedies. It is the merging and intermeshing not only of two bodies and two personalities, but also of two life stories. You are individuals, each of whom has a unique and life-shaping past, and you have willingly chosen to set aside the solitary life and join your lives together.

Today you wed an unknown. In a sense the person you join with now is a stranger about whom you have a magnificent hunch. The person you choose to marry is someone you love, but your partner's depths, and intimate intricacies, you will come to know only in the long unraveling of time. You know enough about your beloved to know that you love, and to be certain that, as time goes on, you will come to enjoy and to love each other even more. Together you are embarking on a journey of discovery and exploration, a path down which you will experience your lives more fully.

Swept up by attraction, attention, romance, and hope, you have agreed to come together for the unknown future, to see where the journey will take you. This companionship on life's journey is the hallmark of marriage, its natural province, its sweetest and most basic gift. To be married means you belong with someone else, that you are no longer alone, that you no longer must eat, sleep, dream, wake, walk, talk, think, and live apart. Indeed, your life is enhanced because you no longer face it unaccompanied. You will now live in the enriching presence of another human being, no longer facing the troubling, heart-rending hurts of your life in isolation.

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In marriage you are delivered from your seclusion, embraced in the nest of human company, so that the sharp teeth of the truth that you were born alone and will die alone is blunted by the miracle of a loving companion.

Marriage also nourishes love. It is the protective environment in which a love that is personal, touching, and real can grow and allow you to develop as individuals, as well as husband and wife. In marriage, you can depend upon the other for the support you need as you grow, because you are saying not only "I love you today" but also, "I promise to love you tomorrow, the next day, and always."

In promising always, you promise to each other time. You promise to exercise your love, to stretch it far enough to embrace the unforeseen realities of the future. You promise to learn to love beyond the levels of your instincts and inclinations, to love in foul weather as well as good, in hard times as well as when you are exhilarated by the pleasures of romance.

You change because of these promises. You shape yourself according to them; you live in their midst and live differently because of them. You feel protected because of them. You try some things and choose not to try others because, having promised, you feel secure. Marriage makes you feel free, to see, to be, and to love. Your soul is protected; your heart has come home.

Music or Reading may be added here.

We are here today then to celebrate the love that Grm and Bde have for each other, and to recognize their decision to accept each other totally and permanently. Into this state of marriage these two persons come to be united.

Marriage Vows

Grm and Bde, please join hands and give your vows.

The Bride hands her flowers to the Maid of Honor.

The Bride and Groom face each other and hold both hands.

To Groom: Will you, Grm, take Bde, for your wedded wife, to live together in Matrimony? Will you love her, comfort her, honor and keep her in sickness and in health, and forsaking all others, keep yourself only unto her?

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If yes, say "I will."

To Bride: Will you, Bde, take Grm, for your wedded husband, to live together in Matrimony? Will you love him, comfort him, honor and keep him in sickness and in health, and forsaking all others, keep yourself only unto him?

If yes, say "I will."

Exchange of Rings

The Best Man hands the Bride's ring to the Groom.

To Groom: Grm, as you place this ring on Bde's finger, please repeat after me.

With this ring / I thee wed.

The Maid of Honor hands the Groom's ring to the Bride.

To Bride: Bde, as you place this ring on Grm's finger, please repeat after me.

With this ring / I thee wed.

Pronouncement of Marriage

For inasmuch as Grm and Bde have consented together in wedlock, and have declared the same before me and in the presence of this company, by the power vested in me by the State of Minnesota, I now pronounce you husband and wife. Please seal your vows with a kiss.

The Maid of Honor returns the flowers to the Bride.

Benediction

See sample Benedictions

Introduction of the Couple

It is my honor to present Grm and Bde, husband and wife.

Marriage Ceremony No. 7

This ceremony includes parts from other ceremonies.

Convocation

Dear Bde and Grm,

Today you are surrounded by your friends and family, all of whom you hold dear. They are gathered here to witness your marriage, and to share in the joy of this occasion, which is one of the most memorable and happy days of your lives. This wedding ceremony does not create a human relationship, but merely affirms it; it is not the seed, but the flowering of a friendship nurtured and blossomed.

As you know, no wedding officiant can marry you. Only you can marry yourselves. By a commitment to love each other, to create an atmosphere of care and consideration and respect, by a willingness to face the responsibilities of life, you can make your wedded life come alive.

And just what is marriage? Though private in nature, marriage is a public expression of love and loyalty, of caring devotion, founded on the cornerstone of a unique intimacy, mutual respect, and empathy. Persons who marry are many, but not all things to each other. Remaining individuals, they are companions who help each other through life. While marriage is a partnership in life, this sharing is not at the expense of each other's individuality; rather the uniqueness of each person is enhanced by the strength of their common bond. When there is sorrow, each can provide comfort; when there is happiness, each can provide joy. Though a couple changes and grows, the marital bond remains a source of nourishment and comfort in an unpredictable and often troubled world.

The ingredients needed for this life partnership include respect, friendship, laughter, trust, support, adventure, and patience. Marriage is a union of commitment and growth.

Today, as you join yourselves in marriage, there is a vast and unknown future stretching out before you. The possibilities of your married life are great and exciting.

The future of your life together, with its successes and disappointments, its pleasures and its pain, its joys and sorrows, is hidden from your eyes. You know that these elements are present in every life and are to be expected in your own, and so, not knowing what is before you, you accept each other for better or for worse, for richer or for poorer, in sickness and in health.

By your marriage, you recognize the worthy human impulse of giving, each imparting the vital essences of one another.

Of all the persons whom you know, each of you has chosen the other to share of life and of unique intimacy in marriage. Now, drawn this hour to take pleasure in the convergence of these two lives we are gathered here to witness the entering into of a pledge that is a reflection of serious thought.

Vows

Grm and Bde, please join hands and give your vows.

The Bride hands her flowers to the Maid of Honor.

The Bride and Groom face each other and hold both hands.

To Groom: Will you, Grm, accept Bde, to be your lawful wedded wife, companion and trusted friend? Will you love her, comfort her, respect her, and cherish her, all the days of your lives?

If yes, say "I will."

To Bride: Will you, Bde, accept Grm, to be your lawful wedded husband, companion and trusted friend? Will you love him, comfort him, respect him and cherish him all the days of your lives?

If yes, say "I will."

Exchange of Rings

A wedding ring, like a true marriage, commemorates an existing relationship; each has no definable beginning or end. Like the days of your lives, each unfolding into your future a wedding ring, by its circle, celebrates the continuity of life. By this exchange of rings between you, we wish that at the end of your lives you will look at the two rings and be able to say these two things to each other: "Because you have loved me, you have given me faith in myself and, because I have seen the good in you, I have received from you a faith in humanity."

The rings that you have are a symbol of the shared and continually growing love and respect that you have for each other today and in the future as you enter that future as husband and wife.

The Best Man hands the Bride's ring to the Groom.

To Groom: Grm, as you place this ring on Bde's finger, please repeat after me.

With this ring / I thee wed.

The Maid of Honor hands the Groom's ring to the Bride.

To Bride: Bde, as you place this ring on Grm's finger, please repeat after me.

With this ring / I thee wed.

May you keep the covenant that you have made and nurture the feelings that brought you together throughout your life.

Pronouncement of Marriage

Having publicly and formally affirmed your commitment to one another; and having promised to love, to comfort, to respect, and to cherish one another, now, therefore, by virtue of the power and authority vested in me by the State of Minnesota, I now pronounce you husband and wife. Please seal your vows with a kiss.

The Maid of Honor returns the flowers to the Bride.

Benediction

See sample Benedictions

Introduction of the Couple

It is my honor to present Grm and Bde, husband and wife.

Marriage Ceremony No. 8 - A religious ceremony.

Presentation

Who giveth this woman in marriage?

Presenter: I do.

The Bride is presented by her Father/Mother/Brother (names).

Convocation

Dearly Beloved,

We are gathered here today to witness the marriage of Grm and Bde. To witness the promises as exchanged in matrimonial vows is to witness a new day, a new dawn, a new beginning, and a new generation. Each understands the responsibilities and shares throughout with the parties their jubilation and their tears. Marriage is the foundation of the human community. Marriage is a joy that begins now and is brought to perfection in years to come as you grow in love, patience, understanding, faith, and trust in each other.

If it is your intention to share with each other your joys and tears of the gifts and burdens of marriage, and all that the years will bring by your promises, bind yourselves now, to each other, as husband and wife.

Expression of Intent

To Groom: Do you Grm desire to enter into marriage with Bde?

If yes, say "I do."

To Bride: Do you Bde desire to enter into marriage with Grm?

If yes, say "I do."

Vows and Exchange of Rings

Grm and Bde, please join hands and give your vows.

*The Bride hands her flowers to the Maid of Honor.
The Bride and Groom face each other and hold both hands.*

The Best Man hands the Bride's ring to the Groom.

To Groom: Grm, as you place this ring on Bde's finger, please repeat after me.

Bde, with this ring / as a symbol / of everlasting and unending love, / and with the help / of God's guidance and blessings, / I take you / to be my beloved wife, / to face all of the joys / and problems of life. / Before God and these witnesses, / I promise to love, / to cherish, / and to honor you / at all times, / as long as we both shall live / and forever.

The Maid of Honor hands the Groom's ring to the Bride.

To Bride: Bde, as you place this ring on Grm's finger, please repeat after me.

Grm, with this ring / as a symbol / of everlasting and unending love, / and with the help / of God's guidance and blessings, / I take you / to be my beloved husband, / to face all of the joys / and problems of life. / Before God and these witnesses, / I promise to love, / to cherish, / and to honor you / at all times, / as long as we both shall live / and forever.

Pronouncement of Marriage

For as much as Grm and Bde have consented together in Holy Wedlock, and have witnessed the same before God and these witnesses, and have declared the same by the joining of hands, the sharing of rings, and the exchange of promises, therefore, by virtue of the authority vested in me, I now pronounce you to be husband and wife. What God hath joined together, let not anyone put asunder. May the Grace of God be upon you now, and remain forever. Please seal your vows with a kiss.

The Maid of Honor returns the flowers to the Bride.

Benediction

See sample Benedictions

Introduction of the Couple

Friends and family, old and new - brothers and sisters, old and new, with hearty congratulations and best wishes, I present to you Grm and Bde, husband and wife.

Marriage Ceremony No. 9 – Very, very short

Really, really, really short, but still married.

I did this one for a couple who were having a big wedding on a cruise ship but wanted to have the legalities done first. “Yes, this certificate from the Captain of a Carnival Cruise Line ship is our only proof that we’re married.” What if you need a certified copy 20 years from now? Where will you get it? They had the right idea – get married first in Minnesota.

They didn’t want to duplicate anything they would be doing on the ship ceremony – like exchanging vows and rings.

Expression of Intent

To Groom: Grm, do you want to marry Bde?

Groom: I do. / Yes. / Yup. / Yah. / Yah sure, you betcha.

To Bride: Bde, do you want to marry Grm?

Bride: I do. / Yes. / Yup. / Yah. / Yah sure, you betcha.

Pronouncement of Marriage

You are now married.