

# Wedding Vows & Ceremonies

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***A selection of vows that you may use  
to base your own unique ceremony upon.***

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Congratulations on your decision to get married! It is the beginning of what for many people is a lifelong journey of commitment, growth and sharing. It's a choice to stand up and exclaim your LOVE for another person in public, before God, family, friends and world.

A wedding ceremony consists of many individual moments, each of which has significance, and many of which are totally optional. Some people are very creative and invent whole new rituals for themselves, but most people tend to follow the forms of the religion they were brought up in (or if each come from a different tradition, there is some compromise). Parts of the ceremony often include a deeply personal expression of what each values about the other, and why it's "meant to be" that they are here together. Your vows should say what you both feel in your hearts. What's meaningful to you is what is important.

The simplest (and shortest) legal ceremony is where a Bride and Groom gather with two witnesses of legal age and a certified wedding officiant or minister. The minister solemnly asks the bride and groom, "*Do you take this man/woman to be your lawful wedded husband/wife?*" If they say, "*I do*", the minister pronounces the couple married. The marriage license is signed by all present. **IMPORTANT!** *You are not legally married until your signed marriage license has been returned to the courthouse from which you obtained it.*

A "bare-bones" wedding is good enough for a couple who wishes to elope, or have no need to involve others beyond this. However, most of us have families and friends that would want to be a part of this momentous occasion, to show their support for our undertaking, and it would be unfair to leave them out.

That's why it's important to recognize that many parts of a ceremony are designed for the benefit of others. Your vows are not merely made to each other as individuals, but describe something of your commitment to occupying a special place in society, the larger community in which you live. This includes the legal paperwork which is a part of every marriage, and it's why a ceremony is often more involved. There are prayers and benedictions, exchange of rings, handfasting, lighting candles, hoops and hurdles (and don't forget the reception!)

The following vows are meant to serve as suggestions to get you thinking about how you want your wedding to flow. Read them through carefully and decide if there is anything you wish to add or delete or change. They can be modified, any way you want them: more religious, less religious, completely non-religious or religions other than Christianity.

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Please, call as soon as possible to discuss the vows so that we may tailor them in detail to your needs and tastes. If you need something else... holler, we have a big library!

Delete what you don't want and insert what you do want. Then, e-mail it back to me at [rev.richard@getmarriedyourway.com](mailto:rev.richard@getmarriedyourway.com) OR, Print out the vows and make your changes by hand and call me. You can read it to me over the phone and we can work on it together.

I am honored that you have chosen me to perform such an important role for you as your wedding ceremony officiant. I will do whatever I can to help you make it as joyful and memorable an experience as possible.

My phone is 405-816-8180. If you can't get me, try again, and please leave a message.

Remember to breathe!

Love & Light,

Rev. Richard

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## 1. STANDARD, NON-DENOMINATIONAL, CHRISTIAN WEDDING CEREMONY

The Wedding of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_ th, 201\_

**Minister:**

We are gathered here today to join \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in the state of holy matrimony. They come here as two consenting adults who wish to share the rest of their lives together.

(optional) Who gives \_\_\_\_\_ to be married?

**Giver: "I DO!"**

**Minister:**

Please, join me in reciting the Lord's prayer:

Our father who art in heaven hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil for thine is the kingdom and power and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

**Minister:**

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, please, join right hands.

(Bride hands bouquet to Maid of Honor)

Today, you are reaching out, giving yourselves to one another. You are joyous in spirit. Always, remember to keep your love joyous, and focus on each other. Reach out to each other with your hearts, for when you reach out, you will receive love in return. Keep the mutual respect you feel for each other today, forever alive within your souls. When you go out into the world, place your hands together as they are now, for together your love will be your strength and bring peace to your hearts.

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, every experience you have ever had, every thing you have ever done, everything you have ever learned, has brought you to this moment when you stand here before family and friends to take each other as husband and wife. A true marriage is not just a ceremony. A marriage is an ongoing experience that tests our individual strengths and weaknesses, but together as a married couple, may you complement each other and be exactly what each other needs, as your love continues to grow and deepen throughout your life.

You are about to change your lives forever. The married life is a sharing life, a family life where the center of interest is the well being of the family as a whole. The person you are marrying today is the only relative you will ever choose. Through the years you will learn that a good marriage is based on trust. Many times you will be called upon to stand back to back and fight off the world together.

The Bible says: Love is patient and kind; Love forgives every time; is not rude or self seeking; it is not easily angered & it keeps no record of wrongs. Love is sharing and supporting each others wants, needs, goals, & dreams. Love fosters strength, imagination, and laughter. It always protects, always hopes, and true love always perseveres. You loved each other before this ceremony; and now you will love each other even more because of it.

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### ***The "I DO" version:***

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#### ***Minister to Groom:***

Do you \_\_\_\_\_ take \_\_\_\_\_, to be your lawful wedded wife? As her husband, do you pledge to be her best friend, her honest and loyal companion, and her one true and faithful partner in life? Do you promise to stay by her side for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, in joy & in sorrow? Will you love, honor, respect, and cherish her, provide for her needs as best you can, and protect her from harm? Do you make these your solemn vows to her forever?

#### **Groom: "I DO!"**

#### ***Minister to Bride:***

Do you, \_\_\_\_\_ take \_\_\_\_\_, to be your lawful wedded Husband? As his wife, do you pledge to be his best friend, his honest and loyal companion, and his one true and faithful partner in life? Do you promise to stay by his side for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, in joy & in sorrow? Will love, honor, respect, and cherish him, provide for his needs as best you can, and protect him from harm? Do you make these your solemn vows to him forever?

#### **Bride: "I DO!"**

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### ***OR, the "REPEAT AFTER ME" version:***

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#### ***Minister to Groom:***

\_\_\_\_\_, please, repeat after me:

I, \_\_\_\_\_, /choose you, \_\_\_\_\_, / for my lifetime mate. / I vow to always love you /through sickness and health, through the good times/ and the bad, /though we be rich or poor/ , young or old, /my love for you /shall remain as it is today. /You are everything/ I need, in this world, / and I know that all my prayers /have been answered/ and that all of my dreams/ have come true. /This is the moment I have waited for/ my whole life through. /I promise to give you my all /and I know that/ I could not ask for /more from you./ I love you now/and I always will.

As your. husband,/ I pledge to be your friend, /your honest and loyal companion,/ and your one true /and faithful partner in life./ I promise you to stay by your side/ for richer, for poorer,/ in sickness and in health, /in joy & in sorrow. /I will love you, /honor you, / respect you / and cherish you, provide for your needs as best I can, /and protect you from harm./ I make these my solemn vows to you forever.

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## **Minister to Bride:**

\_\_\_\_\_, please, repeat after me:

I, \_\_\_\_\_, /choose you, \_\_\_\_\_ / for my lifetime mate. / I vow to always love you /through sickness and health, through the good times/ and the bad, /though we be rich or poor/, young or old, /my love for you /shall remain as it is today. /You are everything/ I need, in this world, / and I know that all my prayers /have been answered/ and that all of my dreams/ have come true. /This is the moment I have waited for/ my whole life through. /I promise to give you my all /and I know that/ I could not ask for /more from you./ I love you now and I always will.

As your wife,/ I pledge to be your friend, /your honest and loyal companion, /and your one true and faithful partner in life. /I promise you to stay by your side/ for richer, for poorer, /in sickness and in health, /in joy & in sorrow. /I will love you, /honor you, / respect you / and cherish you, provide for your needs as best I can, / and protect you from harm. / I make these my solemn vows to you forever.

---

## **OR, both "I DO" and "REPEAT" versions together**

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## **Minister to Groom:**

\_\_\_\_\_, do you \_\_\_\_\_ take \_\_\_\_\_, to be your wedded wife, to live together in marriage. Do you promise to love her, comfort her, honor and keep her For better or worse, for richer or poorer, in sickness and health And forsaking all others, to be faithful only to her. So long as you both shall live?

## **Groom: "I DO!"**

## **Minister to Bride:**

\_\_\_\_\_, do you \_\_\_\_\_ take \_\_\_\_\_, to be your wedded husband to live together in marriage Do you promise to love him, comfort him, honor and keep him For better or worse, for richer or poorer, in sickness and health And forsaking all others, to be faithful only to him So long as you both shall live?

## **Bride: "I DO!"**

## **Minister to Groom:**

\_\_\_\_\_, please, repeat after me:

I, \_\_\_\_\_, /take you, \_\_\_\_\_, / for my lifelong partner. / I vow to always love you / through the good times/ and the bad, /though we be rich or poor/ , young or old, /my love for you /shall remain as it is today. / I promise to give you my all /and I know that/ I could not ask for /more from you./ I love you now/and I always will. /

As your husband,/ I pledge to be your friend, /your honest and loyal companion,/ and your one true /and faithful partner in life./ I promise you to stay by your side/ for richer, for poorer,/ in sickness and in health, /in joy & in sorrow. /I will love you, /honor you, / respect you / and cherish you/provide for your needs as best I can, /and protect you from harm./ I make these my solemn vows to you forever.

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## **Minister to Bride:**

\_\_\_\_\_, please, repeat after me:

I, \_\_\_\_\_ /take you, \_\_\_\_\_, / for my lifelong partner. / I vow to always love you / through the good times/ and the bad, /though we be rich or poor/ , young or old, /my love for you /shall remain as it is today. / I promise to give you my all /and I know that/ I could not ask for /more from you./ I love you now/and I always will.

As your wife,/ I pledge to be your friend, /your honest and loyal companion,/ and your one true /and faithful partner in life./ I promise you to stay by your side/ for richer, for poorer,/ in sickness and in health, /in joy & in sorrow. /I will love you, /honor you, / respect you / and cherish you/and provide for your needs as best I can, /and protect you from harm./ I make these my solemn vows to you forever.

## **Minister:**

May I have the rings, please? (Both rings handed to Minister)

May God bless these rings. They are a complete circle. They have no beginning and no end. They represent the completeness of love and eternity. As you give the rings to each other, they will become symbols of the gift of yourselves and your commitment to this union.

## **Minister to Groom:**

\_\_\_\_\_, as you place this ring on \_\_\_\_\_'s finger, please, repeat after me: \_\_\_\_\_, you are my life/ I marry you this day/ with this ring/ as I give to you my heart/ my body and the very breath of my soul.

## **Minister to Bride:**

\_\_\_\_\_, as you place this ring on \_\_\_\_\_'s finger, please, repeat after me: \_\_\_\_\_, you are my life./ I marry you this day/ with this ring/ as I give to you my heart, my body and the very breath of my soul.

## **(For gifts or recognition of child/ren: Parents repeat together:)**

\_\_\_\_\_, You are a child/ren of my heart but not my body, I promise to accept and love you as my own children and to protect and love you all of my life./ I promise to do my best to guide and support you/ and to respect you enough/ to allow you to see the world through your own eyes."

## **Minister:**

\_\_\_\_\_, please, place your hands in each other's hands symbolizing your placing your lives into each other's hands.

These are the hands that will willingly toil for you. These are the hands that will caress you with love. These are the hands that will feed you when you are sick. These are the hands that will soothe your worried brow. These are the hands that will tenderly hold your children. These are the hands that will never be raised against you in anger.

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These are the hands that will bring you comfort and peace. These are the hands that will hold yours/ at heaven's gates and beyond.

Let us pray: Dear God, as these two newly married people stand before us, may you bestow upon them your blessings of enduring love; peace and harmony and the fulfillment of their potentials both as individuals and as a couple. May they be granted the wisdom to speak openly and truthfully to each other always, regardless of the circumstances. May they be filled with loving patience towards each other under all emotional conditions. May they never forget or lose the love they feel for each other at this very moment. May their mutual love grow beyond their wildest expectations. May they truly discover together the meaning of, "living happily ever after". Amen

## **Minister:**

The health of this union of marriage requires compromise, humor and listening. Lean on each other, trust one another, and support each other. May your marriage be the beginning of abundant happiness. May the Lord bless you and keep you. May He implant His spirit within you and grant you length of days, vigor of body, deep and abiding understanding, companionship and love, increasing with the passage of years. Bless you both, your marriage and the fruit of it, whatever it that may be. May all your dreams come true and may you find new dreams to bring you joy.

In as much as \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ have this day confessed their love for each other, consented together in holy vows of wedlock, exchanged blessed rings, and have pledged themselves to each other before God and this company, by the power vested in me by God and the state of Oklahoma, I pronounce you husband and wife.

Congratulations! You may kiss your beautiful bride.

Ladies and gentlemen, family and friends, it gives me great honor to present,

Mr. and Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_ (and family)

## 2. SHORT AND SIMPLE

Wedding of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ On \_\_\_\_\_ th, 201\_\_

**Minister:**

We are gathered here to join this \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in the state of holy matrimony. They come here as free, consenting adults who wish to give themselves to each other. The vows that they are about to take have already been made in their hearts and to each other. You have been invited here to witness those vows made legal and public and to have them blessed by God.

(optional) Who represents the families and friends that wish to bless this marriage?

**Giver says : "I DO!"**

**Minister:**

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ please, join hands.

Today, you are reaching out, giving yourselves to one another. Always, remember to keep you love joyous, and focus on each other. Reach out to each other with your hearts, for when you reach out, you will receive love in return. Keep the mutual respect you feel for each other today, alive within your souls. When you to out into the world, place your hands together as they are now, for together your love will be your strength & bring peace to your hearts.

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, every experience you have ever had, everything you have ever done, everything you have ever learned, has brought you to this moment when you stand here before us to take each other as husband & wife. A true marriage is not just a ceremony. A marriage is an ongoing commitment. You bring your individual strengths & weaknesses to this marriage, and together as a married couple, may you complement each other & be exactly what each other needs, as your love continues to deepen throughout your life.

You loved each other before this ceremony; and now you will love each other even more because of it.

**Minister to Groom:**

Do you \_\_\_\_\_, take \_\_\_\_\_ to be your wedded wife? As her husband, will you pledge to be her friend, her honest and loyal companion, and true and faithful partner in life? Do you promise to stay by her side for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, in joy & in sorrow? Will you love, honor, respect, and cherish her, provide for her needs as best you can, and protect her from harm? Do you make these your solemn vows to her forever?

**Groom: "I DO!"**

**Minister to Bride:**

Do you \_\_\_\_\_ take \_\_\_\_\_ to be your wedded husband? As his wife, will you pledge to be his friend, his honest and loyal companion, and true and faithful partner in life? Do you promise to stay by his side for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, in joy and in

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sorrow? Will you love, honor, respect, and cherish him, provide for his needs as best you can, and protect him from harm? Do you make these your solemn vows to him forever?

## **Bride: "I DO!"**

May I have the rings, please? May God bless these rings. They are a complete circle. They have no beginning & no end. They represent the completeness, of your love and eternity. As you give the rings to each other, they will become symbols of the gift of yourselves to each other and your commitment to this union.

### **Minister to the Groom:**

\_\_\_\_\_ as you place the ring on \_\_\_\_\_'s finger, please repeat this after me: \_\_\_\_\_, you are my life./ I marry you this day/ with this ring/ as I give to you/ my heart,/ my body,/ and the very breath of my soul.

### **Minister to Bride:**

\_\_\_\_\_ as you place the ring on \_\_\_\_\_'s finger, please repeat this after me: \_\_\_\_\_, you are my life./ I marry you this day with this ring as I give to you/ my heart,/ my body,/ and the very breath of my soul.

### **Minister:**

Let us pray: "God, bless these two newly married people and may you bestow upon them your blessings of enduring love; peace and harmony, and the fulfillment of their potentials both as individuals and as a couple. May they be granted the wisdom to speak openly truthfully to each other always, regardless of the circumstances. May they be filled with loving patience towards each other under all emotional conditions. May they never lose the love they feel for each other at this moment and may their mutual love grow beyond their wildest expectations. May they truly discover together the meaning of "living happily ever after" Amen."

May your marriage be the beginning of abundant happiness. May the Lord bless you and keep you. May His spirit be within you and may you be granted length of days, vigor of body, deep and abiding understanding, companionship and love, increasing with the passage of years. Bless you both, your marriage and the fruit of it whatever it may be. May all your dreams come true and may you find new dreams to bring you joy.

In honor of the faithful vows of love and marriage pledged between \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ with the exchange of blessed rings, let it be known to God, to you, to me, and all the world that by the power vested in me by God and the state of Oklahoma, I now pronounce you husband and wife.

Congratulations! You may kiss your beautiful bride. It gives me great honor to present:

Mr. & Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_

### 3. CHRISTIAN "EVERYTHING" VOW (with children and Rose Ceremony inserts)

The Wedding of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_, 201\_\_

**Minister:**

We are gathered here to join \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in the state of holy matrimony (and to form a new family.)

Who gives this woman to be married?

**Giver: "I DO!" (places Bride's hand into Groom's)**

**Minister:**

God created human beings to have relationships. We all need people in our lives. We all need to share our thoughts and ideas with other people. We need someone to really care about us, someone that we want to care for. We need a special person to love and someone to be loved by. A "someone" to be there for us, when there is no one else.

In the story of Creation, God said "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him." And so a woman was created to be with the man as a companion, friend, and soul mate.

**Minister:**

When \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ found one another, they discovered that together they had found the joy of fulfillment. And they wish to acknowledge their love through the sanctity of marriage. What we do at this time is done in conformity with laws of the state of Oklahoma and the tradition of men and women throughout all time.

The Bible says in the Book of Ruth 1:16s:

"Ask me not to leave you or to return from following you; for where you go, I will go; and where you lodge, I will lodge; your people will be my people, and your God my God; where you die I will die, and there will I be buried."

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, please, join hands. Today, you are reaching out, giving yourselves to one another. Always, remember to keep your love joyous, and focus on each other. Reach out to each other with your hearts, for when you reach out, you will receive love in return. Keep the mutual respect you feel for each other today, alive within your souls. When you go out into the world, place your hands together as they are now, for together your love will be your strength and bring peace within your hearts.

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, every experience you have ever had, everything you have ever done, everything you have ever learned, has brought you to this moment when you stand here before family and friends to take each other as husband and wife. A true marriage is not just a ceremony. A marriage is an ongoing commitment. You bring your individual strengths and weaknesses to this marriage, but together as a married couple, may you complement each other and be exactly what each other needs, as your love continues to deepen throughout your life.

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The Bible says: Love is patient and kind; Love forgives every time; it is not rude or self-seeking; it is not easily angered and it keeps no record of wrongs. Love is sharing and supporting each others wants, needs, goals and dreams. Love fosters strength, imagination and laughter. It always protects, always hopes and true love always perseveres. You loved each other before this ceremony; and now you will love each other even more because of it.

## **Minister to Groom:**

Do you \_\_\_\_\_, take \_\_\_\_\_ to be your lawfully wedded wife? As her husband, will you pledge to be her friend, her honest and loyal companion, and true and faithful partner in life? Do you promise to stay by her side for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, in joy and in sorrow? Will you love, honor, respect and cherish her, provide for her needs as best you can and protect her from harm? Do you make these your solemn vows to her forever?

## **Groom: "I DO!"**

## **Minister to Bride:**

Do you, \_\_\_\_\_, take \_\_\_\_\_, to be your lawfully wedded husband? As his wife, will you pledge to be his friend, honest and loyal companion, his true and faithful partner in life? Do you promise to stand by his side for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, in joy and in sorrow? Will you love, honor and respect him and provide for his needs as best you can and protect him from harm? Do you make these your solemn vows to him forever?

## **Bride: "I DO!"**

## **Minister:**

May I have the rings, please? May God bless these rings. They are a complete circle. They have no beginning and no end. They represent the completeness of your love and eternity. As you give these rings to each other, they will become symbols of the gift of yourselves and your commitment to this union.

## **Minister to Groom:**

\_\_\_\_\_, as you place the ring on \_\_\_\_\_'s finger, please repeat this after me:  
\_\_\_\_\_, you are my life./ I marry you this day/with this ring/ as I give to you/  
my heart,/ my body,/ and my soul.

## **Minister to Bride:**

\_\_\_\_\_, as you place the ring on \_\_\_\_\_'s finger, please, repeat after me:  
\_\_\_\_\_, you are my life,/ I marry you this day/ with this ring/ as I give to you/ my  
heart,/ my body,/ and my soul.

At this time, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ wish to present a gift to their child/ren, \_\_\_\_

## **Groom: (to child/ren):**

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\_\_\_\_\_, I promise to accept and love you as my own child and to protect and love you all of my life. I promise to do my best to guide and support you - and to respect you enough to allow you to see the world through your own eyes." (Gives gift and kiss)

## **Minister:**

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ You are about to light the unity candle. You both will take a lit taper and together you shall light the unity candle to symbolize your individual selves joining in a sacred bond of love that will become a shining example of harmony and peace.

## **Minister:**

Let us pray:

“Dear God, as these two newly married people stand before us, may you bestow upon them your blessings of enduring love; peace and harmony and the fulfillment of their potentials both as individuals and as a couple. May they be granted the wisdom to speak openly and truthfully to each other always, regardless of the circumstances. May they be filled with loving patience towards each other under all emotional conditions. May they never forget or lose the love they feel for each other at this moment. May their mutual love grow beyond their wildest expectations. May they truly discover together the meaning of, “living happily ever after” Amen.

You are now given the most honorable titles that may exist between a man and a woman - the titles of “husband” and “wife”. In the past, the rose was considered a symbol of love and a single rose always meant the words “I love you”, so it is appropriate that for your first gift as husband and wife, you each will give the other a gift of a single rose.

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ where ever you make your home in the future - whether it be a large and elegant home - or a small and graceful one, I ask that you both pick a very special location for roses, so that on each anniversary of this wonderful occasion you both may take a rose to that spot as a recommitment to your marriage which is based on love and friendship. If someday in the future, you should have a disagreement between you, place a rose in it's special place to say, “I love you” .If there is anything you remember of this marriage ceremony, let it be that it was love that brought you here today, it is only love which can make it a glorious union, and it is by love which your marriage shall endure.

## **Minister:**

May your marriage be the beginning of abundant happiness. May the Lord bless you and keep you. May He implant His spirit within you and grant you length of days, vigor of body, deep and abiding understanding, companionship and love, increasing with the passage of years. Bless you both, your union and the fruit of it, whatever it that may be. May all your dreams come true and may you find new dreams to bring you joy.

In honor of the faithful vows of love and marriage, pledged between \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ with the exchange of blessed rings, and lighting of the unity candle, let it be known to God, to you, to me and all the world that by the power vested in me by God

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and the state of Oklahoma, I now pronounce you husband and wife. Congratulations, you may kiss the bride.

Ladies and gentlemen, family and friends, it gives me great honor to present,

Mr. And Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_ and family

#### 4. ALTERNATIVE VOWS (Short Version)

The Wedding of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_ th, 201\_\_

**Minister:**

\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_..please come forward. We are gathered here today to witness and celebrate an act of deep love. \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, in their devotion, respect, and love for each other wish to unite in the bond of marriage, and to dedicate themselves to each other's happiness and well-being as life mates and partners. Who represents the families and friends of this couple who wish to bless this marriage?Representatives: WE DO

Without love, life is nothing, without love, death has no redemption. If we learn no more in life, let it be this:Marriage is an abundant opportunity for growth. Marriage has its cycles, its ups and downs, its trials and triumphs. With full understanding of this \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ have come here today to become as one in marriage.

Marriage is a gift. It is an opportunity to feel the joy of taking care of someone who takes care of you, to be challenged towards growth yet gently nurtured, to love deeply and receive it in return. It is about trust, friendship and having a partner to share all life has to offer. It is a commitment to participate in the never-ending process of change, understanding and forgiveness. It is a safe place to grow and become wiser.

**Minister to Groom:**

(Groom's name)\_\_\_\_\_, (Bride's name)\_\_\_\_\_ is a gift to you. In your love may she find herself as she was created to be, that the world around her might be blessed by her presence. May she relax in your arms as she has never relaxed before. May she know, from now on, that there is one on whose love she can depend on forever.

**Minister to Bride:**

And so it is also with you, (Bride's name) \_\_\_\_\_, (Groom's name)\_\_\_\_\_ is a gift to you. In your love, may you encourage this man to find within himself a greater sense of who he is meant to be. You are asked to see the good in this man, to accept him for who he is now and who he shall become. May this man find the goodness of life through the love you share. May he find strength in your gentle support.

Excerpt from *The Bridge Across Forever* (Richard Bach)

A soul mate is someone who has locks that fit our keys, and keys to fit our locks. When we feel safe enough to open the locks, our truest selves step out and we can be completely and honestly who we are; we can be loved for who we are and not for who we're pretending to be. Each unveils the best part of the other. No matter what else goes wrong around us, with that one person we're safe in our own paradise.

**Minister:**

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, Please join hands. :You are about to change your lives forever. Every experience you have ever had, every thing you have ever done, everything you have ever learned, has brought you to this moment when you stand here before family and friends to take each other as husband and wife. The person you are marrying today is the only

relative you will ever choose. Through the years you will learn that a good marriage is based on trust. Many times you will be called upon to stand back to back and fight off the world. Have no fear and let no one discourage your love for one another.

**Minister to Groom:**

\_\_\_\_, do you take \_\_\_\_ to be your wedded wife, to live together in marriage. Do you promise to love her, comfort her, honor and keep her For better or worse, for richer or poorer, in sickness and health And forsaking all others, be faithful only to her. So long as you both shall live?

**Groom: "I DO!"**

**Minister to Bride:**

\_\_\_\_ do you take \_\_\_\_ to be your wedded husband to live together in marriage Do you promise to love him, comfort him, honor and keep him For better or worse, for richer or poorer, in sickness and health And forsaking all others, be faithful only to him So long as you both shall live?

**Bride: "I DO!"**

**Minister:**

May we have the rings, please? These rings are endless circles, symbolizing your dedication to marriage and to each other. Always wear them proudly as tokens of your mutual love.

**Minister:**

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ Please take each others rings and place it on the third finger of the left hand and together repeat after me: With this ring I thee wed.

\_\_\_\_\_, please place your hands in \_\_\_\_\_ 's hands, symbolizing placing your lives in each other's hands.

These hands you hold will willingly toil for you. These are the hands that will caress you with love. These are the hands that will feed you when you are sick. These are the hands that will soothe your worries. These are the hands that will tenderly hold you after a long hard day. These are the hands that will give you support and encouragement to chase down your dreams. These are the hands that will bring you comfort and peace.

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, in the presence of God, your family and friends today, you have spoken the words and performed the rites which unite your lives. It is my legal right as a minister and my greatest joy and privilege to declare you husband and wife. You may now kiss your beautiful bride.

## 5. ALTERNATIVE SPIRITUAL VOWS (Full version)

The Wedding of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_ th, 201\_

**Minister:**

We come together here in celebration of the uniting \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.  
The law of life is love unto all beings. Without love, life is nothing, without love, death has no redemption. Love is anterior to life, posterior to death, initial of Creation and the exponent of Earth.

If we learn no more in life, let it be this: Marriage is an abundant opportunity for growth. Marriage has its cycles, its ups and downs, its trials and triumphs. With full understanding of this \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ have come here today to become as one in marriage.

(Here is a good place to place prayer or poem)

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, Please join hands: Above you are the stars, below you are the stones, as time passes remember:

Like a stone should your love be firm, like a star should your love be constant.

May the powers of the heart and of the intellect guide you in your marriage; the strength of your wills bind you together, the power of love and desire make you happy and the strength of your dedication make you inseparable. Stand guard over each other's solitude. Be patient with one another, for storms will come, but they will pass quickly. Be free in giving affection and warmth. Have no fear and let not the ways of the unenlightened give you unease.

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ every experience you have ever had, every thing you have ever done, everything you have ever learned, has brought you to this moment when you stand here before family and friends to take each other as husband and wife. A true marriage is not just a ceremony. A marriage is an ongoing experience that tests your individual strengths and weaknesses, but together as a married couple, may you complement each other and be exactly what each other needs, as your love continues to grow and deepen throughout your life.

You are about to change your lives forever. The married life is a sharing life, a family life where the center of interest is the well being of the family as a whole. The person you are marrying today is the only relative you will ever choose. Through the years you will learn that a good marriage is based on trust. Many times you will be called upon to stand back to back and fight off the world.

Marriage is often a voyage on turbulent seas, often sailing near rocky shoals.

The question is: Are you each, by interaction, willing to take advantage of the coming conflicts as opportunities to dilute, if not dissolve your mutual problems?

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Are you willing to learn to express a higher type of love? An innocent, childlike love of sacrifice, Giving more than taking and strive for a greater love originating from the innermost depths of your beings?

## **Minister to Groom:**

I ask you, \_\_\_\_\_, In the presence of family and friends, do you take \_\_\_\_\_ to be your partner in life to share all that was, all that is, and all that may come to be with kindness, balance and unity? Do you promise to share with her all your material and spiritual energies? Will you be her constant companion, best friend, and confident? Will you cherish, protect and care for her, laugh with her and cry with her, lovingly and faithfully through all of life's trials and tribulations, through all of this life and beyond, where you shall meet again and remember and love again. Will you not seek to change her in any way. Will you respect her, her beliefs, and her ways as you respect yourself?

## **Groom: "I DO!"**

## **Minister to Bride:**

I ask of you, \_\_\_\_\_, In the presence of family and friends, do you take \_\_\_\_\_, to be your partner in life to share all that was, all that is, and all that may come to be with kindness, balance and unity? Do you promise to share with him all your material and spiritual energies? Will you be his constant companion, best friend, and confident? Will you cherish, protect and care for him, laugh with him and cry with him, loving and faithfully through all of life's trials and tribulations, through all of this life and beyond, where you shall meet again and remember and love again. Will you not seek to change him in any way. Will you respect him, his beliefs, and his ways as you respect yourself?

## **Bride: "I DO!"**

Please, place your hands together symbolizing you trusting and placing your lives into each other's hands.: These are the hands that will willingly toil for you. These are the hands that will caress you with love. These are the hands that will feed you when you are sick. These are the hands that will soothe your worries. These are the hands that will tenderly hold your children. These are the hands that will never be raised against you in anger. These are the hands that will bring you comfort and peace.

May I have the rings, please? These rings are endless circles, symbolizing the all encompassing love and unity of this couple's dedication to their marriage and to each other. \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, each take the other's rings from my hand and kiss it and place it on each other's third finger left hand and together say: With this ring I marry you. Always wear these rings proudly as tokens of your mutual love.

Try to realize that you are divine travelers, who are here for only a little while and then depart for a dissimilar and fascinating world. Do not limit your thoughts to one brief life and one small earth. Remember the vastness of the spirit that dwells within you. Don't live a repressed life, otherwise you shall not have really lived at all. Live a life of expression, creativity, joy and love. Live the way Existence wants you to live, live the

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natural way. Seeking the deeper, universal purpose of marriage can be a lifelong endeavor.

You must work together to develop the understanding and to have the emotional maturity necessary to create a happy, and satisfying family life. So, if and when your life becomes out of focus, remember that nothing is good or bad, just that you are not centered for the moment. You were born good. Goodness is your nature. You were born with the answers in your hearts. Always find the middle way and together you will have found the path of liberation. The mask has to be put aside. Love and trust is needed. There is no shame in being true to who you are.

Everything leads us to believe that there exists a certain point of the intelligence at which life and death, the real and the imaginary, the past and the future cease to exist to be perceived as opposites. So it is true with men and women who love each other. There are no boundaries all is one. Love each other without fear and grow old together gratefully.

Learn the language of love, the language of silence, the language of each other's presence, the language of the heart, Love, love, love! Love of each other, love of all creation.

As all is one. So, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ are now one.

They are now united in body, mind and Spirit by the natural laws of the Universe; the love, respect and understanding of their families, friends, and the laws of the state of Oklahoma. You may kiss your beautiful bride. This concludes the ceremony part of this celebration of life and love.

Reception announcement (if needed) goes here.

**6. SECULAR (NO Religion) VOWS  
(Very Short and Sweet)**

The Wedding of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_ th, 201\_

**Minister:**

We are gathered here today to witness and celebrate an act of deep love. in their devotion, respect, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ and love for each other, wish to unite in the bond of marriage, and to dedicate themselves to each other's happiness and well-being.

Without love, life is nothing, without love, death has no redemption. If we learn no more in life, let it be this: Marriage is an abundant opportunity for growth. Marriage has its cycles, its ups and downs, its trials and triumphs. With full understanding of this \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ have come here today to become as one in marriage. Who gives their special blessing to this marriage?

**Giver: "I DO!"**

**Minister:**

We all need people in our lives, people to share our thoughts and ideas. We need people to keep us company and to help us along the way. But, most of all, we need to love and be to loved by someone special. Marriage is a gift. It is an opportunity to feel the joy of taking care of someone who takes care of you, to be challenged towards growth yet gently nurtured, to love deeply and receive love in return. It is about trust, friendship and having a partner to share all that life has to offer. It is a commitment to participate in the never-ending process of change, understanding and forgiveness. It is a safe place to grow and to become wiser.

And so, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, were meant to be life companions, best friends, and devoted husband and wife.

**Minister to Groom:**

\_\_\_\_\_, do you take \_\_\_\_\_ to be your wedded wife, to live together in marriage. Do you promise to love her, comfort her, honor and keep her For better or worse, for richer or poorer, in sickness and health And forsaking all others, be faithful only to her. So long as you both shall live?

**Groom: "I DO!"**

**Minister to Bride:**

\_\_\_\_\_ do you take \_\_\_\_\_ to be your wedded husband to live together in marriage Do you promise to love him, comfort him, honor and keep him For better or worse, for richer or poorer, in sickness and health And forsaking all others, be faithful only to him So long as you both shall live?

**Bride: "I DO!"**

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## **Minister:**

May we have the rings, please? These rings are endless circles, symbolizing your dedication to marriage and to each other. Always wear them proudly as tokens of your mutual love.

## **Minister:**

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, Please, take each others rings, kiss them and place it on them on the third finger of the left hand of your beloved and together repeat after me:

“With this ring I marry you.”

Everything leads us to believe that there exists a certain point of the intelligence at which life and death, the real and the imaginary, the past and the future cease to exist to be perceived as opposites. So, it is true with men and women who love each other. There are no boundaries, all is one. Love each other without fear and grow old together gratefully. Learn the language of love, the language of silence, the language of each other’s presence, the language of the heart. Love, love, love! Love of each other, love of all creation.

As all is one. So, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ are now truly one.

They are now united in body, mind and Spirit by the natural laws of the Universe; and by the love, respect and understanding of their families, and friends.

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in the presence of this company, you have spoken the words and performed the rites which have united your lives. It is my legal right as a minister and my greatest joy and privilege to declare you husband and wife. You may now kiss your beautiful bride. It is my honor to present \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ Together Forever!

## 7. MODERN, NON-DENOM, I DO, and REPEAT

The Wedding of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_ th, 201\_\_

**Minister:**

We are gathered here today to join \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, in the state of holy matrimony. They come here as free, consenting adults who wish to give themselves to each other and spend the rest of their lives together. The vows that they are about to take have already been made in their hearts and to each other. You have been invited here to witness those vows made legal and public and to have them blessed by God.

(Optional) Who represents the families and friends that wish to bless this marriage?

**Reply by saying : "I DO!"**

**Minister:**

Please, join me in reciting the Lord's prayer:

Our father who art in heaven hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil for thine is the kingdom and power and glory forever and ever. amen.

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, please, join hands. Today, you are reaching out, giving yourselves to one another. Always, remember to keep you love joyous, and focus on each other. Reach out to each other with your hearts, for when you reach out, you will receive love in return. Keep the mutual respect you feel for each other today, alive within your souls. When you to out into the world, place your hands together as they are now, for together your love will be your strength & bring peace to your hearts.

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, every experience you have ever had, everything you have ever done, everything you have ever learned, has brought you to this moment when you stand here before us to take each other as husband & wife. A true marriage is not just a ceremony. A marriage is an ongoing commitment. Marriage is based on mutual trust and many times you will be called upon to stand back to back and fight off the world together.

You bring your individual strengths & weaknesses to this marriage, and together as a married couple, may you complement each other & be exactly what each other needs, as your love continues to deepen throughout your life together.

**Minister to Groom:**

\_\_\_\_\_, do you take \_\_\_\_\_, to be your wedded wife, to live together in marriage. Do you promise to love her, comfort her, honor and keep her For better or worse, for richer or poorer, in sickness and health And forsaking all others, to be faithful only to her. So long as you both shall live?

**Groom: "I DO!"**

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## **Minister to Bride:**

\_\_\_\_\_, do you take \_\_\_\_\_, to be your wedded husband to live together in marriage Do you promise to love him, comfort him, honor and keep him For better or worse, for richer or poorer, in sickness and health And forsaking all others, to be faithful only to him So long as you both shall live?

## **Bride: "I DO!"**

## **Minister to Groom:**

\_\_\_\_\_, please, repeat after me: I, \_\_\_\_\_, /take you, \_\_\_\_\_, / for my lifelong partner. / I vow to always love you / through the good times/ and the bad, /though we be rich or poor/ , young or old, /my love for you /shall remain as it is today. / I promise to give you my all /and I know that/ I could not ask for /more from you./ I love you now/and I always will. / As your husband,/ I pledge to be your friend, /your honest and loyal companion,/ and your one true /and faithful partner in life./ I promise you to stay by your side/ for richer, for poorer,/ in sickness and in health, /in joy & in sorrow. /I will love you, /honor you, /respect you / and cherish you/provide for your needs as best I can, /and protect you from harm./ I make these my solemn vows to you forever.

## **Minister : (to Bride)**

\_\_\_\_\_, please, repeat after me: I, \_\_\_\_\_ /take you, \_\_\_\_\_, / for my lifelong partner. / I vow to always love you / through the good times/ and the bad, /though we be rich or poor/ , young or old, /my love for you /shall remain as it is today. / I promise to give you my all /and I know that/ I could not ask for /more from you./ I love you now/and I always will. As your wife,/ I pledge to be your friend, /your honest and loyal companion,/ and your one true /and faithful partner in life./ I promise you to stay by your side/ for richer, for poorer,/ in sickness and in health, /in joy & in sorrow. /I will love you, /honor you, /respect you / and cherish you/and provide for your needs as best I can, /and protect you from harm./ I make these my solemn vows to you forever.

## **Minister:**

May we have the rings, please?

These rings are endless circles, symbolizing your dedication to this marriage and to each other. Always wear them proudly as tokens of your mutual love.

## **Minister:**

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, Please take each others' rings kiss them and place them on the third finger of the left hand and together repeat after me: "With this ring I marry you."

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, please place both your hands in each other's hand, symbolizing placing your lives in each other's hands. These hands you hold will willingly toil for you. These are the hands that will caress you with love. These are the hands that will feed you when you are sick. These are the hands that will soothe your worries. These are the hands that will tenderly hold you after a long hard day. These are the hands that

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will give you support and encouragement to chase down your dreams. These are the hands that will bring you comfort and peace.

## **Minister:**

Let us pray: "God, bless these two newly married people and may you bestow upon them your blessings of enduring love; peace and harmony, and the fulfillment of their potentials both as individuals and as a couple. May they be granted the wisdom to speak openly truthfully to each other always, regardless of the circumstances. May they be filled with loving patience towards each other under all emotional conditions. May they never lose the love they feel for each other at this moment and may their mutual love grow beyond their wildest expectations. May they truly discover together the meaning of "living happily ever after" Amen."

If there is anything you remember of this marriage ceremony, let it be that it was love that brought you here today, it is only love that can make it a glorious union, and it is by love that your marriage shall endure. May your marriage be the beginning of abundant happiness. May the Lord bless you and keep you. May His spirit be within you and may you be granted length of days, vigor of body, deep and abiding understanding, companionship and love, increasing with the passage of years. Bless you both, your marriage and the fruit of it whatever it may be. May all your dreams come true and may you find new dreams to bring you joy. \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, in the presence of God and this company, you have spoken the words and performed the rites which unite your lives. It is my legal right as a minister and my personal joy and privilege to declare you husband and wife.

Congratulations! You may kiss your beautiful bride.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great honor to present: Mr. & Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_

Together Forever

## 8. HISPANIC STYLE

The Wedding of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_ th, 201\_

**Minister:**

We are gathered here today to join \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in the state of holy matrimony. They come here as two consenting adults who wish to share the rest of their lives together.

Who Gives \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_?

Givers: We do.

**Minister:**

Please, join me in reciting the Lord's prayer:

Our father who art in heaven hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil for thine is the kingdom and power and glory for ever and ever. amen.

**Minister:**

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, please, join right hands.

Today, you are reaching out, giving yourselves to one another. You are joyous in spirit. Always, remember to keep your love joyous, and focus on each other. Reach out to each other with your hearts, for when you reach out, you will receive love in return.

Keep the mutual respect you feel for each other today, forever alive within your souls. When you go out into the world, place your hands together as they are now, for together your love will be your strength and bring peace to your hearts.

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, every experience you have ever had, every thing you have ever done, everything you have ever learned, has brought you to this moment when you stand here before family and friends to take each other as husband and wife. A true marriage is not just a ceremony. A marriage is an ongoing experience that tests our individual strengths and weaknesses, but together as a married couple, may you complement each other and be exactly what each other needs, as your love continues to grow and deepen throughout your life.

You are about to change your lives forever.

The married life is a sharing life, a family life where the center of interest is the well being of the family as a whole. The person you are marrying today is the only relative you will ever choose. Through the years you will learn that a good marriage is based on trust. Many times you will be called upon to stand back to back and fight off the world together.

The Bible says:

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Love is patient and kind; Love forgives every time; is not rude or self seeking; it is not easily angered & it keeps no record of wrongs. Love is sharing and supporting each others wants, needs, goals, & dreams.

Love fosters strength, imagination, and laughter. It always protects, always hopes, and true love always perseveres.

You loved each other before this ceremony; and now you will love each other even more because of it.

## **Minister to Groom:**

Do you \_\_\_ take \_\_\_\_, to be your lawful wedded wife? As her husband, do you pledge to be her best friend, her honest and loyal companion, and her one true and faithful partner in life? Do you promise to stay by her side for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, in joy & in sorrow? Will you love, honor, respect, and cherish her, provide for her needs as best you can, and protect her from harm? Do you make these your solemn vows to her forever?

## **Groom: "I DO!"**

## **Minister to Bride:**

Do you, \_\_\_\_, take \_\_\_\_\_ to be your lawful wedded Husband? As his wife, do you pledge to be his best friend, his honest and loyal companion, and his one true and faithful partner in life? Do you promise to stay by his side for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, in joy & in sorrow? Will love, honor, respect, and cherish him, provide for his needs as best you can, and protect him from harm? Do you make these your solemn vows to him forever?

## **Bride: "I DO!"**

## **Minister:**

May we have the rings, please?

These rings are endless circles, symbolizing your dedication to this marriage and to each other. Always wear them proudly as tokens of your mutual love.

## **Minister:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Please take \_\_\_\_\_'s ring, kiss it and place it on her third finger of her left hand and repeat after me:

"\_\_\_\_\_ you are my life, /I marry you this day. /With this ring I give to you/ my body, my heart/ and the very breath of my soul. /Me vida est siempre contigo.

## **Minister:**

\_\_\_\_\_, Please take \_\_\_\_\_'s ring, a kiss it and place it on his third finger of his left hand and repeat after me:

\_\_\_\_\_, you are my life, I marry you this day. With this

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ring I give to you my body, my heart and the very breath of my soul. /Me vida est siempre contigo.

## **Minister:**

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, please, place your hands in each other's hands symbolizing your placing your lives into each other's hands. These are the hands that will willingly toil for you. These are the hands that will caress you with love. These are the hands that will feed you when you are sick. These are the hands that will soothe your

worried brow. These are the hands that will tenderly hold your children. These are the hands that will never be raised against you in anger. These are the hands that will bring you comfort and peace. These are the hands that will hold yours/ at heaven's gates and beyond.

Let us pray:

Dear God, as these two newly married people stand before us, may you bestow upon them your blessings of enduring love; peace and harmony and the fulfillment of their potentials both as individuals and as a couple. May they be granted the wisdom to speak openly and truthfully to each other always, regardless of the circumstances. May they be filled with loving patience towards each other under all emotional conditions. May they never forget or lose the love they feel for each other at this very moment. May their mutual love grow beyond their wildest expectations. May they truly discover together the meaning of, "living happily ever after".

Amen

## **Minister:**

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ We will now perform the rose ceremony:

In the past, the rose was considered a symbol of love and a single rose always meant the words "I love you." so it is appropriate that for your first gift - as husband and wife, you each will give the other a gift of a single rose.

(bride and groom exchange roses)

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, where ever you make your home in the future, I ask that you both pick a very special location for roses, so that on each anniversary of this wonderful occasion you both may take a rose to that spot as are commitment to your marriage which is based on love and friendship. If someday in the future, you should have a disagreement between you, place a rose in it's special place to say, " I love you" . If there is anything you remember of this marriage ceremony, let it be that it was love that brought you here today, it is only love which can make it a glorious union, and it is by love which your marriage shall endure.

The health of this union of marriage requires compromise, humor and listening. Lean on each other, trust one another, and support each other. May your marriage be the beginning of abundant happiness. May the Lord bless you and keep you. May He implant His spirit within you and grant you length of days, vigor of body, deep and

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abiding understanding, companionship and love, increasing with the passage of years. Bless you both, your marriage and the fruit of it, whatever it that may be. May all your dreams come true and may you find new dreams to bring you joy.

In as much as \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ have this day confessed their love for each other, consented together in holy vows of wedlock, exchanged blessed rings, and have pledged themselves to each other before God and this company, by the power vested in me by God and the state of Oklahoma, I pronounce you husband and wife.

Congratulations! You may kiss your beautiful bride.

Ladies and gentlemen, family and friends, it gives me great honor to present,

Mr. and Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_

Together Forever

## CEREMONIES

(Special ritual moments to enhance the overall ceremony.)

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### UNITY CANDLE

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(suggested for indoors) (Requires 2 tapers in holders, one large candle in holder, lighter/ and or matches)

**Minister:**

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, you will now together light the unity candle symbolizing your pledge to share the rest of your lives with each other. You will each take a lit taper representing, you and all that you were, all that you are and all that you may become and together join the flames of your candles with the unity candle. Just as the individual flames forever will be one, so will your marriage become, a shining light of love, kindness and harmony. (Return to places)

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### SAND CEREMONY

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(For indoors or outdoors. Requires 2 small jars, 1 larger decorative glass jar with a lid for future display, and 2 different colored sands.)

**Minister:**

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, you will now together perform the sand ceremony, symbolizing your pledge to share the rest of your lives with each other. You will each take a jar of colored sand, one, representing you, \_\_ (groom) \_\_\_\_\_ and all that you were, all that you are, and all that you will ever be, and the other representing you, \_\_ (Bride) \_\_\_\_\_ and all that you were and all that you are, and all that you will ever be and together you will pour the sand into an empty jar. Just as the individual grains of sand shall blend forever and become a new color, so will your marriage be, a perfect, new blend of love and kindness. Beauty is on your right side; Beauty is on your left side; Beauty is above you, beauty is beneath you, beauty is behind you, Beauty is before you; May you always walk in beauty. (Bride and Groom return to their places)

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### ROSE CEREMONY

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(Indoor or Outside) (2 roses required for Bride and Groom)

**Minister:**

In the past, the rose was considered a symbol of love and a single rose always meant the words "I love you." so it is appropriate that for your first gift - as husband and wife, you each will give the other a gift of a single rose. (bride and groom exchange roses)

**Minister:**

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, where ever you make your home in the future, I ask that you both pick a very special location for roses, so that on each anniversary of this wonderful occasion you both may take a rose to that spot as symbol of your commitment to your

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marriage which is based on love and friendship. If someday in the future, you should have a disagreement between you, place a rose in it's special place to say, "I love you".

If there is anything you remember of this marriage ceremony, let it be that it was love that brought you here today, it is only love that can make it a glorious union, and it is by love that your marriage shall endure.

**POETRY**

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**KAHLIL GIBRAN**

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Kahlil Gibran says in his book "*The Prophet*":

“You were born together, and together you shall be forevermore.  
You shall be together when the white wings of death scatter your days.  
Aye, you shall be together even in the silent memory of God.

But let there be spaces in your togetherness,  
And let the winds of the heavens dance between you.

Love one another but make not a bond of love;  
Let it rather be a moving sea between the shores of your souls.  
Fill each other’s cup but drink not from one cup.

Give one another of your bread but not eat from the same loaf.

Sing and dance together and be joyous,  
but let each one of you be alone,  
even as the strings of a lute are alone,  
though they quiver with the same music.

Give your hearts, but not into each other’s keeping.

For only the hand of Life can contain your hearts.

And stand together, yet not too near together;

For the pillars of the temple stand apart,  
And the oak tree and the cypress grow not in each other’s shadow

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**OSHO**

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The wise man, Osho said:

“Falling in love you remain a child:

Rising in love you mature.

By and by, love becomes not a relationship,

It becomes a state of your being.

Not that you are IN love-,

Now you ARE love.”

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***NEW TESTAMENT***

---

Love is patient, Love is kind.

Love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude.

Love does not insist on its own way.

It is not irritable or resentful,  
it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in truth.

Love bears all things,  
believes all things,  
hopes all things,  
endures all things.

So faith, hope, love abide, these three,  
but the greatest of these is love.