

## WEDDING VOW ~ considerations

- Consider adding readings to your ceremony.
- Do something special to thank your parents (or other special people) for their support.
- Symbolize the new life you are beginning. Options include Unity candles, blended sand ceremony and mixing water.
- Memorialize your departed loved ones. There are many ways to do it.
- Pray for a family member who is ill. This can add weight and impact to your ceremony, and it can raise the Spiritual energy.
- If one or both of you already have children, consider adding a blended-family section of the ceremony so your children can be reassured that they are gaining love because of your marriage.

Talk with your officiant. He or she will have suggestions on different ways you can include these ideas in your wedding ceremony.

### Blended Family Ceremony

If your marriage will create an "instant family" because one or both of you already has children, consider asking your [MarriageChaplain.com](http://MarriageChaplain.com) minister to create a Blended Family Wedding Ceremony for you and your children.

In a Blended Family Ceremony, your children are called up to join you and your spouse just after the

ring ceremony. Typically your officiant will then talk with the children about the fact that the two of you are both marrying each other and making a commitment together to love them and help them grow up happy. Typically your officiant will also talk about how they can either help make a happy family and thus have a happy life . . . or they can behave in ways that will make them have an unhappy life.

If you choose, at this time you and your spouse can give a small piece of jewelry to each child as a symbol of your joint commitment to them. (Ask us about the beautiful Blended Family Medallions you can purchase through us.)

After your children have received their gift, the pastor will lead you into the final pronouncement of marriage, the First Kiss. The children will remain with you , and you all will be introduced together . . . “now legally a family”.

Your MarriageChaplain.com officiant will help you decide whether this ceremony is appropriate to your situation, and if so, how to make it the most beautiful you can have!

## Readings

### Prayer for Protection

The Light of God surrounds us.  
The Love of God enfolds us.  
The Power of God protects us.  
The Presence of God watches over us.  
Wherever we are, God is, and all is well  
and we are grateful.

### Our Father

~ 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.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil. Amen.

## The Invitation

by Oriah Mountain Dreamer

It doesn't interest me what you do for a living. I want to know what you ache for, and if you dare to dream of meeting your heart's longing.

It doesn't interest me how old you are. I want to know if you will risk looking like a fool for love, for your dream, for the adventure of being alive.

It doesn't interest me what planets are squaring your moon. I want to know if you have touched the center of your own sorrow, if you have been opened by life's betrayals or have become shriveled and closed from fear of further pain! I want to know if you can sit with pain, mine or your own, without moving to hide it or fade it, or fix it.

I want to know if you can be with joy, mine or your own, if you can dance with wildness and let the ecstasy fill you to the tips of your fingers and toes without cautioning us to be careful, to be realistic, to remember the limitations of being human.

It doesn't interest me if the story you are telling me is true. I want to know if you can disappoint another to be true to yourself; if you can bear the accusation of betrayal and not betray your own soul; if you can be faithless and therefore trustworthy.

I want to know if you can see beauty even when it's not pretty, every day, and if you can source your own life from its presence.

I want to know if you can live with failure, yours and mine, and still stand on the edge of the lake and

shout to the silver of the full moon, "Yes!"

It doesn't interest me to know where you live or how much money you have. I want to know if you can get up, after the night of grief and despair, weary and bruised to the bone, and do what needs to be done to feed the children.

It doesn't interest me who you know or how you came to be here. I want to know if you will stand in the center of the fire with me and not shrink back. It doesn't interest me where or what or with whom you have studied. I want to know what sustains you, from the inside, when all else falls away.

I want to know if you can be alone with yourself and if you truly like the company you keep in the empty moments.

### **A Celtic Prayer**

May God go with you and bless you,  
May you see your children`s children,  
May you be poor in misfortune and rich in blessings,  
May you know nothing but happiness from this day forward.

May joy and peace surround you both,  
Contentment latch your door,  
And happiness be with you now And God Bless you Evermore.  
May you live you life with trust, And nurture lifelong affection,  
May your lifelong dreams come true for you, Move ever that direction.

May the road rise to meet you,  
May the wind be always at your back,  
May the sun shine warm upon your face,  
The rains fall soft upon your fields.  
May the light of friendship guide your paths together,  
May the laughter of children grace the halls of your home.  
May the joy of living for each other trip a smile from your lips, a twinkle from your eye.

And when eternity beckons,  
at the end of the life heaped high with love,  
May the good Lord embrace you  
with the arms that have nurtured you  
the whole length of your joy-filled days.  
May the gracious God hold you both  
in the palm of His hands.  
And, today, may the Spirit of Love  
find a dwelling place in your hearts.

### Blessing for a Marriage

By James Dillet Freeman - (1912-2003) served Unity School of Christianity for nearly 70 years as a teacher, writer and speaker. His poetry appeared regularly in Daily Word, Unity's daily devotional magazine. He became director of Unity's ministerial training program and also was the Director of Silent Unity. Called the "Poet Laureate to the Moon" or "a modern day Ralph Waldo Emerson," James Dillet Freeman was one of the most popular Unity writers of recent times. His poetry has been read by hundreds of millions of people all over the globe.

May your marriage bring you all the  
exquisite excitements a marriage should bring,  
and may life grant you also patience, tolerance,  
and understanding.

May you always need one another - not so much  
to fill your emptiness as to help you know your  
fullness.

A mountain needs a valley to be complete;  
the valley does not make the mountain less but  
more; and the valley is more a valley because it has  
a mountain towering over it.

So let it be with you and you.

May you need one another, but not out of weakness.  
May you want one another, but not out of lack.  
May you entice one another, but not compel one  
another.

May you succeed in all important ways with one  
another,

and not fail in the little graces.  
May you look for things to praise, often say,  
"I love you!" and take no notice of small faults.  
If you have quarrels that push you apart,  
may both of you hope to have good sense  
enough to take the first step back.

May you enter into the mystery which is the  
awareness of one another's presence - no more  
physical than spiritual, warm and near when you are  
side by side, and warm and near when you are in  
separate rooms or even distant cities.  
May you have happiness, and may you find it making  
one another happy.  
May you have love, and may you find it loving one  
another!

## **TRUE LOVE**

~ By Author Unknown ~

True love is a sacred flame  
That burns eternally,  
And none can dim its special glow  
Or change its destiny.  
True love speaks in tender tones  
And hears with gentle ear,  
True love gives with open heart  
And true love conquers fear.  
True love makes no harsh demands  
It neither rules nor binds,  
And true love holds with gentle hands  
The hearts that it entwines.

## "Union" by Robert Fulghum

You have known each other from the first glance of  
acquaintance to this point of commitment. At some  
point, you decided to marry. From that moment of  
yes to this moment of yes, indeed, you have been  
making promises and agreements in an informal  
way. All those conversations that were held riding in  
a car or over a meal or during long walks — all those  
sentences that began with "When we're married" and  
continued with "I will" and "you will" and "we will" —  
those late night talks that included "someday" and

“somehow” and “maybe” — and all those promises that are unspoken matters of the heart. All these common things, and more, are the real process of a wedding.

The symbolic vows that you are about to make are a way of saying to one another, “You know all those things we’ve promised and hoped and dreamed — well, I meant it all, every word.”

Look at one another and remember this moment in time. Before this moment you have been many things to one another — acquaintance, friend, companion, lover, dancing partner, and even teacher, for you have learned much from one another in these last few years. Now you shall say a few words that take you across a threshold of life, and things will never quite be the same between you. For after these vows, you shall say to the world, this is my husband, this is my wife.

### Opening Prayer:

My Marriage prayer for you is this:

That you will always remember the qualities that attracted you to each other when you first met and how you felt as your feelings of attraction turned into respect, admiration and finally love.

That you will work hard to turn your feelings of love into acts of love so that nothing and no one can divide you.

That you will always have kind and loving hearts that are quick to ask for forgiveness when you are wrong, as well as to forgive when your partner is wrong.

That your love might grow to hear all things, believe all things, hope for all things and endure all things.

I pray you place your marriage in God's hands, and that your love increases and overflows beyond anything you can yet imagine.

## On Your Wedding Day

Today is a day you will always remember,  
The greatest in anyone's life.

You'll start the day just two people in love,  
and end it as Husband and Wife.

It's a brand new beginning the start of of a journey,  
with moments to cherish and treasure, and  
although there'll be times when you both disagree,  
these will surely be outweighed by pleasure.

You'll have heard many words of advice in the past,  
when the secrets of marriage were spoken,  
but you know that the answers lie hidden inside,  
where the bond of true love lies unbroken.

So live Happy 'forever as lovers and friends,  
It's the dawn of of a new life for you.  
As you stand there together with love in you eyes,  
from the moment you whisper "I Do".

And with luck, all you hopes, and your dreams can be  
real. May success finds its way to your hearts.

Tomorrow can bring you the greatest of joys.

But today is the day it all starts.

## Apache Blessing

Now you will feel no rain,  
for each of you will be shelter for the other.

Now you will feel no cold,  
for each of you will be warmth to the other.

Now there will be no loneliness,  
for each of you will be companion to the other.

Now you are two persons, but  
there is only one life before you.

May beauty surround you both in the journey ahead

and through all the years.

May happiness be your companion and your days together be good and long upon the earth.

Treat yourselves and each other with respect, and remind yourselves often of what brought you together.

Give the highest priority to the tenderness, gentleness and kindness that your connection deserves.

When frustration, difficulties and fear assail your relationship, as they threaten all relationships at one time or another, remember to focus on what is right between you, not only the part which seems wrong.

In this way, you can ride out the storms when clouds hide the face of the sun in your lives – remembering that even if you lose sight of it for a moment, the sun is still there.

And if each of you takes responsibility for the quality of your life together, it will be marked by abundance and delight.

## Falling in Love is Like Owning a Dog

by Taylor Mali

First of all, it's a big responsibility,  
So think long and hard before deciding on love.

On the other hand, love gives you a sense of security: when you're walking down the street late at night and you have a leash on love ain't no one going to mess with you. Because crooks and muggers think love is unpredictable. Who knows what love could do in its own defense?

On cold winter nights, love is warm. It lies between

you and lives and breaths and makes funny noises.

Love wakes you up all hours of the night with its needs. It needs to be fed so it will grow and stay healthy.

Love doesn't like being left alone for long. But come home and love is always happy to see you. It may break a few things accidentally in its passion for life, but you can never be mad at love for long.

Is love good all the time? No! No!  
Love can be bad. Bad, love, bad! Very bad love.  
Love makes messes. Love leaves you little surprises here and there. Love needs lots of cleaning up after.

Sometimes you just want to get love fixed.

Sometimes you want to roll up a piece of newspaper and swat love on the nose,  
not so much to cause pain, just to let love know  
Don't you ever do that again!

Sometimes love just wants to go for a nice long walk.  
Because love loves exercise.

It runs you around the block and leaves you panting.

It pulls you in several different directions at once, or winds around and around you until you're all wound up and can't move.

But love makes you meet people wherever you go.

People who have nothing in common but love stop and talk to each other on the street.

Throw things away and love will bring them back, again, and again, and again.

But most of all, love needs love, lots of it. And in return, love loves you and never stops.

## Words of St. Paul

as interpreted by Mr. Robert Larcher

(and spoken to his son and daughter-in-law  
on the occasion of their wedding on 10-9-10)

So be imitators of God, as beloved children,  
and live in love. Be subordinate to one another  
out of respect. Wives—always love your husbands;  
Husbands—always love your wives.  
– Ephesians 5

Offer yourselves as a spiritual worship, holy and  
pleasing to God. Do not worry about the material  
trappings of this world, But be transformed through  
each other, to be good and loving of each other.  
Let your love be always sincere; and savor that  
sincerity that you find in your hearts.  
– Romans 12

Cherish what is good in life: the beauty of a gentle  
and calm disposition. Love one another with mutual  
understanding and mutual affection. Glorify your holy  
union by always showing each other the honor and  
goodness you possess as children of God.  
– 1st Peter 3

## Traditional Irish Blessing

May the road rise to meet you,  
May the wind be always at your back.  
May the sun shine warm upon your face,  
The rains fall soft upon your fields.  
And until we meet again,  
May God hold you in the palm of his hand.

May God be with you and bless you;  
May you see your children's children.  
May you be poor in misfortune,  
Rich in blessings,  
May you know nothing but happiness

From this day forward.

May the road rise to meet you  
May the wind be always at your back  
May the warm rays of sun fall upon your home  
And may the hand of a friend always be near.

May green be the grass you walk on,  
May blue be the skies above you,  
May pure be the joys that surround you,  
May true be the hearts that love you.

### From Captain Corelli's Mandolin

Love is a temporary madness, it erupts like volcanoes and then subsides. And when it subsides you have to make a decision. You have to work out whether your roots have so entwined together that it is inconceivable that you should ever part.

Because this is what love is. Love is not breathlessness, it is not excitement, it is not the promulgation of eternal passion. That is just being "in love" which any fool can do.

Love itself is what is left over when being in love has burned away, and this is both an art and a fortunate accident. Those that truly love, have roots that grow towards each other underground, and when all the pretty blossom have fallen from their branches, they find that they are one tree and not two.

### Three Readings

To be read together, or separately

What greater thing is there for two human souls than to feel that they are joined for life—to strengthen each other in all labor, to rest on each other in all sor-row, to minister to each other in silent

unspeakable memories at the moment of the last parting.

– George Elliot

We seek the comfort of another. Someone to share and share the life we choose. Someone to help us through the never ending attempt to understand ourselves. An in the end, someone to comfort us along the way.

– Marcus Finch Lupus

Married love is love woven into a pattern of living. It has in it the elements of understanding and of the passionate kindness of husband and wife toward each other. It is rich in the many-sided joys of life because each is more concerned with giving joy than with grasping it for himself. And joys are most truly ex-perienced when they are most fully shared.

– Leland Foster Wood

## Committed Ceremonies

Pastor Greeting - discourse on difference Legal and Spiritual Marriage - discourse requesting support of all assembled to help couple grow their relationship

"The Art of Marriage"

The little things are the big things.

It is never being too old to hold hands.

It is remembering to say "I love you" at least once a day.

It is never going to sleep angry.

It is at no time taking the other for granted; the courtship should not end with the honeymoon, this should continue through all the years.

It is having a mutual sense of values and common objectives.

It is standing together facing the world.

It is forming a circle of love that gathers in the whole family.  
It is doing things for each other, not in the attitude of duty or Sacrifice, but in the spirit of joy.  
It is speaking words of appreciation and demonstrating Gratitude in thoughtful ways.  
It is not expecting one partner to wear a halo or The other to have the wings of an angel.  
It is not looking for perfection in each other.  
It is cultivating flexibility, patience, understanding and A sense of humor  
It is having the capacity to forgive and forget.  
It is giving each other an atmosphere in which each can grow.  
It is finding room for things of the spirit.  
It is a common search for the good and the beautiful.  
It is establishing a relationship in which the independence is equal Dependence is mutual and the obligation is reciprocal.  
It is not only marrying the right partner, It is being the right partner.

### **The Ceremony**

We Are Here Today because \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ have asked us to witness their love, acknowledge their love, and respect their love.

\_\_\_\_\_and \_\_\_\_\_, it is this day you take a giant step of courage. We are here as witnesses and to applaud your love, your courage, and your growth. With a commitment this strong, the force of that commitment, of that love, of that courage, reaches out around you, so that our lives are changed. We share a part of your small pond, the ripple of the love from this celebration stands and grows in each of us.

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, you are now taking into your care and keeping, the one in the entire world whom you love most. You are adding to your life the companionship and blessing of a deep trust. You are to each other strength, responsibility and love.

In human history, we have not discovered a better

way of life than sharing love in a lasting and responsible way. You have found the one to share your love, companionship, hopes, joys and dreams of life.

Real love, is something beyond the warmth and romance of being deeply in love. It is caring as much about the welfare of your partner as of your own. Real love is not total absorption into each other, but rather the sharing of two hearts, two minds, and two bodies. Real love is not total absorption into each other, but rather the sharing of two hearts, two minds, and two bodies. Love makes burdens lighter because you have someone with whom to share them. Love makes you stronger in many ways and able to face life in ways you dare not face alone.

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ are you ready to make your vows of commitment to each other? (they answer; "Yes")

(To partner 1: repeat after me)

\_\_\_\_\_ I offer myself to you as a joyful companion. I offer myself to you as a caring lover. I offer myself to you as a best friend. I promise to listen to your voice and to your heart; I promise to respect your sorrow and to respect your joy; I promise to be a source of strength, a source of comfort and a source of compassion. I promise to love and honor you all the days of my life.

(to partner2) \_\_\_\_\_, do you accept these promises made by {\_\_\_\_\_ (partner 1)}

(to partner 2: repeat after me)

\_\_\_\_\_ I offer myself to you as a joyful companion. I offer myself to you as a caring lover. I offer myself to you as a best friend. I promise to listen to your voice and to your heart; I promise to respect your sorrow and to respect your joy; I promise to be a source of strength, a source of comfort and a source of compassion. I promise to love and honor you all the days of my life.

(to partner1) \_\_\_\_\_, do you accept these promises made by {\_\_\_\_\_ (partner 2))

RINGS (request couples to get rings, hold so all can see) Pastor: homily on rings, and making a marriage work

#### CALL & RESPONSE PRAYER

Bless O God these rings, that \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_, who give them and who wear them, may ever abide in peace. May they together in Unity. May they together in love. May they together in Happiness for the rest of their lives. We pray this and claim this in the name of Jesus . . . (and they all said) "Amen".

(partner 1) \_\_\_\_\_, do you give this ring as a token of your love and commitment to \_\_\_\_\_?

( repeat after me)

Partner 1: \_\_\_\_\_, I give you this ring as a symbol of our vows, and with all that I am, and all that I have, I honor you. In the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, with this ring, I seal my commitment to you.

(partner 2) \_\_\_\_\_, do you give this ring as a token of your love and commitment to \_\_\_\_\_?

( repeat after me)

Partner 2:

\_\_\_\_\_, I give you this ring as a symbol of our vows, and with all that I am, and all that I have, I honor you. In the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, with this ring, I seal my commitment to you.!

(Optional blended family service module would go here) (Optional Unity Candle module would go here) \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, may your lives together be joyful and content. May your love it is bright as the stars and serve as a beacon for us, your friends.

May your love me as warm as the sun, accepting as the ocean, and enduring as the mountains.

I (pastor name) have the great pleasure to pronounce you both united in a relationship which will grow and bloom more beautiful each day that

you carry out the promises you have here made to each other.

That partnership which you have chosen to enact today, let no one mess with!

Would you care to share with us your first kiss of this new era in your lives?

(To attendees) Allow me the privilege of introducing to you \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, now formally united as a loving, caring couple.

## Committed Ceremony Two

Good morning, and welcome to the ceremony that will unite \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in Spiritual marriage. We gather here today to celebrate their union, and to honor their commitment to not just gazing at one another, but to looking outward together in the same direction. Today \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ proclaim their love to the world, and we rejoice with and for them.

### Opening Prayer

Let us begin By welcoming the presence of the Spirit of Love Within each of us. As we lift into the loving That joins us together as one, Let us surround \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ with our love, our prayers, and our best wishes for them on this, their wedding day and throughout their journey together as a married couple.

Beloved Spirit of Love, We welcome you And are so grateful for your presence Here with us today. We have come here as a community of family and friends to love and support \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, to witness their entrance into the sacred and joyous covenant of marriage, and to celebrate the beginning of their journey together as a couple.

We rejoice that they have found each other And that through each other, They have come to know the power of love. We celebrate this union Of their hearts, minds, bodies, and souls And wish them great joy. We ask, Beloved Spirit, That you guide and bless \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ With a loving and

happy marriage. We ask that through this union They may come to know you more deeply. Amen. And now \_\_\_\_\_ who is \_\_\_\_\_'s best friend from childhood will present the first reading: (there will be a reading here)

Declaration of support: In marriage, we give ourselves freely and generously into the hands of the one we love, and in doing so, each of us receives the love and trust of the other as our most precious gift. But even as that gift is shared by two people who are in love, it also touches the friends and family members who in various ways support and contribute to the relationship. All of you are \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_'s community, and each of you has played some part in bringing them to this moment. This is why gathering as a community is such an important part of a wedding ceremony. Because \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ are now taking a new form as a married couple, and in this form, they become part of their community in a new way.

\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, Today we have come together To celebrate the love you have found with each other. By being here with you, Each of us is declaring our support For your decision to join together in Spiritual marriage.

(To guests...) As families and friends You form the community of support That surrounds \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. Each of you, by your presence here today, Is being called upon to uphold them In honoring and loving each other. Always stand beside them, Never between them. Offer them your love and support, Not your judgment. Encourage them with your kindness and loving hearts, And honor this marriage Into which they have come to be joined today. Will everyone please stand?

Collectively, you represent The families, friends, and traditions That have brought \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ To this point in their lives. Please affirm your support for this marriage By responding "Yes, I do" To the following question: As part of the community which surrounds \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, do you offer your love and support to strengthen their marriage and bless this family created by their union? Guests: Yes, I do! Please be seated.

Marriage address

A true marriage is the ultimate relationship Because it offers the opportunity of limitless intimacy Between two people. It is a great and challenging adventure Into the depths and heights of human caring, Affection, trust and understanding. For those who take its sacred vows, Their lives are intermingled As the waters of two streams become one, Flowing together into a mighty river.

A true spiritual marriage Is a journey of transformation Into the profound mysteries of life and creation. In marriage, two become one, And that one is far more complex and dynamic Than the simple addition of the two. In marriage, We do not give ourselves to another, But rather surrender into something greater While maintaining our balance And well-being as individuals. Together, we co-create a shared identity we call "we." A truly sacred marriage union Is a vehicle for self-realization That allows us to know our true selves By reflection through our loved one. \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, You have come here today To surrender into the co-creation Of something wholly new and transcendent, Your precious, sacred and unique marriage journey.

Today, you step into a much fuller experience and expression of the mysteries and miracles of love.

Your precious, blessed and sacred union Is lovely in its innocence, Mighty in its strength, And abundant with possibilities. It belongs to you both. Over time you will give it identity. We wish for you the wisdom, Strength of character, And divine creativity To make this a happy marriage, A safe harbor. And a joyful journey to share. Vicki Bauer is a close personal friend of both \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ will now bring another reading: (Another reading here) \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, we are here to remember and rejoice with you and to recount with one another that it is love that guides us on our path, and to celebrate as you begin this journey together, it is in this spirit that you have come here today to exchange these vows.

**VOWS:**

\_\_\_\_\_ repeat after me: I \_\_\_\_\_, take you \_\_\_\_\_

to be my spouse. I promise above all else to love in truth with you and to communicate fully and fearlessly. I give you my hand and my heart as a sanctuary of warmth and peace and pledge my love, devotion, faith and honor as I join my life to yours.

\_\_\_\_\_ repeat after me: I \_\_\_\_\_, take you \_\_\_\_\_ to be my spouse. I promise above all else to love in truth with you and to communicate fully and fearlessly. I give you my hand and my heart as a sanctuary of warmth and peace and pledge my love, devotion, faith and honor as I join my life to yours.

May I have the rings?

The wedding ring is an unbroken, never-ending circle, as your commitment and love for each other is never-ending. These simple bands are not of great value in themselves, but are made precious by what they represent. They are a symbol to you and the world of your union. Your rings say that you are two individuals bound together. When you look at these rings, remember the commitment that you have made to each other today.

\_\_\_\_\_, place this ring on \_\_\_\_\_'s finger, and repeat after me: Just as this circle is without end, my love for you is eternal Just as it is made of indestructible substance My commitment to you will never fail

With this ring I take you to be my partner for life.

\_\_\_\_\_, do you accept this commitment? I do. (Bring ring onto hand)

\_\_\_\_\_, I understand you have something you wish to say to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_. Boys, will you step up here?

Blended family ceremony (Vows from \_\_\_\_\_ to the Boys – Unity candle) Mallory Strickland, vocal selection

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, although I'm officiating here to day, it is not truly in my power to sanctify, legitimize or bless your relationship in any way, because the two of you have already done that in your hearts.

Final blessing

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, You have declared your intention and vows Before this gathering of your

families and friends. May the grace of this day Carry forward with you All the days of your lives. May you find delight in each other And may your love continue to grow And to nurture you Throughout your lives.

I wish you the strength To be true to the vows You have made here today. May you always have the wisdom To cherish the precious love you share. May you abide by the laws of Spirit, Nurturing yourselves and this marriage With acceptance, understanding, Cooperation and loving.

May the life you share Be peaceful, healthy and filled With blessings and joy. Now you will feel no rain, For each of you will be shelter to the other; Now you will feel no cold, For each of you will be warmth to the other; Now there will be no loneliness, For each of you will be companion to the other. Now you are two persons, But there is one life before you. As you leave here To enter into the days of your togetherness, May your days be good and long upon the earth.

So, by joining hands and looking into each other's eyes, let it be known that you are joined, body and soul in this lifetime, and that this bond is sacred and eternal. And now that you have exchanged these rings and these vows, I witness and affirm your union of love and it gives me great pleasure to pronounce that you are and will continue to be partners for life.

\_\_\_\_\_ you may kiss \_\_\_\_\_. Congratulations!

I am proud to introduce \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.

### Committed Ceremony in Spanish

<bride> & <Groom>

Buenos Dias and Welcome - Bien Venidos

Note - bilingual. Yo voy a hablar de la ceremonia de la boda , tanto en Inglés y Español.

## "The Art of Marriage" "El arte de la unión"

In love and marriage, the little things are the big things. En el amor y la unión, las pequeñas cosas son las cosas grandes. It is never being too old to hold hands. Nunca eres demasiado viejo para tomarse de las manos.

It is remembering to say "I love you" at least once a day. Recuerda decir "te amo" por lo menos una vez al día.

It is never going to sleep angry. Nunca vayas a dormir enojado.

It is at no time taking the other for granted. Está tomando nunca el otro para concedido.

It is having a mutual sense of values and common objectives. Tener los mismos valores y objetivos.

It is standing together facing the world. Juntos afrontan el mundo.

It is forming a circle of love that gathers in the entire family. Formar un círculo de amor que junte a la familia.

It is doing things for each other, not in the attitude of duty or sacrifice but in the spirit of joy. Hacer cosas para el otro de corazón y no por obligación.

It is speaking words of appreciation and demonstrating gratitude in thoughtful ways. Demostrar gratitud y agradecimiento.

It is not looking for perfection in each other but cultivating patience, understanding . . . a sense of humor . . . and the capacity to forgive and forget. No busques perfección en tu pareja, cultiva la paciencia y el entendimiento con sentido del humor y tener la capacidad de perdonar y olvidar.

It is providing each other an atmosphere in which each can grow. Proporcionar un ambiente en el cual cada uno pueda crecer.

It is finding room for things of the Spirit. Busca el tiempo para cultivar el espíritu.

It is establishing a relationship in which the independent is equal, dependence is mutual, and the obligation is reciprocal. Hacer una relación en la cual la independencia y dependencia sean iguales y las responsabilidades recíprocas.

It is not only marrying the right partner, it is being the right partner. No solo es estar con la pareja

adecuada sino también es ser la pareja adecuada.

The exchange of vows

Pastor \_\_\_\_: <bride> & <Groom>\_\_, are you ready to exchange your vows of marriage? \_\_<bride>\_ y \_\_<Groom>\_\_, estan listos para intercambiar sus votos de la unión?

Man: I, \_\_<Groom>\_\_\_\_\_, take you, \_\_<bride>\_\_\_\_\_, to be my wife, my partner in life and my one true love. I will cherish our friendship and love you today, tomorrow, and forever. I will trust and honor you. I will laugh with you and cry with you. I will love you faithfully through the best and the worst, Through the difficult and the easy. What may come I will always be there. As I have given you my hand to hold, so I give you my life to keep, So help me God..

Yo, \_\_<Groom>\_\_\_\_\_; tomo a ti, <bride>, para ser mi esposa, mi socia en la vida y mi amor verdadero. Acariciaré nuestra amistad y te amaré hoy, mañana, y por siempre. Te confiaré y honraré. Reiré contigo y lloraré contigo Te amaré fielmente en lo mejor y lo peor, en el difícil y lo fácil. Qué puede venir estaré siempre allí. Pues te he dado mi mano al asimiento, así que te doy mi vida para guardar, así que ayúdame dios.

Woman:

I, \_<bride>\_\_\_\_\_, take you, \_<Groom>\_, to be my wife, my partner in life and my one true love. I will cherish our friendship and love you today, tomorrow, and forever. I will trust and honor you. I will laugh with you and cry with you. I will love you faithfully through the best and the worst, Through the difficult and the easy. What may come I will always be there. As I have given you my hand to hold, so I give you my life to keep, So help me God.

Yo, <bride>; tomo a ti, <Groom>, para ser mi esposo, mi socio en la vida y mi amor verdadero. Acariciaré nuestra amistad y te amaré hoy, mañana, y por siempre. Te confiaré y honraré. Reiré contigo y lloraré contigo. Te amaré fielmente en lo mejor y lo peor, en lo difícil y lo fácil. Qué puede venir estaré siempre allí. Pues te he dado mi mano al asimiento, así que te doy mi vida para guardar, así que

ayúdeme dios.

Pastor: <bride> & <Groom>\_\_, please join hands.

<bride> y <Groom>\_\_, tómense de las manos.

These hands holding yours on your wedding day are the hands of your best friend, young and strong and full of love for you as you promise to love each other today, tomorrow, and forever. Estas manos que sostienen las tuyas en su día de la boda son las manos de tu mejor amigo, joven y fuerte y lleno de amor para ti, como tu promete amarte hoy, mañana, y siempre.

These are the hands that will work along side yours, as together you build your future. Éstas son las manos que trabajaran junto con las tuyas para construir su futuro. These are the hands that will passionately love you and cherish you through the years and, with the slightest touch, will comfort you like no others. Éstas son las manos que te amarán apasionadamente y acariciarán a lo largo de los años.

These are the hands that will hold you when fear or grief fills your mind. Éstas son las manos que te sostendrán cuando el miedo o la pena llenen tu mente. These are the hands that will countless times wipe the tears from your eyes - tears of sorrow and tears of joy. Éstas son las manos que secan tus lágrimas de tristeza y alegría. These are the hands that will tenderly hold your children. Éstas son las manos que sostendrán tus hijos.

These are the hands that will help you to hold your family as one. These are the hands that will give you strength when you need it. Éstas son las manos que te ayudarán a sostener a tu familia. Éstas son las manos que te darán fuerza cuando lo necesites. And lastly, these are the hands that, even when wrinkled and aged, will still be reaching for yours, still giving you the same unspoken tenderness with just a touch. Y al final del camino estas serán las manos que aun cuando estén arrugadas y envejecidas te seguirán tocando con la misma dulzura de siempre.

he exchange of rings

Pastor: The wedding ring is the outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual bond. In these two

rings is the symbol of unity in which two lives are now joined as one. May these rings be forever reminders of the unbroken circle of your love and of the promises you have made here today.

El anillo de bodas es la muestra exterior y visible de un enlace interno y espiritual. En estos dos anillos son el símbolo de la unidad en el cual dos vidas ahora se ensamblan como una. Que estos anillos sean por siempre recordatorios del círculo intacto de su amor y de las promesas que ustedes han hecho aquí hoy.

Man: \_\_<bride>, I give you this ring as a symbol of our vows. You are my beloved, you are my friend, and with all that I am, and all that I have, I honor you. In the name of our God. <bride>, te doy este anillo como símbolo de nuestros votos. Tú eres mi amor, mi amiga, y con todo lo que soy, y todo lo que tengo, te honro. En nombre de nuestro dios.

\_\_<Groom>\_\_\_\_\_, I give you this ring as a symbol of our vows. You are my beloved, you are my friend, and with all that I am, and all that I have, I honor you. In the name of our God. <Groom>, te doy este anillo como símbolo de nuestros votos. Tú eres mi amor, mi amigo, y con todo lo que soy, y todo lo que tengo, te honro. En nombre de nuestro dios.:

Pastor: <bride> & <Groom>\_\_, now that you have uttered your vows and committed that you will honor your love and build your relationship in marriage, I, \_\_\_\_\_Pastor \_\_\_\_\_, authorized by the state of \_\_\_\_\_Ohio\_\_\_\_\_ and sanctioned by Divine Authority, pronounce you legally married, husband and wife. <bride> y <Groom>\_\_, , ahora que ustedes han pronunciado sus votos y confiado que ustedes honrarán su amor y construirán su relación en la unión, Yo, \_\_pastor brian Eastman, autorizado por el estado de Ohio y sancionado por autoridad divina, los declaro casados legalmente, marido y mujer.

Let us Pray: Roguemos:

Heavenly Father, we ask Thy blessings upon (lisa and Israel) as they blend together in their marital

union. Padre divino, pedimos las bendiciones sobre <bride> y <Groom>\_\_, mientras que mezclan juntos en su unión marital. Give them beauty, closeness, and the tender passion of deep friendship as they embrace the future. Dales la belleza, la proximidad, y la pasión blanda de la amistad profunda para abrazar el futuro. Bless them deeply and give them growth and joy as they walk this life together Bendícelos profundamente y dales el crecimiento y la alegría para caminar esta vida juntos. Amen

What the two of you have chosen to put together with the help of God, let no one interfere with.  
<Groom>, you may now kiss your Bride! Lo que Dios ajuntado que lamano del hombre no lo separe.  
<Groom>, puedes ahora besar a tu novia! Pastor:  
¡Déjenme presentar a ustedes a Señor. y a señora <bride> & <Groom>\_<lastname>\_, ! ¡Ahora vayamos y celebremos!  
Pastor: Let me introduce to you <bride> & <Groom> <lastname> Let us go now and celebrate!