

SHORT AND SWEET CEREMONY

WELCOME

Love is a miraculous gift, and a wedding is a celebration of that gift. We are here today to celebrate this gift of love. We are gathered together to share in the joining of two very special people, and to witness the union of (Groom's full name) _____ and (Bride's full name) _____

CONSENT

(Officiant shall say): Are both of you ready to give yourselves to each other as husband and wife?

(Both answer): Yes.

(Bride gives bouquet to Maid of Honor.)

ADDRESS AND READINGS

Today you are giving yourselves to one another to love and to live, to share in the joy and promise of your future together. Your romance grew and matured. It blossomed into true love and brought you to this moment of commitment today. Listen to the words of this poem that characterize a relationship of true love.

*When a man and a woman are in love,
His life lies within hers
and her life lies within his.*

*Each lives as an individual,
yet they also live
for one another.*

*Each strives for independent goals,
but they also work together
to achieve their dreams.*

*When a man and a woman are in love,
they will give to one another
what they need to survive
and help fulfill each other's wants.*

*They will turn one another's
disappointment into satisfaction.*

*They will turn one another's
frustration into contentment.*

*They will work as a mirror,
reflecting to each other
their strengths and weaknesses.*

*They will work together
to alleviate the emotional walls
that may separate them.*

*They will work together to build
a better understanding of one another.*

*They will learn to lean on each other,
but not so much as to be
a burden on the other.*

*They will learn to reach out to one another,
but not so much as to suffocate the other.*

*They will learn when it is time to speak
and when it is time to listen.*

*They will be there to comfort each other
in times of sorrow.*

*They will be there to celebrate together
in times of happiness.*

*They will be one another's friend,
guiding each other to the happiness
that life holds.*

*They will be one another's companion,
facing together the challenges
that life may present.*

*When a man and a woman are in love,
his life lies within hers
and her life lies within his.*

*Together they will love one another
for the rest of their lives
and forever.*

(Groom) _____ and (Bride) _____, may this kind of true love always help you keep the promises you are about to make here today.

WEDDING VOWS

My promise to you is but a simple one. I will love you today and everyday that follows until the end of time. With the passing of every minute, my love grows stronger and my devotion grows deeper. I will love and cherish you until my eyes can no longer see your beauty, my ears can no longer hear your loving words, and my hands can no longer feel your tender caress. From this moment until my dying breath, you are my love—you are my life.

NOTE: These vows are best if read simultaneously to each other.

EXPLANATION OF THE RINGS

These rings are made of precious metals, a symbol of the riches that reside in each of you. As any metal is purified by the heat of testing, so will your love be purified by the tests given to you through the many seasons of your love. These rings also are made of precious gems, gems that radiate a quality and a brilliance that set them apart from other ordinary stones. May these rings always reflect the light of your love throughout your life together. Wear them as the sign of the love that exists between you, the love which now your hearts enfold and your words express.

EXCHANGE OF THE RINGS

(The Officiant shall say): May I have the token of (Groom's) _____ love for (Bride) _____?
(Officiant receives ring from Best Man.)

(The Officiant shall then say): (Groom) _____, please repeat after me.

(Bride) _____, this ring is the token of my love. / I marry you with this ring, / with all that I have and all that I am.

(The Officiant shall say): (Bride) _____, please respond by repeating after me.

(Groom) _____, I will forever wear this ring / as the sign of my commitment / and the desire of my heart.

(The Officiant shall say): May I have the token of (Bride's) _____ love for (Groom) _____?
(Officiant receives ring from Maid of Honor.)

(The Officiant shall then say): (Bride) _____, please repeat after me.

(Groom) _____, this ring is the token of my love. / I marry you with this ring, / with all that I have and all that I am.

(The Officiant shall say): (Groom) _____, please respond by repeating after me.

(Bride) _____, I will forever wear this ring / as the sign of my commitment / and the desire of my heart.

LIGHTING OF THE UNITY CANDLE

(Or Other Optional Wedding Tradition)

The lighting of the Unity Candle symbolizes the joining together of these two hearts into one. From this moment on, the light of your love burns jointly as your inner candles continue to burn separately. May the path of life become brighter as the flame of your love grows stronger.

WEDDING BLESSING

May all that you are, always be in love. May all that is love, always be in you. May your love be as beautiful on each day you share as it is on this day of celebration, and may each day you share be as precious to you as the day you first fell in love. May you always see and encourage the best in each other. May the challenges life brings your way make your marriage even stronger. And may you always be each other's best friend and greatest love.

PRONOUNCEMENT

(Groom) _____ and (Bride) _____, now that you have shared with each other these words of love and commitment, and we have witnessed the expression of your love as you have given each other these rings, it is with great joy and happiness that I pronounce you husband and wife.

KISS

(The Officiant shall say): (Groom) _____, you may kiss your Bride.

(Bride and Groom kiss.)

PRESENTATION

(Bride receives bouquet from Maid of Honor and the Officiant shall say): Ladies and Gentlemen, it is my privilege to introduce to you (Mr. and Mrs.) _____.