

# CHRISTIAN WEDDING CEREMONY

## WELCOME:

We are gathered here today in the presence of God, and friends and loved ones, to celebrate one of life's greatest moments. We are here to give recognition to the worth and beauty of love, and to add our best wishes and blessings to the words that will unite \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in holy matrimony. They are delighted that you are here today. Thank you for your presence and participation on this special day.

## PRESENTATION OF BRIDE:

Who gives their blessing for this marriage?

## MARRIAGE MESSAGE:

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, today you are affirming before witnesses of earth and heaven that you believe God has intended that you should share life in the holy union of matrimony. Your marriage must stand by the strength of your love and the power of faith in each other and in Jesus Christ. There is no relationship on earth as intimate or meaningful as those you are about to enter. There is no human institution more sacred than that of the home you are about to form. The life that each of you experienced now, individually, will hereafter be inseparably united, for the two shall become one flesh. Christian marriage is based on this deep, invisible union of two souls who seek to find completion in one another. Solomon said that a cord of three strands is not easily broken, so too your two lives when merged together and entwined with Christ will make a beautiful marriage that is strengthened by God's love. This is the core of your marriage and why you are here today. It will take trust, to know in your hearts that you truly want the best for each other. It will take dedication, to stay open and honest with one another - and to learn and grow together. It will take faith, to go forward together without knowing exactly what the future brings. And it will take commitment, to hold true to the journey you both promised today to share together. An intimate and secure relationship is not based solely on promises, but also on trust, respect, faithfulness and the ability to forgive. A lasting marriage is based on all of these, bound together by love.

## Love Chapter - 1 Corinthians 13

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails. And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

## DECLARATION OF INTENT:

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ may this be the love that you bring into this relationship and may its essence touch all those with whom you come in contact. Just as the waters touch and nourish the many shores of the earth, may your love be a moving sea between the shores of your souls. As you come this day to affirm your love and commitment, may you always remember to value each other as special and unique individuals, and that you respect each other's thoughts, ideas and feelings. May you be able to forgive and to forget when wronged and live each day that you may share it together - as from this day forward you will be each other's home, comfort and sanctuary.

\_\_\_\_\_, do you take \_\_\_\_\_ to be your wife, to live together in the sacred covenant of faith, hope, and love according to the intention of God for your lives? Do you promise to be considerate and tender in your care of her and prefer her above all others, accept full responsibility for her every necessity for as long as you both shall live? [I do]

\_\_\_\_\_, do you take \_\_\_\_\_ to be your husband, to live together in the sacred covenant of faith, hope, and love according to the intention of God for your? Do you promise to be considerate and tender in your care of him and prefer him above all others, accept full responsibility for his every necessity for as long as you both shall live? [I do]

## EXCHANGE OF VOWS:

The vows that you are about to exchange serve as a verbal representation of the love you have promised to each other. For it is not the words that you speak today which will unite you together as one, but the inner sense of love and commitment that each of you feels within your soul. No other human ties are as tender, no other vows more sacred than those you now assume.

*I, \_\_\_\_\_, take you, \_\_\_\_\_, to be my wife, my constant friend and the love of my life. In the presence of our family and friends and the Lord Jesus Christ who brought us together, I promise to be your faithful partner in sickness and in health, in good times and in bad, and in happiness as well as in sadness. I promise to love you unconditionally, to support you in your aspirations, and to honor and respect you. This is my solemn vow.*

*I, \_\_\_\_\_, take you, \_\_\_\_\_, to be my husband, my constant friend and the love of my life. In the presence of our family and friends and the Lord Jesus Christ who brought us together, I promise to be your faithful partner in sickness and in health, in good times and in bad, and in happiness as well as in sadness. I promise to love you unconditionally, to support you in your aspirations, and to honor and respect you. This is my solemn vow.*

## EXCHANGE OF RINGS:

A circle is the symbol of the sun and the earth and the universe. It is a symbol of holiness and of perfection and of peace. In these rings it is the symbol of unity, in which your lives are now joined in one unbroken circle. The wedding ring is placed on the fourth finger of the left hand because it was traditionally believed that this finger was a direct connection to the heart - the perfect place for a symbol representing eternal love and commitment. May God bless these rings that you give to each other as the sign of your love, trust, and devotion.

\_\_\_\_\_ please place this ring on \_\_\_\_\_ and ring finger and repeat after me: *I give you this ring as a sign of my devotion and love and with my heart I promise to you all that I am. With this ring I marry you and join my life to yours.*

\_\_\_\_\_ please place this ring on \_\_\_\_\_ ring finger and repeat after me: *I give you this ring as a sign of my devotion and love and with my heart I promise to you all that I am. With this ring I marry you and join my life to yours*

May the sacredness of this moment and the vows and rings you have exchanged ever remain as a priceless memory in the heart of each of you and may you have perfect love and peace together.

#### **UNITY SAND BLENDING CEREMONY: Optional**

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ may your love always be as constant as the never-ending waves, flowing endlessly from the depths of the sea. Just as there will never be a morning without the ocean's flow, there will never be a day without your love for each other. You have just sealed your relationship by the giving and receiving of rings. You have committed here today to share the rest of your lives with each other. This beautiful union is symbolized through the combining of these two individual shells of sand. The first shell represents you \_\_\_\_\_, and all that you were, all that you are, and all that you will ever be, and the other represents you \_\_\_\_\_, and all that you were, all that you are and all that you will ever be. Each one holds its own unique beauty, strength, and character. They can stand on their own and be whole, without need of anything else. However when these two are blended together they create an entirely new and extraordinarily more intricate entity. Each grain of sand brings to the mixture a lasting beauty that forever enriches the combination.

Please pour the sand into this common container to symbolize the union of your two lives.

This container of sand now represents your new life together, although you are two separate people your lives are now entwined together. Just as these grains of sand can never be separated and poured again into the individual containers, so will your marriage be a molding of two individual personalities, bonded together forming one heart, one love. The life that each of you experienced now, individually, will hereafter be inseparably united, for the two shall become one.

#### **MARRIAGE BLESSING:**

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ if there is anything you remember of this marriage ceremony, may it be the love that brought you here today, it is only love which can make it a glorious union, and by love which your marriage shall endure. Today your separate lives with your individual memories, desires, and hopes merge into one. You are now taking into your care and keeping the happiness of the one person in the entire world whom you love above all others. You are adding to your life not only the affection of each other, but also the companionship and blessing of a deep trust as well. You are agreeing to share strength, responsibilities and to share love. May you be a blessing and comfort to each other, sharers of each other's dreams, consolers of each other's sorrows, helpers to each other in all of life's challenges. May you encourage each other in whatever you set out to achieve. May you trust each other, trust God and be unafraid. May your marriage bring you all the exquisite excitements a marriage should bring, and may Christ grant you patience, tolerance, and understanding.

#### **PRONOUNCEMENT OF MARRIAGE:**

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ you have exchanged vows, promises and rings linking your destinies before God, family and friends, so by the will of God I pronounce you husband and wife. What God has united let no one separate. The grace of Christ attend you, the love of God surround you, the Holy Spirit keep you. Amen.

#### **KISS:**

\_\_\_\_\_ you may now kiss your bride.

#### **PRESENTATION OF HUSBAND & WIFE:**

It is my honor to present to you Mr. and Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_.