

SPIRITUAL WEDDING CEREMONY

WELCOME:

_____ and _____ want to thank you for sharing with them on this special day. Those of you who have had the pleasure of spending some time with them, have seen for yourselves that they possess a very rare and wonderful love. We are here today to celebrate their love and participate in this most joyous occasion.

PRESENTATION OF BRIDE:

Who presents this woman in marriage?

MARRIAGE MESSAGE:

_____ and _____, marriage is the most important of all earthly relationships. It should be entered into reverently, thoughtfully and with full understanding of its sacred nature. Your marriage must stand by the strength of your love and the power of faith in each other and in God. Just as two threads woven in opposite directions form a beautiful tapestry, so to your two lives when merged together will make a beautiful marriage. It is a mutual enrichment; a mingling of two personalities which diminishes neither, and enhances both. "Marriage is a fusion of two hearts, the union of two lives, the coming together of two tributaries, which after being united in marriage, will flow in the same channel in the same direction. To make your relationship work will take 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? Do you promise to love, adore, and encourage her? Share the good times and achievements as well as the hard times and disappointments? Keep her in sickness and in sorrow and to be loyal to her forevermore? [I do]

_____, do you take _____, to be your husband? Do you promise to love, adore, and encourage him? Share the good times and achievements as well as the hard times and disappointments? Keep him in sickness and in sorrow and to be loyal to him forevermore? [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.

_____, *as your husband and best friend I promise to love and encourage you; sharing hopes, dreams and secrets, I give you my hand and my heart as a sanctuary of warmth and peace, and promise my faith and love to you, till the end of time. This is my solemn vow!*

_____, *as your wife and best friend I promise to love and encourage you; sharing hopes, dreams and secrets, I give you my hand and my heart as a sanctuary of warmth and peace, and promise my faith and love to you, till the end of time. This is my solemn vow!*

EXCHANGE OF RINGS:

The marriage ring seals the vows of marriage and represents a promise for eternal and everlasting love. It is a physical manifestation of the promises joining both the bride and groom together. 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.

_____, you are my companion in life and my one true love. I will treasure our friendship and love you today, tomorrow, and forever. I will trust and honor you; I will laugh and cry with you. With unfailing love I will stand by you through the best and the worst, through the difficult and the easy. As I have given you my hand to hold so I give you my life to keep. This is my solemn vow!

_____, you are my companion in life and my one true love. I will treasure our friendship and love you today, tomorrow, and forever. I will trust and honor you; I will laugh and cry with you. With unfailing love I will stand by you through the best and the worst, through the difficult and the easy. As I have given you my hand to hold so I give you my life to keep. This is my solemn vow!

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, for the two shall become one.

MARRIAGE BLESSING:

_____ and _____ 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 God 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 I now pronounce you husband and wife.

KISS:

_____ you may now kiss your bride.

PRESENTATION OF HUSBAND & WIFE:

It is my honor to present to you for the first time Mr. and Mrs. _____ and _____.