



## Traditional Wedding Ceremony (Protestant)

Dearly beloved, we have come together in the presence of God to witness and bless the joining together of this man and this woman in Holy Matrimony. The bond and covenant of marriage was established by God in creation, and our Lord Jesus Christ adorned this manner of life by his presence and first miracle at a wedding in Cana of Galilee. It signifies to us the mystery of the union between Christ and his Church, and Holy Scripture commends it to be honored among all people.

The union of husband and wife in heart, body, and mind is intended by God for their mutual joy, for the help and comfort given one another in prosperity and adversity, and when it is God's will for the procreation of children and their nurture in the knowledge and love of the Lord. Therefore marriage is not to be entered into unadvisedly or lightly, but reverently, deliberately, and in accordance with the purposes for which it was instituted by God.

Into this holy union *Groom* and *Bride* now come to be joined. If any of you can show just cause why they may not lawfully be married, speak now; or else forever hold your peace (*pause*)

I require and charge you both, here in the presence of God, that if either of you know any reason why you may not be united in marriage lawfully, and in accordance with God's Word, you do now confess it.

*Bride*, will you have this man to be your husband; to live together in the covenant of marriage? Will you love him, comfort him, honor and keep him, in sickness and in health; and forsaking all others, be faithful to him as long as you both shall live?

*"I will"*

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*Groom*, Will you have this woman to be your wife; to live together in the covenant of marriage? Will you love her, comfort her, honor and keep her, in sickness and in health; and forsaking all others, be faithful to her as long as you both shall live?

*"I will"*

Will all of you witnessing these promises do all in your power to uphold these two persons in their marriage?

*"We will"*

Let us Pray:

O gracious and everlasting God, you have created us male and female in your image: Look mercifully upon this man and this woman who come to you seeking your blessing, and assist them with your grace, that with true fidelity and steadfast love they may honor and keep the promises and vows they make. Through Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever, *Amen*.

Holy scripture tells us of the true meaning of love in the thirteenth chapter of First Corinthians:

Though I speak in the tongues of men or of angels: If I have no love, I am a clanging bell or a tinkling cymbal. Though I prophesy and see into all the mysteries and all hidden knowledge, and have faith enough to move mountains: If I have no love, I am nothing. And though I give away all my possessions to feed the poor, and offer up my body to be burned: If I have no love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient and kind, is never envious or boastful or conceited, does not act rudely or selfishly, is not easily angered, does not count up offenses, takes no pleasure in injustice, but rejoices in the truth; includes all things, has faith in all things, hopes for all things, endures all things.

Love never ends. If there are prophecies, they will disappear; if there is ecstasy, it will cease; if there is knowledge, it will vanish . . . But faith, hope, and love remain forever, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

***1 Corinthians 13: 1-13 [King James Bible]***

Please join hands and *Groom*, repeat after me:

In the Name of God / I *Groom*, take you, *Bride*, / to be my wife, / to have and to hold from this day forward, / for better for worse, / for richer and for poorer, / in sickness and in health, / to love and to cherish, / until we are parted by death. / This is my solemn vow.

Now *Bride*, will you also repeat after me:

In the Name of God / I *Bride*, take you, *Groom*, / to be my husband, / to have and to hold from this day forward, / for better for worse, / for richer and for poorer, / in sickness and in health, / to love and to cherish, / until we are parted by death. / This is my solemn vow.

May I have the rings please:

Bless, oh Lord, these rings to be a sign of the vows by which this man and this woman have bound themselves to each other; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Groom*, as you place your ring upon *Bride's* hand, repeat after me:

*Bride*, I give you this ring / as a symbol of my vow. / With all that I am, / and all that I have, / I honor you, / in the Name of the Father, / and the Son, / and the Holy Spirit. *(or in the name of God)*

*Bride*, as you place your ring upon *Groom's* hand also repeat after me:

*Groom*, I give you this ring / as a symbol of my vow. / With all that I am, / and all that I have, / I honor you, / in the Name of the Father, / and the Son, / and the Holy Spirit. *(or in the name of God)*

Let us pray:

Eternal God, creator and preserver of all life, author of salvation, and giver of all grace: Look with favor upon the world you have made, and for which

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your Son gave his life, and especially upon this man and this woman whom you make one flesh in Holy Matrimony.

Give them wisdom and devotion in the ordering of their common life, that each may be to the other a strength in need, a counselor in perplexity, a comfort in sorrow, and a companion in joy.

Grant that their wills may be so knit together in your will, and their spirits in your Spirit, that they may grow in love and peace with you and one another all the days of their life.

Give them grace, when they hurt each other, to recognize and acknowledge their fault, and to seek each other's forgiveness and yours.

Make their life together a sign of Christ's love to this sinful and broken world, that unity may overcome estrangement, forgiveness heal guilt, and joy conquer despair.

Bestow on them, if it is your will, the gift and heritage of children, and the grace to bring them up to know you, to love you, and to serve you.

Give them such fulfillment of their mutual affection that they may reach out in love and concern for others.

Grant that all married persons who have witnessed these vows may find their lives strengthened and their loyalties confirmed.

Grant that the bonds of our common humanity, by which all your children are united one to another, and the living to the dead, may be so transformed by your grace, that your will may be done on earth as it is in heaven; where, O Father, with your Son and the Holy Spirit, you live and reign in perfect unity, now and forever. *Amen.*

Now that *Groom* and *Bride* have given themselves to each other by solemn vows, with the joining of hands and the giving and receiving of rings, I pronounce that they are husband and wife, in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Those whom God has joined together let no one put asunder.

You may kiss the bride.