



Religious Wedding Ceremony

Processional

[Groom and best men standing at the front with me, while the bride, proceeded by her bridesmaids and maid of honor, walk to join us]

Opening Remarks

“We are gathered here today to celebrate one of life's greatest moments, to give recognition to the worth and beauty of love, and to add our best wishes to the words which shall unite _____ and _____ in marriage. “

“Should there be anyone who has cause why this couple should not be united in marriage, they must speak now or forever hold their peace.”

[If the bride is escorted forward]

“Who is it that brings this woman to this man? “

*[The father, children, relative etc. may give the bride away.
He /they answer "I do", "I do on behalf of her family and friends" etc. ,
This person then steps back and the groom takes the bride's hand.]*

“Thank you _____. You may all be seated.”

[The bridal party remains standing]

“ _____ and _____ , life is given to each of us as individuals, and yet we must learn to live together. Love is given to us by our family or by our friends. We learn to love by being loved. Learning to love and living together is one of the greatest challenges of life - and is the shared goal of a married life.”

Declaration of consent

You may change the vows as you wish or write your own vows

_____ (groom), do you purpose to live with _____ in a fashion consistent with God’s design for marriage? Do you purpose to love her, honor her, and be faithful to her in times of personal need and personal blessing? Do you pledge, with God’s help and to the best of your ability, to seek to establish and maintain honest, open, and loving communication between yourself and _____?

Forsaking all others, do you promise to remain faithful to _____ as long as you both shall live?

Groom: I do.

_____ (bride), do you purpose to live with _____ in a fashion consistent with God's design for marriage? Do you purpose to love him, honor him, and be faithful to him in times of personal need and personal blessing? Do you pledge, with God's help and to the best of your ability, to seek to establish and maintain honest, open, and loving communication between yourself and _____?

Forsaking all others, do you promise to remain faithful to _____ as long as you both shall live?

Bride: I do.

Exchange of vows

“_____ (groom), at this time, you can now express your vows to _____ (bride). *Please repeat after me:*

In the presence of God, and before these witnesses, I, _____, take you _____, to be my wife, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better, for worse; for richer, for poorer; in sickness and in health; in joy and in sorrow; to love and to cherish and to be faithful to you alone, as long as we both shall live.”

“And now _____ (bride), please repeat after me:

In the presence of God, and before these witnesses, I, _____, take you _____, to be my husband, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better, for worse; for richer, for poorer; in sickness and in health; in joy and in sorrow; to love and to cherish and to be faithful to you alone, as long as we both shall live.”

Ring exchange

"Wedding rings are an outward and visible sign of an inward spiritual grace and the unbroken circle of love, signifying to all the union of this man and this woman in marriage."

[The groom is asked to place the ring on the finger of his bride]

“_____ (groom), please repeat after me:

GROOM

With this ring, I give you my promise:
that from this day forward, you shall not walk alone.

May my heart be your shelter, and my arms your home.
May we walk together through all things.

With this ring, I give you my heart.
I have no greater gift to give.

[The bride is asked to place the ring on the finger of her husband]

“ _____ (bride), please repeat after me:

BRIDE

With this ring, I give you my promise:
that from this day forward, you shall not walk alone.

May my heart be your shelter, and my arms your home.
May we walk together through all things.

With this ring, I give you my heart.
I have no greater gift to give.

(If there are children of either couple, sometimes couples will give a ring or small gift such as a necklace or ring to the child and say a short statement that they also are now part of the new family. I believe it very important to mention children's names in the ceremony, If you have minor children coming into the marriage, please provide their names so I will mention them as is appropriate.)

_____ & _____, as the two of you come into this marriage uniting you as husband and wife, and as you affirm today your faith and love for one another, I would ask that you always remember to cherish each other as special and unique individuals, that you respect the thoughts, ideas and suggestions of one another. Be able to forgive, do not hold grudges, and live each day that you may share it together - as from this day forward, you shall be each other's home, comfort and refuge, your marriage strengthened by your love and respect for each other.

Reading (optional)

"A marriage ceremony represents one of life's greatest commitments. But it also is a declaration of love. I wish to read to you what Paul, an ancient scholar and mystic, wrote. I believe it is a true model of love and it is a model of love I hope you pursue in your marriage:

***"Love is very patient and kind, never jealous or envious, never boastful or proud.
Love is never haughty or selfish or rude.
Love does not demand it's own way. Love is not irritable or touchy. Love does not hold grudges and will hardly notice when others do it wrong.
Love is never glad about injustice, but rejoices whenever truth wins out.***

If you love someone, you will be loyal to them no matter what the costs. You will always believe in them, always expect the best in them, and will always stand your ground in defending them."

Prayer

Dear God, our hearts are filled with great happiness on _____ and _____'s wedding day, as they come before You pledging their hearts and lives to one another. Grant that they may ever be true and loving, living together in such a way as to never bring shame or heartbreak into their marriage. Temper their hearts with kindness and understanding, rid them of all pretense or jealousy. Help them to remember to be each other's sweetheart, helpmate, best friend and guide, so that together they may meet the cares and problems of life more bravely. And with the passage of time, may they find great contentment in the rich joy of senior companionship. May the home they are creating today truly be a place of love and harmony, where Your Spirit is always present. Bless this marriage we pray and walk beside _____ and _____ throughout all of their lives together. We ask these things in Your name; Amen

Musical selection/Unity Candle/Sand Ceremony... (optional)

Declaration of marriage

_____ and _____, in so much as the two of you have agreed to live together in Holy Matrimony, have promised your love for each other by these vows, the joining of your hands and the giving of these rings, I now declare you to be Husband and Wife.

Whom God hath joined together, let no one put asunder.

Congratulations! You may kiss your bride.

Signing of the Register

[Signing of all government forms]

Benediction

"May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. May the Lord lift up his countenance unto to you, and give you peace."

Recessional