

# CHRISTIAN WEDDING CEREMONY



(Beloved Family & Friends, please turn off or turn your cell phones to vibrate at this time)

## BRIDAL PARTY ENTRANCE

We are gathered here today in the sight of God, and the presence of friends and family, 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 (GROOM) and (BRIDE) in holy matrimony.

If there is anyone present who has just cause why this couple should not be united, I mean really, why did you come? Go Home.

Who give this woman to this man? (I and my family)

Beloved Friends and Family, please be seated.

Before we get started with our Ceremony here today, I would like to start with this:

The words contained in the Ceremony & Vows that you will hear today have been chosen very carefully. We not only speak these words as being symbolic of the commitment we make, but also to keep them in our hearts as a reminder of the covenant or promise that we have pledged here today. (GROOM) & (BRIDE), as the years go by, may you find that the vows that you have spoken today and words contained herein, have a richer & deeper meaning to both of you. My Prayer for the both of you is that God grants you the wisdom and confidence in making the right decisions, for your lives together as well as for your children.

Beloved Family & Friends, as God the Father through His Son Jesus Christ has ordained your servant with the trust of the Gospel and the servitude to perform Marriage Rites, I must tell you that it is not I that marries. You enter into this covenant of marriage together with God in the center, as the scripture reads in Gen 2:24 & Matt 19:5, **“therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.”** The joining OR marriage of a man & woman is ordained and created of God.

Therefore, Beloved Family & Friends I ask that you pray for (GROOM) & (BRIDE), as well as their children, to hold them up in prayer, to help them in a time of need, and to ask our Heavenly Father thru Jesus that He would strengthen their hearts and keep them healthy in body and in spirit.

Furthermore, Beloved Friend & Family, those married couples that are here today, witnessing the joining of (GROOM) & (BRIDE) in Holy Matrimony, I want you to pay close attention. I don't care if you were married 60 years or 60 seconds ago, I would like you to participate in our Ceremony today. How many here today know that Marriage is NOT a spectator sport. There's no sitting on the sidelines. Oh no, you have to work at it. What does that mean? Well, you can't even begin to work at something unless we have an understanding of it, which means you have to LISTEN first. Married Guys pay attention. Here's how: **Eph 5:23 says “For the husband is the head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the Church...and HE is the Savior of the body”**. This doesn't mean you get to boss you wife around. Probably for some of you, it's the other way around. The key word here is AS Christ is head of the Church, the body of believers. What does Christ do for us? He reconciles us to God the Father. In the same way, men, lead your wife's AND your children to the Father thru Jesus. Scriptually, that puts a big responsibility on a married man to act as a spiritual leader. So, as you are called here to be a part of the joining of (GROOM) & (BRIDE), I want you to hold the hand of your wife throughout this Ceremony and repeat the vows that our Bride & Groom speak to each other, reconfirming the commitment and coventant that you have made to one another.

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My prayer for all married couple here today is that is found in **1 COR 7:3** “Let the husband render to his wife the affection due her, and likewise also the wife to her husband”.

OK, Let us begin:

(BRIDE) and (GROOM), 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 the faith in each other and in God. Just as two threads woven in opposite directions form a beautiful tapestry, so to are your lives when merged together, will make a beautiful marriage.

**1 Corinthians 13:4 (Paraphrased)**

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 its 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 injustices, 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.

Best of all, Love never fails.

**VOWS (Face each other and LOOK INTO EACH OTHERS EYES) (Repeat after me)**

I, (GROOM) take you (BRIDE) to be my Wife, my partner in life and my one true love. I will cherish our friendship and love you today, tomorrow, and forever.

I will trust you and honor you.

I will laugh with you and cry with you.

I will love you faithfully.

Through the best and the worst.

Through the difficult and the easy.

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Whatever may come I will always be there.  
As I have given you my hand to hold,  
So I give you my life to keep,  
So help me God.

I, (BRIDE) take you (GROOM) to be my Husband, my partner in life and my one true love. I will cherish our friendship and love you today, tomorrow, and forever.  
I will trust you and honor you.  
I will laugh with you and cry with you.  
I will love you faithfully.  
Through the best and the worst.  
Through the difficult and the easy.  
Whatever may come I will always be there.  
As I have given you my hand to hold,  
So I give you my life to keep,  
So help me God.

#### 1 John 4:7-12

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us (first) and sent His Son to be the propitiation (sacrifice) for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us.

#### *I DO'S (Again, face each other and LOOK INTO EACH OTHERS EYES)*

(GROOM), do you take (BRIDE) to be your Wife? (I do)  
Do you promise to love, honor, cherish and protect her, forsaking all others and holding only unto her forevermore? (I do)

(BRIDE), do you take (GROOM) to be your Husband? (I do)  
Do you promise to love, honor, cherish and protect him, forsaking all others and holding only unto him forevermore? (I do)

### **RING EXCHANGE (Who has the rings?)**

The ring is a symbol of the unbroken circle of love. Love freely given has no beginning and no end, no giver and no receiver for each is the giver and each is the receiver. May these rings always remind you of the vows you have spoken here today.

#### ***(Repeat after me)***

I (GROOM) take thee, (BRIDE) to be my Wife - to have and to hold, in sickness and in health, for richer or poorer, in joy and sorrow, and I promise my love to you. And with this ring, I take you as my Wife, for as long as we both shall live.

I (BRIDE) take thee, (GROOM) to be my Husband - to have and to hold, in sickness and in health, for richer or poorer, in joy and sorrow, and I promise my love to you. And with this ring, I take you as my Husband, for as long as we both shall live.

(GROOM) & (BRIDE), to make your relationship work, it will take love. As it is written in Eph 5:25 “Husbands, love your wives, Just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her.” This is the core of your marriage and the reason why you are here today.

It will take trust to know that in your hearts, you truly want the best for each other.

It will take dedication to stay open with one another, and to learn to grow together.

It will take faith in God to go forward together, without knowing exactly what the future brings.

And it will take commitment, to hold true to the journey you both have pledged today.

### Unity Candle/Sand Ceremony (If required)

### Wedding Prayer

Heavenly Father, we glorify your name! As we who serve in obedience to your will, ask abundant blessings upon this marriage, may your Word be a lamp unto their feet, as they begin their walk together.

Thank you Lord for your Word and for this day and your continued healing, guidance, instruction and comfort.

Thank you Lord that you open up ours eyes and help us to look past the faults of others, as well as ourselves. Thank you for the work that you've begun in us. Help us not to dwell on the wrongs that others have caused us, but to soften our hearts, so that we may forgive.

Thank you Father for this beautiful family. Thank you for the love that you have put in their hearts. Thank you their families and Friends. Help them to learn from You as well as each other to grow mentally, emotionally, and spiritually.

Help them to realize that no matter what happens, to hold on to each other, and in faith, and know that is all in Your hands.

Thru your Holy Spirit, help them to create a peaceful, stable home of love and a foundation in You on which they can build their lives on, for their children for all those who touch their lives.

But most of all, Heavenly Father help them to keep your example of love that they now share so that by their love, your light may be passed on to their children and future generations.

In this we pray through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

By the authority invested in me by the State of California, the County of (COUNTY) and Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, I now pronounce you Husband & Wife. What God has joined, let no man separate. You may now kiss the Bride.

Beloved Family & Friends, It my pleasure to introduce to you, for the very first time, Mr. & Mrs. (GROOM) & (BRIDE) (GROOM'S LAST NAME).

A message to the Newlywed couple;

The words contained in the Ceremony & Vows that you have spoken here today have been chosen very carefully. We not only speak these words as being symbolic of the commitment we make, but also to keep them in our hearts as a reminder of what we have pledged. As the years go by, you may find that the vows you have spoken today and words contained herein, will have a richer & deeper meaning. My Prayer for the both of you is that God grants you the wisdom and confidence in making the right decisions for your lives together.

Your Brother in Christ,

Thomas Brown  
*Ordained Christian Pastor*



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