

Many Blessings Standard Ceremony # 3

Welcome:

We have gathered today in the love of friendship and family to celebrate the blending together of two lives.

As **Bride and Groom** come before you here today as two, they will leave this place as one, united in marriage. As family and friends, each of you has played some part in bringing them to this moment and in various ways will continue to support and contribute to their relationship. We solemnize this unique time in their lives and make it meaningful by entering into it in an attitude of respect for their deep commitment to each other.

Prayer (Optional)

Let us begin by welcoming the presence of god within each of us.

As we lift into the loving that joins us together as one, let us surround **Bride and Groom** with our love, our prayers, and our best wishes for them, on this, their wedding day, and throughout their journey together as husband and wife.

Thoughts on Marriage:

Bride and Groom you realize that in a greater sense no other person or officiant can truly marry you. Only you can marry yourselves. By your commitment to love each other, to work with all your hearts toward creating an atmosphere of care and respect, and by your willingness to face together the fears and uncertainty that underlie human life, you marry yourselves more surely than any document we will put our signatures on today.

Your love for one another and your willingness to accept each others strength and frailties with understanding and consideration will cement the foundation for a life together that will last. Today you commit yourselves to honoring and protecting one another above your separate selves, and to valuing your union above your own interests. In so doing, you will find a wealth of love and peace not otherwise attainable. But with this joy comes a profound responsibility to protect the bond you share. For it is only with continual care that your love is truly secure in the face of life's inevitable tests.

You must regard each other with the deepest respect. You must appreciate each other's talents, foster each other's dreams, and be ever mindful of the

many gifts the other offers you. You must inspire and encourage one another. For by strengthening your partner, you strengthen your marriage. Bring out the very best in each other. Be sparing in criticism and generous in praise for things well done.

In communication, be honest and open. For the heart that communicates truth without hesitation earns trust and builds a secure home. Without truth there is no respect, and without respect there is no love. Accept your marriage as a work-in-progress that will hereafter consume your attention, yet never be completed. Because a lifelong love requires a lifetime of hard work. But it is a joyous labor, whose fruits are the very richest.

A vast, unknown future stretches out before you. That future, with its hopes and disappointments, its joys and its sorrows, is hidden from your eyes. But it is a great tribute to your belief in each other that you are willing to face those uncertainties together. May the pure, simple love with which you join hearts and hands today never fail, but grow deeper and surer with every year you spend together.

Vows:

To the Groom: Repeat after me

I, Groom take you Bride to be my wife.

I promise to live in truth with you,
and I give you my hand and my heart
as a sanctuary of warmth and peace,
pledging you my love and devotion
as I join my life to yours.

To the Bride: Repeat after me

I, Bride take you Groom to be my husband.

I promise to live in truth with you,
and I give you my hand and my heart
as a sanctuary of warmth and peace,
pledging you my love and devotion
as I join my life to yours.

Ring Exchange

For thousands of years lovers have exchanged rings as a token of their vows. These simple gold bands are not of great value in themselves, but are made precious by our wearing of them. Let these rings be a sign that love has a

past, a present and a future, and that, despite its occasional sorrows, love is a circle of joyous wonder, and delight.

Groom take Bride's ring and put it on her finger and repeat after me:

Just as this circle is without end,
my love for you is never-ending.

With this ring,

I take you to be my partner for life.

Bride take Groom's ring and put it on his finger and repeat after me:

Just as this circle is without end,
my love for you is never-ending.

With this ring,

I take you to be my partner for life.

Pronouncement:

Inasmuch as you have sealed your vows in the presence of those gathered here by the giving of these rings and have consented together to live in marriage, by the power vested in me by the state of Pennsylvania, I now pronounce you husband and wife.

Kiss

Blessing (Optional)

Bride and Groom,

May the road rise to meet you.

May the wind be always at your back.

May the sun shine warm upon your face,

and the rains fall soft upon your fields,

and, until we meet again,

May God hold you in the palm of His hand.

Introduction of the Couple:

It is now with great delight, that I am honored to present to you for the first time in public as husband and wife, Mr and Mrs.
