



## **Wedding Ceremony for Bride and Groom**

### **Feel free to write vows, make changes**

#### **Word of welcome**

Welcome. My name is **Officiant Name** and I have the privilege of performing this marriage ceremony today.

On behalf of **Bride and Groom** welcome and thank you for being here. They are delighted that you are here today to share in their joy during this wonderful moment in their lives.

By your presence, you celebrate with them the love they have discovered in each other and you support their decision to commit themselves to one another for the rest of their lives.

As we begin today's celebration I would like to ask who presents this woman to be married to this man? (Answer. 'Her father/mother and 'I/we do')

#### **Address to the assembly**

Today, their relationship changes. All of us know it will grow, and become stronger and better.

Indeed this day is a day of hope. A day in which **Bride and Groom**, demonstrate their commitment, devotion, and mutual respect, as well as their faith and love in one another.

You, who are gathered here as witnesses are called to continue your support and encouragement as they unite in marriage.

#### **Address to the couple**

We all know marriage is more than two people standing up here repeating vows. There is an art to any creative activity. So, too in marriage.

Part of the art of marriage is finding room for the things of the spirit.

So to you two I say continue in your search for the good and the beautiful in this life.

Part of the art of marriage is being flexible. So in your marriage cultivate flexibility, patience, understanding and a sense of humour.

Part of the art of marriage is to comfort each other and strive to be each others best friend. Most important, develop the capacity to forgive and heal your differences day by day.

Always remember that your love can prevail. It can be the miracle that invites you to learn, to blossom, to expand your horizons.

This ceremony today is a most serious covenant made before all of us as witnesses.

From your new marriage relationship can come the nurture and strength you two need to face the world. Only from this moment on you **Bride and Groom** face the world together in a new way. Today a new family is born and our world is the better for its birth. For this we all celebrate.

### **The Expression of Intent and Consent**

Now just a few questions. First for you **Groom**.

**Groom**, you have chosen **Bride** to be your wife. Will you love and respect her? Will you be honest with her always? Will you stand by her through whatever may come, unless it's as chick flick? (Answer: 'I will')

**Bride**, you have chosen **Groom** to be your husband. Will you love and respect him? Will you stand by him through whatever may come? Will you be honest with him always, with the exception of when you eat his food out of the fridge and pretend it was never there?

And do you both promise to make the necessary adjustments in your personal lives in order that you may continue to live in a harmonious relationship together ***with each other?*** (Answer: 'We do')

### **The affirmation of family and friends**

Now, in the spirit of joy and affirmation, I want to ask your families and friends a question:

Do you, the families and friends of **Bride and Groom**, give them your blessing and support, wishing them a wonderful life together? (All answer: 'We do')

## The Exchange of vows

**Bride and Groom**, we now come to your vows. May I remind you that saying your vows is one thing but nothing is more challenging than living them day by day. What you promise today must be renewed tomorrow and each day that stretches out before you.

Now please turn and face each other and hold hands, looking at each other.

***NOTE: If writing own vows, have them written on cue cards and give a copy to your officiant to hand to you during the ceremony.***

Bride – , I promise to love you, support you, and help brighten every day for you in whatever ways I can.

Groom – Bride, rather than just say the words, I promise to show you I love you with thoughts and deeds.

Bride – I promise to encourage your empathy and compassion for other people, because those are two of the things that I love most about you.

Groom – I promise to always be there for you through anything life throws our way.

Bride – I promise to always listen to what you have to say and to be honest with my responses, even if it means listening to your play-by-plays of Chelsea's goals every single weekend.

Groom – I promise to review your cap on new friends because I know how important they are to you.

Bride- I promise to always make an effort, to make sure there is always love, laughter and joy in our home. I know there are no challenges we can't face if we're a team.

Groom – I promise that bedtime back scratches will be just as good in 2050 as they are in 2015.

Bride – I promise to cherish your family, not just because I also love them, but because they mean the world to you.

Groom – I promise to make your family my own, whether they are by blood, by marriage or by Guyanese.

Bride – You are my person—my love and my life, today and always.

Groom – You are my perfect complement. Let's never lose sight of how lucky we are to have each other.

**Groom**, please repeat after me:

In the presence of our family and friends I **Groom** choose you **Bride** 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.

This is my solemn vow.

Now, **Bride**, please repeat after me:

In the presence of our family and friends, I **Bride** choose you **Groom** 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. This is my solemn vow.

### **The giving and receiving of rings**

**Best Man**, may I have the rings please.

**Groom**, please repeat after me:

**Bride**, I give you this ring, that you may wear it, as a symbol of the vows, we have made this day. I pledge you my love and respect, my laughter and my tears. With all that I am I honour you.

Now, **Bride**, please repeat after me:

**Groom**, I give you this ring that you may wear it as a symbol of the vows we have made this day. I pledge you my love and respect, my laughter and my tears. With all that I am I honour you.

Now may those who wear these rings live in love all their days.

### **Affirmation of the marriage**

Now may the love which has brought you together continue to grow and enrich your lives.

May you meet with courage the problems which arise to challenge you and may your relationship always be one of love and trust.

May the happiness you share today be with you always and may every word you have pledged here be a living truth in your lives.

### **Declaration of Marriage**

**Bride and Groom**, we have heard your promise to share your lives in marriage.

We recognize and respect the covenant of marriage you have made here this day before each one of us as witnesses.

Therefore, in the honesty and sincerity of what you have said and done here today, it is my honour and delight to declare you henceforth to be husband and wife.

**You may seal your vows with a kiss.**

### **Signing of the register**

### **Introduction of the couple (couple face guests, officiant presents 'Record of Marriage' and introduces them)**

It is my personal privilege and a great joy to be the first one to introduce **Bride and Groom** as husband and wife.

**The Recessional (couple leave back down the aisle when music starts)[end]**