

A Traditional Wedding

Dearly beloved, we are gathered together here in the sight of God and in the presence of this company, to join together _____ and _____ in holy matrimony, which is an honorable estate, instituted of God, signifying unto us the mystical union that is betwixt Christ and His church, which holy estate Christ adorned and beautified with His Presence and first miracle that He wrought in Cana of Galilee, and is commended in the Holy Scriptures to be honorable among all men; and therefore is not by any to be entered into unadvisedly or lightly; but reverently, discreetly, advised, and in the sight of God. Into this holy estate these two people present come now to be joined.

Of all the sacred earthly ties, it is marriage above all which must display and embody the words of St. Paul the Apostle, who said in the thirteenth chapter of First Corinthians:

1. If I speak in the tongues^[1] of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal.
2. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.
3. If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames,^[2] but have not love, I gain nothing.
4. Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.
5. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.
6. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.
7. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.
8. Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away.
9. For we know in part and we prophesy in part,
10. but when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears.
11. When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me.
12. Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

13. And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

And now _____ and _____, if thus you love each other and are prepared to unite your lives in this manner, will you please join hands.

_____, do you take this woman as your wedded wife, to live together after God's ordinance in the holy estate of matrimony, to love her, comfort her, honor, and keep her in sickness and in health: and, forsaking all others, keep yourself only unto her, so long as you both shall live? (the man shall answer, "I do").

_____, do you take this man as your wedded husband, to live together after God's ordinance in the holy estate of matrimony, to love him, comfort him, honor and keep him in sickness and in health; and, forsaking all others, keep yourself only unto him, so long as you both shall live? (The woman shall answer "I do").

Then you are each given to the other, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death shall you part, according to God's holy ordinance.

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

_____ With this ring I thee wed.

_____ With this ring I thee wed.

As _____ and _____ have consented together in holy wedlock, and have witnessed the same before God and this company, and thereto have given and pledged their troth, each to the other and have declared the same by giving and receiving a ring, and by joining hands: I pronounce that they are husband and wife.