

## SHORT CEREMONY

### Opening

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

Should there be anyone who has cause why this couple should not be united in marriage, Shush!!

Who gives this Woman/Man today to be married (optional)

Today we have come together to witness the joining of these two lives. For them, out of the routine of ordinary life, the extraordinary has happened. They met each other, fell in love and are finalizing it with their wedding. A good marriage must be created. It is never being too old to hold hands. It's remembering to say I love you every day and it is not just marrying the right person it's being the right partner.

### Vows

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

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

### I Do's

GROOM/BRIDE do you take GROOM/BRIDE to be your HUSBAND/WIFE? ("I do") Do you promise to love, honor, cherish and protect him/her, forsaking all others and holding only unto him/her? ("I do")

GROOM/BRIDE do you take GROOM/BRIDE to be your HUSBAND/WIFE? ("I do") Do you promise to love, honor, cherish and protect him/her, forsaking all others and holding only unto him/her? ("I do")

### Rings

Wedding rings are an unbroken circle of love, signifying to all the union of this couple in marriage.

GROOM/BRIDE, This ring is my sacred gift, with my promise that I will always love you, cherish you and honor you all the days of my life. And with this ring, I thee wed.

GROOM/BRIDE, This ring is my sacred gift, with my promise that I will always love you, cherish you and honor you all the days of my life. And with this ring, I thee wed.

## Closing

By the power vested in me, I now pronounce you .....

## Kiss

You may kiss your GROOM/BRIDE.  
I present to you our happy couple

## FUNNY CEREMONY

Some wedding sermons are incomplete without anecdotes or comic relief to lighten the mood. For the very chill and playful couple, this type of sermon would not be amiss, so this sample below might just do.

### Opening

We are gathered here today to celebrate one of life's greatest moments, the joining of two hearts. In this ceremony today we will witness the joining GROOM/BRIDE and GROOM/BRIDE in marriage.

Today we have come together to witness the joining of these two lives. For them, out of the routine of ordinary life, the extraordinary has happened. They met each other, fell in love and are finalizing it with their wedding today. Romance is fun, but true love is something far more and it is their desire to love each other for life and that is what we are celebrating here today.

But today is also a celebration for the rest of us, for it is a pleasure for us to see love in bloom, and to participate in the union of two people so delightfully suited to one another. And to have a couple of cocktails in the process.

So let's get on with it already!

### Words of Wisdom

A good marriage must be created.

In marriage, the "little" things are the big things.

It is never being too old to hold hands.

It is remembering to say, "I love you" at least once a day.

It is never going to sleep angry.

It is standing together and facing the world.

It is speaking words of appreciation and demonstrating gratitude in thoughtful ways.

It is having the capacity to forgive and forget.

It is giving each other an atmosphere in which each can grow.

It is a common search for the good and the beautiful.

It is not only marrying the right person — it is being the right partner

VOWS (face each other and hold hands)(repeat after me)

I, GROOM/BRIDE take you GROOM/BRIDE to be my husband/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.

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

I, GROOM/BRIDE take you GROOM/BRIDE to be my Husband/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.

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

GROOM/BRIDE AND GROOM/BRIDE I would ask that you always treat yourself and each other with respect, and remind yourselves often of what brought you together today.

Give the highest priority to the tenderness, gentleness, and kindness that your marriage deserves. When frustration and difficulty assail your marriage – as they do to every relationship at one time or another – focus on what still seems right between you, not only the part that seems wrong.

This way, when clouds of trouble hide the sun in your lives and you lose sight of it for a moment, you can remember that the sun is still there. And if each of you will take responsibility for the quality of your life together, it will be marked by abundance and happiness.

### I Do's

GROOM/BRIDE do you take GROOM/BRIDE to be your awful wedded Husband/Wife? (“I do”)

Do you promise to love, honor, cherish and protect him/her, and be faithful to him/her? (“I do”)

Do you promise to take out the trash and pick up your clothes off the floor? (“I do”)

And Do you promise to love him/her even when he/she is cranky(“I do”)

GROOM/BRIDE do you take GROOM/BRIDE to be your awful wedded Husband/Wife? (“I do”)

Do you promise to love, honor, cherish and protect him/her, and be faithful to him/her? (“I do”)

Do you Promise not to whine at him/her when he/she forgets to take out the trash or pick up his clothes from the floor? (“I do”)

And do you promise to love him/her after he/she has been out all night with the boys/girls? (“I do”)

### Ring Exchange (who has the rings) (repeat after me)

There are 3 rings of marriage. The wedding ring, The Engagement ring, and the suffering. We hope the latter can be held to a minimum.

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

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

### Closing Comments

To make your relationship work will take love. This is the core of your marriage and why you are here today.

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

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

It will take faith, 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 to today.

By the power vested in me, I now pronounce you . . . . .

### The Kiss

You may kiss your HUSBAND/WIFE.

I would like to introduce the happy couple

## **CHRISTIAN CEREMONY**

A Christian wedding sermon follows a similar outline with most standard weddings, however, the wedding is usually held in a church with a Pastor or Priest officiating. Christian wedding sermons will also include readings from the Bible. Below we have a sample of such a sermon.

### **Opening**

We are gathered here today in the sight of God, and the presence of friends and loved ones, 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/BRIDE and GROOM/BRIDE in holy matrimony.

### **Who gives this man/woman to be married (Optional)**

GROOM/BRIDE and GROOM/BRIDE, marriage is the most important of all earthly relationships. It should be entered into reverently, thoughtfully and with a full understanding of its sacred nature. Your marriage must stand by the strength of your love and the power of faith in each other and in God. Just as two threads woven in opposite directions form a beautiful tapestry, so to your two lives when merged together will make a beautiful marriage.

### **Bible Passage 1**

#### **1st Corinthians**

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.

### **VOWS (face each other and hold hands)(repeat after me)**

I, GROOM/BRIDE take your GROOM/BRIDE to be my husband/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.

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, GROOM/BRIDE take your GROOM/BRIDE to be my Husband/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,

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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

## Bible Passage 2

### **John 4:7-12**

Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is born of God and knows God. But anyone who does not love does not know God—for God is love.

God showed how much he loved us by sending his only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. This is real love. It is not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins.

Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other. No one has ever seen God. But if we love each other, God lives in us, and his love has been brought to full expression through us.

## I Do's

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

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

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 taken.

Ring Exchange (who has the rings)(repeat after me)

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

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

### Wedding Prayer

Bless their marriage, O God, as they begin their journey down the road of life together. We don't know what lies ahead for the road turns and bends.

But help them to make the best of whatever comes their way.

Help them to continue to enjoy each other as they did when they first met. Help them to realize that nothing nor no one is perfect and to look for the good in all things and all people including themselves.

Help them to respect each other's likes and dislikes, opinions and beliefs, hopes and dreams and fears even though they may not always understand them.

Help them to learn from each other and to help each other to grow mentally, emotionally, and spiritually.

Help them to realize that no matter what happens to them they will hold on to each other and know that things have a way of working out for the good.

Help them to create for their children a peaceful, stable home of love as a foundation on which they can build their lives.

But most of all, dear God, help them to keep lit the torch of love' that they now share so that by their loving example they may pass on the light of love to their children and to their children's children forever. Amen

### Closing Comments

To make your relationship work will take love. This is the core of your marriage and why you are here today.

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

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

It will take faith, 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 to today.

By the power vested in me, I now pronounce you . . . . .

### The Kiss

You may kiss your Groom/Bride.  
I would like to introduce the happy couple

## NONRELIGIOUS CEREMONY

A non-religious wedding is usually exempt from religious wedding sermons or traditional wedding rituals. For this type of wedding, you will need a non-religious wedding sermon. Below we have a sample to give you an idea.

### Welcome

We are gathered here today to celebrate one of life's greatest moments, the joining of two hearts. In this ceremony today we will witness the joining GROOM/BRIDE and GROOM/BRIDE in marriage.

If there is anyone present who has just cause why this couple should not be united.....Sushh!

Who gives this man/woman to be married today (Optional)

### Opening Comments

Today we have come together to witness the joining of these two lives. For them, out of the routine of ordinary life, the extraordinary has happened. They met each other, fell in love and are finalizing it with their wedding Today.

Romance is fun, but true love is something far more and it is their desire to love each other for life and that is what we are celebrating here today.

A good marriage must be created.

In marriage, the "little" things are the big things.

It is never being too old to hold hands.

It is remembering to say, "I love you" at least once a day.

It is never going to sleep angry.

It is standing together and facing the world.

It is speaking words of appreciation and demonstrating gratitude in thoughtful ways.

It is having the capacity to forgive and forget.

It is giving each other an atmosphere in which each can grow.

It is a common search for the good and the beautiful.

It is not only marrying the right person – it is being the right partner

## VOWS (face each other and hold hands)(repeat after me)

I, GROOM/BRIDE take your GROOM/BRIDE to be my husband/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.

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

I, GROOM/BRIDE take your GROOM/BRIDE to be my Husband/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.

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

## Words of Wisdom

GROOM/BRIDE AND GROOM/BRIDE I would ask that you always treat yourself and each other with respect, and remind yourselves often of what brought you together today.

Give the highest priority to the tenderness, gentleness, and kindness that your marriage deserves. When frustration and difficulty assail your marriage – as they do to every relationship at one time or another – focus on what still seems right between you, not only the part that seems wrong.

This way, when clouds of trouble hide the sun in your lives and you lose sight of it for a moment, you can remember that the sun is still there. And if each of you will take responsibility for the quality of your life together, it will be marked by abundance and happiness.

## I Do's

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

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

### Ring Exchange (who has the rings)(repeat after me)

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 taken.

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

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

### Closing Comments

To make your relationship work will take love. This is the core of your marriage and why you are here today.

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

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

It will take faith, 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 to today.

By the power vested in me, I now pronounce you . . . . .

### The Kiss

You may kiss your Groom/Bride.

I would like to introduce the happy couple

## SECOND MARRIAGE CEREMONY

A second marriage is completely different from a first marriage, and most times even more serious and more meaningful. Before a second marriage, a lot of time has passed, a lot of water passed under the bridge. There are children, experiences, joys and sometimes even disappointments. However, the love is still present, and this is why a second marriage carries more meaning and so should the wedding sermon. Below is a sample sermon used for a couple who were going the second round.

We stand here, at the beginning of a new thing today, because of the ending of some other things: the ending of solitude and loneliness, the end of the crush of grief, the end of the fear of loving again. We stand here, today, on this glorious afternoon in this glorious spot of creation, because of second chances, because of this God we have who gives second chances to our beloveds.

The fact that you two stand up here this day says something about your confidence in second chances. With this second chance you kind of know what you're in for, or what you may be in for – the good and the bad and the heartbreaking of it. But this love, this relationship, this commitment to each other is compelling, and here you are.

But maybe all of this isn't really about second chances. Maybe it's not about that at all. Maybe it really is about that stuff Paul described: faith and hope and love.

**Faith in each other:** the faith that this is a person I can trust; that this is a person who's been through as much hell as I have and like I have come through to the land of the living; that this is a person I want to waltz with early and often.

Hope that something good was learned the first time around; hope that some of the things that happened before won't happen this time; hope not that

I will change this person, but that I will be changed for the better because I am committed to this person.

And love, that four-letter word we toss about like a frisbee on a spring day. You two know what love is, what real love is. You know how love gets you through the grief and the loss and the disappointment. You know how love makes a tarnished old piece of life look shiny and new. You have watched each other love your parents; you've watched each other love your brothers and sisters; you've watched each other love and raise your sons. And you admire how each other loves, and you're inspired by that, and you want to be in the midst of all of that adorable radiance.

We may well be here because of second chances, but really, I don't think there's any chance to this at all. You have worked too hard to suggest that your marriage is the offspring of whimsy or serendipity or luck. You have been loved by people who didn't want to see you alone; you've been encouraged by your family and your friends and some professionals; you've been held up

by each other. You have been wise and patient. And now you get the joy, and the rest of your life, together, and the waltz. A future in 3/4 time: now that's a second chance.