

Renewal Ministries of Colorado Springs

Hope and Healing Through Christ-Centered Ministry

Sample Marriage Ceremony

Please mark through the numbered items that you DO NOT want in the your ceremony. Remember that everything you choose must fit within the allotted time (_____ minutes) of your facility. The vows themselves may be varied to fit your particular situation. Please do not hesitate to note any changes you would like to see.

_ Prelude

_ Seating of Grandmother & Mothers

1. Solo --

2. *Invitation to Worship: Would you join with us, as we prepare our hearts for this ceremony by honoring our Lord Jesus Christ in worship? Song list (2-4):* _____

3. Solo – Candle Lighting – Pull Runner

_ Entrance of Pastor & Groom,

Attendants Processional (names) _____,

Bridal Processional (names) _____

_ Who gives this woman to this man? Please be seated.

_ Welcome & Invocation – Pastor George Stahnke

On behalf of Groom, Bride and their parents, I welcome you. It is our prayer that this service today will bring thoughtful consideration to those who have taken marriage vows in the past, and to those who may, in the future. Let us pray, Jesus, we acknowledge your sovereignty and Lordship on this occasion and commit this service to your glory. In your name, Amen

The first recorded marriage was between Adam and Eve and was instituted by God. God created the universe in which we live and then all living creatures. When He had finished he said it was good. Then He created man, but unlike all God's other creations, man was alone!

And the Lord said, it is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him. . . And the Lord caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and while he slept He took one of his ribs. . . And the rib which God took from man, He made into a woman and brought her to

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the man. Then Adam said, this is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh. She shall be called woman because she was taken out of a man (Gen. 2:18, 21-23).

Marriage is good and to be honored. He who finds a wife finds what is good and receives favor from the Lord (Pr. 18:22) Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral (Heb. 13:4)

Marriage is to be permanent. For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife and the two shall become one flesh, so that they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has (united) joined together let no man separate (Mar. 10:7-9).

Marriage is not an experiment. It is not a temporary arrangement to be tried on a wait-and-see basis. The marriage vows are to be seen as binding for a lifetime.

The responsibilities of the husband. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her. . . Husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no man ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and carefully protects and cherishes it, as Christ does the church (Eph. 5:25, 28-29). Husbands, love your wives – be affectionate and sympathetic with them -- and do not be harsh or bitter or resentful toward them (Col. 3:19 Amp.). Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers (1Pe. 3:7).

Charge to the Husband: Groom, as the head of the home you are to lead Bride by your personal example. You are to love, cherish, respect and value her for the precious gift that she is to you. You must give careful attention to her spiritual growth, meeting her emotional, and physical needs with tender affection, patience, always protecting her as God enables you.

The responsibilities of the wife. Wives, be submissive and adapt yourselves to your husbands as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his

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Hope and Healing Through Christ-Centered Ministry

body, of which he is the savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything . . . and the wife must respect her husband (Eph. 5:22-24, 33b). Train the younger women to love their husbands and children, to be self controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God (Tit. 2:4-5). A wife of noble character who can find? She is worth far more than rubies. Her husband has full confidence in her and lacks nothing of value. She brings him good, not harm, all the days of her life (Prov. 31:10-12).

Charge to the wife: Bride, you are to yield, adapt and aggressively support Groom's leadership, to respect his authority as the head of the home and cooperate with him in love. You are to conduct yourself in such a way that Groom has full confidence in you as a helpmate and homemaker.

Both parties need to give 100% of the time. Therefore as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievance you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. Let the peace of God rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. (Col.3:12-15). Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails (1 Cor. 13:4-8).

Will you **Groom** take **Bride** to be your lawful wedded wife? Will you pledge to live with her according to the teachings of the Bible? Will you give yourself for her as Christ gave Himself to the church? Will you love her as yourself, honor her, nourish and cherish her? Will you regard her as one flesh with yourself and forsaking all others, keep yourself only unto her as long as you both shall live?

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Hope and Healing Through Christ-Centered Ministry

Will you **Bride** take **Groom** to be your wedded husband? Will you pledge yourself to live with him according to the teachings of the Bible? Will you submit to him and regard him as the head of the home? Will you love him and keep yourself only unto him as long as you both shall live?

Exchange of vows

I **Groom**, take you **Bride**, to be my wedded wife, to have and to hold, from this day forward, and I do promise and covenant before God and these witnesses to be your loving and faithful husband, in plenty and in want, in joy and in sorrow, in sickness and in health, as long as we both shall live.

I **Bride**, take you **Groom**, to be my wedded husband, to have and to hold, from this day forward, and I do promise and covenant before God and these witnesses to be your loving and faithful wife, in plenty and in want, in joy and in sorrow, in sickness and in health, as long as we both shall live.

_ Exchange of Rings – These rings are a symbol of this marriage covenant. As the bands are unbroken, so is the covenant of love that God has ordained between man and wife. (As you place the ring on her/his finger) May this beautiful token and pledge symbolize the purity and endlessness of our love. This ring I give you as a constant reminder of our undying faith and abiding love.

4. Communion, Salt Covenant, lighting Unity Candle, presentation of flowers to mothers

5. Solo – (title)_____

6. Vows of the Christian Home – repeated together--Depending upon God for strength and wisdom, we pledge ourselves to the establishment of a Christian home. Together we commit to seek God's will and honor Christ in our marriage.

_ Benediction

For as much as **Groom** and **Bride** have consented together in holy matrimony before me, before God and these witnesses, I now pronounce you husband and wife, in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. You may kiss the Bride!

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Hope and Healing Through Christ-Centered Ministry

May I present to you Mr. & Mrs. _____

Recessional

Invitation to reception