

# Wedding ceremony

## Traditional Ceremony

Dearly Beloved, we are gathered here this (morning, afternoon, evening or date of wedding) among family & friends, in the sight of God to celebrate as \_\_\_&\_\_\_ make public their commitment to one another & are joined in marriage. Marriage is an honorable estate. Instituted of God & not to be entered into without thoughtful consideration, lightly or unadvisedly but rather discreetly & reverently. \_\_\_&\_\_\_ Now come before these witnesses in what has been described as the goodliest land under the cope of heaven, to be joined in Holy Matrimony.

Insert Prayer or Scripture Reading

Statement of Intent:

Do you take this woman/man as your wedded wife/husband? Will you love her/him, comfort her/him, honor & keep her/him, forsaking all others & keeping only unto her/him, as long as you both shall live? *"I do."*

Vows:

I take you to be my wedded wife/husband, to have & to hold from this day forward, for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness & in health to love & to cherish, as long as we both shall live. These things I promise.

Rings:

The wedding ring is a symbol of unity, a circle unbroken without beginning or end. Today \_\_\_&\_\_\_ give & receive these rings as their intention to make their vows and to make their life one, to work at all times to create a love that is whole and unbroken and to love one another without end.

I give you this ring to wear upon your hand as a symbol of our unity, our love, respect & trust. With this ring I thee wed.

Prayer:

Inasmuch as \_\_\_ and \_\_\_ have consented together the vows of marriage & witnessed the same before God, by the power vested in me by spirit & state, I joyfully declare them to be husband & wife!

Seal it with a kiss!

## Civil Service

We are gathered today to celebrate one of life's greatest moments, to give recognition to the worth & beauty of love, and to add our best wishes to the words which shall unite \_\_\_ and \_\_\_ in marriage.

There are no obligations on earth sweeter or more tender, than those you are about to assume. There are now vows more solemn than those you are about to make. There is no human institution more sacred than that of the home you are about to form. True marriage is the holiest of all earthly relationships. The state of matrimony is based on this deep, invisible union of two souls who seek to find completion in one another.

I would ask that you both remember to treat yourselves and each other with respect. Remind yourself often of what brought you together today. Give the highest priority to the tenderness, gentleness and kindness that your marriage deserves. When frustration & difficulty assail your marriage, as they do in 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 if you lose sight of it for a moment, you can remember that the sun is still there.

If each of you will take responsibility for the quality of your life together, abundance and delight will mark it. To love is, to come together from the pathways of our past and then move forward, hand in hand, along the uncharted roads of our future ready to risk, to dream & to dare. And always believe that all things are possible with faith and love in God and in each other.

Just as two threads woven in opposite directions will form a most beautiful tapestry, so too can your two lives merge together make a beautiful marriage. To make your relationship work, will take love. This is the core of your marriage and why you are here today.

It takes trust, to know in your hearts that you truly want the best for each other. It takes dedication to stay open to one another & to learn & grow together. It takes faith to go forward together without knowing exactly what the future brings. It takes commitment to hold true to the journey you both pledge today to share.

Let there be expressions of love in words and actions as well as in comforting silence. Let there be nurturing concern for each other's happiness and well being. Allow your love to be broad enough to accept the family and friends of each other and be mindful of each other's needs with an honest effort toward fulfillment. Talk when the other needs to hear; listen when the other needs to be heard; touch when the other needs touching and hold on tight when the other needs to be held.

Understand solitude when the other needs to be alone. Have tenderness in your strength and find strength in tenderness itself and open yourselves to that divine love which has woven the tapestry of your union and honor the infinite weaver with faith, hope and love these three, knowing the greatest of these is love.

The legal requirement of this state having been fulfilled and the license for their marriage being presented, I must ask of each party if they come of their own free will and accord. Do you come to this union of your free will, with the intention of being faithful in marriage as long as you live?

I \_\_\_\_, take you \_\_\_\_ as my friend and my love beside me and apart from me, in laughter and in tears, in conflict & tranquility, asking that you be not other than yourself, loving what I know of you, trusting what I do not know yet, in all the ways that life may find us.

A circle is the symbol of the sun and the earth and the universe, of wholeness and perfection, and peace & love. It is worn on the third finger of the left hand because of an ancient Greek belief that a vein from that finger goes directly to the heart. These rings mark the beginning of a long and beautiful journey together. Wear them proudly for they are symbols which speak of the love that you share.

## Non-Traditional Ceremony

With great joy we come together to celebrate the spiritual union of \_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. We are here, not only to witness your commitment to one another, but also to wish you every-happiness in your future life together. Within its framework of commitment & loyalty, marriage is a union where through trust, patience and respect, the love and affections you have for one another will continue to grow and deepen into a lasting relationship.

We who are witnessing your marriage hope that despite the stresses inevitable to any life, your love and respect for one another as well as your trust and understanding of one another will increase your contentment & heighten your joy in living. Marriage, as most of us understand it, is a voluntary commitment and is entered into with the desire, the hope and the firm intention that it will last a lifetime. This is indeed our hope for you.

Before you are joined in marriage in my presence & in the presence of your beloved family and friends, I am bound to remind you of the solemn and firm nature of the relationship in which you are about to enter.

There are no vows so profound as those you are about to make. There is no agreement on Earth so sacred as the unity of being you are about to form. True partnership is only achieved by separate and whole beings that retain their uniqueness, even as they unite. This marriage should be entered to thoughtfully, reverently and with a full understanding of its sacredness. Any union, to be complete, must first be spiritual for a marriage, in truth, is the uniting of two souls already attuned to and united with each other, testifying now before God and these witnesses of the existence of such a spiritual union.

In presenting yourselves here today to be joined as partners, you perform an act of faith. This faith can grow and develop and last, but only if you both decide to make it so. Any ritual does not guarantee a lasting and growing love.

If you would have the foundation of your marriage be the devotion you have for one another, not just at this moment, but for all the days to come, then treasure the hopes and dreams that you bring with you here today.

Dedication, love and joy can grow only when you nourish them together. Stand fast in that hope and confidence, having faith in your shared destiny, just as strongly as you have faith in yourselves and in one another today. It is in this spirit you will forge a union that will strengthen and endure all the days of your lives.

I \_\_\_\_, take you \_\_\_\_ as my friend & love beside me & apart from me, In laughter & in tears, in conflict & tranquility, asking that you be not other than yourself, loving what I know of you, trusting what I do not know yet, in all the ways that life may find us.

A circle is the symbol of the sun & the earth & the universe, of wholeness and perfection, and peace & love. It is worn on the third finger because of an ancient Greek belief that a vein from that finger goes directly to the heart. These rings mark the beginning of a long journey together. Wear them proudly for they are symbols which speak of the love that you have for one other.

With this ring, I give you my vow, with all that I am, with all that I have, I honor you as my husband/wife.

May this day shine eternally in your lives. May it add brilliance to every achievement and cast a diving light over any misfortune, May you care for each other in all sadness. May you give cheer to each other. May you give vitality to each other in all undertakings. May all this is virtuous beautiful and honest remain with you always.

Inasmuch as \_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_ have consented together the vows of marriage & witnessed the same before God, by the power vested in me by spirit & state, I joyfully declare them to be husband & wife!

## More Vows

(a) I \_\_\_\_ take you \_\_\_\_ to be my wedded wife/husband. I promise to be your constant friend, faithful partner in life, your one true love. Now and forever-more.

(b) Groom: I promise love everyday. I promise support in everything you do. I promise to try to be the best man I can be, for you for the rest of our lives, because through you, I am a better man. I will love you always

Bride: I make these promises to you today and every day from this day forward. To be loving and affectionate. To be respectful of our differences and always willing to work through our times of trouble. I will be honest, faithful and forgiving. You are my best friend and I love you.

(c) I \_\_\_\_, take you \_\_\_\_ as my friend and my love beside me and apart from me, In laughter and in tears, in conflict and tranquility, asking that you be not other than yourself, loving what I know of you, trusting what I do not know yet, in all the ways that life may find us.

(d) I \_\_\_\_ take you \_\_\_\_ to be my wife/husband, 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 and cry with you. I will love you faithfully, through the best and the worst, through the difficult and the easy, what 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.

## Exchange of Rings

(a) The wedding rings serve as a symbol of the vows you have just spoken. They are the outward & visible sign of an inward and invisible love that binds your hearts & souls together. As they are made of the most precious of the earth's materials, so your love is the richest of spiritual values.

As rings are without end or seam, so they symbolize the perfection of a love that does not end, a love that is eternal. Wear them proudly.

With this ring, I thee wed. Please accept it as a token of my love.

(b) May these rings be blessed as a symbol of this affectionate unity. Your lives are being joined today in one unbroken circle. Wherever you go, may you always return to one another in your togetherness. May you find in one another the love for which all men and women yearn. May these rings, symbolize the spirit of love that is in both your hearts this day.

(c) A circle is the symbol of the sun & the earth & the universe, of wholeness and perfection, and peace and love. It is worn on the third finger because of an ancient Greek belief that a vein from that finger goes directly to the heart. These rings mark the beginning of a long and beautiful journey together. Wear them proudly for they are symbols which speak of the love that you share.

(d) The wedding ring is a symbol of unity, a circle unbroken without beginning or end. Today, \_\_\_ and \_\_\_ give and receive these rings as their intention to make their vows and to make their life one, to work at all times to create a love that is whole and unbroken and to love one another without end. I give you this ring to wear upon your hand as a symbol of our unity, our love, respect & trust...

(e) With this ring, I give to you my promise that from this day forward you shall not walk alone. May my heart be your shelter, & my arms are your home. May God bless you always. May you feel deeply loved, for indeed you are. With this ring, I give you my heart. I have no greater gift to give. I promise I shall do my best. I shall always try. I feel so honored to call you my husband/wife. I feel so blessed to call you mine. May we feel this joy forever. I thank God, I thank you. Amen.

(f) Onto each others hands you now place a ring, a circlet symbolizing the wheel of life, that turns ever onward. There is a lesson in both the hand and the wedding ring. The ring is worn on the fourth finger that stands for steadiness and endurance. The circle itself is all encompassing and inclusive. A perfect figure, without beginning, without end, with no area of weakness. Your hands open to receive and to give, clench in frustration and anger, hold and soothe in times of sadness and cling in moments of fear. With these hands, cities and sand castles are made, music played and poetry written; into these hands life is given and from these hands it is taken. All the actions of your hands move in sympathetic rhythm with the wheel of life and with your destiny. Pleasure, pain, creation, destruction, giving and receiving are all within the power of your hands, As this ring symbolizes the cycle, so the hand symbolizes the power of actualization and creation. Let these rings remind you of the many turns of the wheel of life through which your love shall pass & may everything that is touched by your hands also be touched with love. I give you this ring as a symbol of my vow & with all that I am. I honor you my husband/wife... in the name of God.

## Prayers

(a) Heavenly Father, Bless \_\_\_ and \_\_\_ and give them total happiness in this union. Provide them with wisdom, strength and patience when needed. Let them offer praise and support and perfect love for one another from this day forward. May they grow in understanding & compassion. May the home, which they establish together be such a place of sanctuary that all who are here today & others through the years will find there... true friends and true love.

(b) Heavenly Father, our hearts are filled with great happiness on \_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_ wedding day. Grant that they may be ever true and loving living in such a way as to never bring shame or heartbreak into their marriage. Temper their hearts with kindness and understanding. Rid them of all pretense or jealousy and help them to remember to be each others sweetheart, helpmate, best friend and guide so that together they meet the cares of life more bravely. With the passage of time, may they find great contentment in the rich joy of senior companionship. May the home they are creating today truly be a place of love & harmony, where your spirit is always present. Bless this marriage, we pray & walk beside \_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_ throughout all of their lives together. Amen.

(c) Prayer for Protection – The light of God surrounds us, The love of God enfolds us, The power of God protects us, The presence of God watches over us Wherever we are, God is... and all is well. We ask your blessing this day in the spiritual union of \_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_ .

(d) Dear God, Please bless this couple. May their love be nurtured by You, always & forever May this marriage be held in your hands & ministered unto by Your angels. We dedicate this love to You. May it serve your purposes; may it increase your dominion. May this woman grow glorious in the love of this man. May the earth be brought closer to heaven through this love. May all the world be blessed hereby. Thank you very much. Amen.

## Pronouncement of Marriage

(a) So much as \_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_ have consented together the vows of marriage & witnessed the same before God, by the power vested in me by spirit & state, I joyfully declare them to be husband & wife!

(b) \_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_ So much as the two of you have agreed to live together in matrimony, have promised your love for each other by these vows. By the joining of hands and the giving and receiving of rings, by the power vested in me by that state of North Carolina, I now declare you to be husband & wife!

(c) And now by the authority vested in me, by the State of North Carolina, but much more important, I believe in the power of your agreement this day and the look of love in your eyes and the seriousness with which you make this commitment and I believe my faith is shared by others gathered here. It is my honor and delight to now pronounce you husband & wife.

## Ceremonies with Children

After exchange of vows & rings, the couple forms a circle with their children. This is a beautiful way to include them in your wedding day. You may also incorporate a sand service to symbolize the union of family.

Love is a gift... \_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_ have not only found the gift of loving one another this union also forms a sacred union of family, creating harmony and cooperation to enrich life's journey for all. Please join hands with your beloved children & repeat these promises:

We together, promise To guide you & nurture you, To respect you for the individuals you are To love you & listen to you always, & to work together as a family.

(Children Promises)

We accept your marriage; love & support we promise to respect you as our parents and as a couple. We promise to love you both and to work together as a family. We promise to listen, even if we don' t always agree!

Giving of gifts to children (optional)

Dear God, fill us with your grace so that we may be an example of your loving care to our children. Give us the patience, energy & confidence we need to be good parents. Strengthen and unite our family and our love for one another. Amen.

## Marianne Williamson's Ceremony

Bride and Groom, I greet you. To our assembled guests, I welcome you. Bride and Groom, I welcome you as well, to this moment in your lives and to the place you have come to, in each others hearts. We join with you on this day, as you commit before God & humanity that from this point forward you shall live as one.

I remind all of our guests that you have been invited here for a holy purpose, not just to witness, but to participate fully with your thoughts and prayers, asking God to bless this couple and their married life. You are here because this couple feels close to you and asks that you join with them in this dedication of sacred purpose.

You represent symbolically, all the people in the world who will be touched in any way by the life of this couple. You represent their family and friends, now and forever. They have chosen this act of marriage and this public, Holy ceremony in which to proclaim it. Together, we all thank God who brought them together and ask Him always to guide their way.

We live at a time when very little in life is considered sacred. One thing must remain, however, or the entire world disintegrates. That is and shall be an agreement between two people. This day, we celebrate an agreement between the two of you. I congratulate you on the journey of your lives, on the strength & the courage it has taken for each of you to make your way to this place. Both of you have found a way to put away childish things and embrace a very serious love. You receive on this day, the gift of true and abiding love, through the devotion of marriage.

Together, in this marriage, you shall contribute more fully, for you shall be more full. \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_ Is God's gift to you, but he is not a gift for you alone. It is God's will that in your love, this man might find within himself, a greater sense of who he is meant to be. You are asked by God to see the good in this man, to accept him for whom he is and whom he shall be, that thus he might be made strong. In this way, God's purpose shall be accomplished in this relationship. May this man find literally, the kingdom of heaven through the love you share.

So it is with you also, \_\_\_\_ that although \_\_\_\_ is God's gift to you, she is not intended for you alone. You are asked by God to so love this woman, that in your love, she might find herself as God created her, so beautiful & strong and brave and true, that the entire world might be blessed by the presence of a woman who shines so.

May she relax in your arms as she has never relaxed before. May she know, from now on, that there is one on whose love she can depend, forever... May you create, with God, a piece of heaven on Earth.

From this point forward, \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_ needs will carry the same priority as your own. Likewise, \_\_\_\_, from this point forward, \_\_\_\_ need will be seen as important as your own. You shall not be as two conflicting or competing forces, but rather the energies of your lives shall blend into harmony and oneness through the Grace of God. The angels shall dance between you and they will rejoice in the dance of life you do together.

To both of you, I enjoin you to release at this time all impediments to your joy. In this moment may you forgive one another any past transgressions, that you might enter this marriage reborn. Allow the waters of forgiveness to wash you clean. You are given the chance to begin your lives again this day, as God grants you radical renewal through the power of commitment. Receive fully the gift of your love for each other. May you rejoice in Him, as He rejoices in you.

To the parents of \_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_ congratulations on the part you have played in raising a daughter and son of such serious purpose. They accept a very mature and meaningful task in the commitment of marriage. On their behalf and on behalf of all of those here, I thank you and remind you that it is more than their blood that is joined here, it is yours as well. With this marriage, God joins your two families and it is the family unit that shall rebuild the world. With this in mind, I ask you, \_\_\_\_ mother, to take this man \_\_\_\_, as your son. I ask your family to take him into their hearts, as son & brother, & beloved to \_\_\_\_\_. May a great and glorious light sanctify this joining.

And of you, parents, I ask the same. I ask that you take this woman \_\_\_\_ into your hearts, that she might live from this day, as your daughter, for she is dear & beloved to your son, and shall be so, through the grace of God, to all your family. May the miracle of this marriage extend throughout your family.

I would like to ask at this time if anyone has a problem with this marriage, if so, say so now. As of this ceremony, may your tongues be still & utter only the positive, that your energies might support these two, that any words you say might bless and protect the holiness of this bond.

So we come to the exchange of wedding vows and rings by which you symbolize and bind your love. Do you take this man/woman to be your lawful wedded husband/wife? To love and honor, nurture and sustain through times of darkness as well as light? Do you promise times of trouble will not deter you or tempt you to forsake this love? Do you commit before God to honor this vow unto all of your days? *"I do."*

With this ring, I give to you my promise that from this day forward you shall not walk alone. May my heart be your shelter, & my arms be your home. May God bless you always. May you feel deeply loved, for indeed you are. With this ring, I give you my heart. I have no greater gift to give. I promise I shall do my best. I shall always try. I feel so honored to call you my husband. I feel so blessed to call you mine. May we feel this joy forever. I thank God I thank you, Amen.

Prayer: Dear God, Please bless this couple May their love be nurtured by You, always and forever. May this marriage be held in your hands and ministered unto by Your angels. We dedicate this love to you. May it serve your purposes; may it increase your dominion. May this

woman grow glorious in the love of this man. May the earth be brought closer to heaven through this love. May the world be blessed hereby.

I remind you that the God who brought you together and nurtured this relationship and is the key to your success as a married couple. May you allow into your marriage the presence of a mystical third that shall guide your thinking and bless your home. Call on him consistently and often. May this marriage be your sanctuary, your haven from worldly pain.

## Ceremony by Neale Walsch, Author, "Conversations with God"

\_\_\_ and \_\_\_ have not come here tonight to make a solemn promise or to exchange a sacred vow. \_\_\_ and \_\_\_ have come here to make public their love for each other; to give notice to their truth; to declare their choice to live and partner and grow together – out loud in your presence, out of their desire that we will all come to feel a very real and intimate part of their decision and thus make it even more powerful.

They□’ve also come here tonight in the further hope that their ritual of bonding will help bring us all closer together. If you are here with a spouse or partner, let this ceremony be a reminder-a rededication of your own loving bond.

We’ ll begin by asking the questions: Why get married? \_\_\_ and \_\_\_ have answered this question for themselves and they” ve told me the answer. Now, I ask one more time, so they will be sure of their answer, certain of their understanding and firm in their commitment to the truth they share.

You have told me it is your firm understanding that you are not entering into this marriage for reasons of security. The only real security is not in owning or possessing, nor in being owned or possessed. Not in demanding or expecting and not even in hoping, that what you think you need in life will be supplied by the other, but rather, in knowing that everything you need in life, all the love, all the wisdom, all the insight, all the power and knowledge, understanding, nurturing, compassion and all the strength, resides within you. That you are not marrying the other in hopes of getting these things, but in hopes of giving these. Is this your understanding? *(It is)*

\_\_\_ and \_\_\_ You have told me, it is your firm understanding you are not entering into this marriage as a means of limiting,controlling, hindering or restricting each other from any true expression and honest celebration of that which is the highest and best within you, including your love of God, your love of life, your love of people, of creativity, your love of work or any aspect of your being which genuinely represents you and brings you joy. Is this your understanding? *(It is)*

Finally,\_\_\_ and \_\_\_, you do not see marriage as producing obligations but rather as providing opportunities. Opportunities for growth, for full self-expression, for lifting your lives to their highest potential, for healing every false thought or small idea you ever had about yourself and for the ultimate reunion with God through the communion of your two souls. This is truly Holy Communion, a journey through life with one you love as an equal partnership, bearing equally what burdens there be, basking equally in the glories. Is this the vision you wish to enter into now? *(It is)*

I now give you these red roses, symbolizing your individual understandings of these Earthly things; that you both know and agree how life will be with you in bodily form and within the physical structure called marriage. Give these roses to each other as a symbol of your sharing of these agreements and understandings with love.

Now , please take this white rose as a symbol of your larger understandings of your spiritual nature and your spiritual truth. It stands for the purity of your Real and Highest self and the purity of God' s love, which shines upon you now and always.

(Each red rose will have the others ring attached to the stem)

What symbols do you bring as a reminder of the promises given and received today?

(Minister takes rings and says)

A circle is the symbol of the sun, and the earth and the universe. It is a symbol of holiness and of perfection and peace. It is also the symbol of the eternity of spiritual truth, love and life, that which has no beginning or end. In this moment, \_\_\_and\_\_\_ choose for it to be a symbol of unity, but not of possession; of joining, but not restricting; of encirclement, but not entrapment. For love cannot be possessed, nor can it be restricted. The soul may never be entrapped.

(Bride and groom take rings)

I \_\_\_take you\_\_\_ to be my partner, my lover, my friend, my (husband or wife) I announce and declare my intention to give you my deepest friendship and love, not only when your moments are high, but when they are low, not only when you remember clearly who you are, but when you forget, not only when you are acting with love, but when you are not.

I further announce before God and those here present that I will seek always to see the Light of Divinity within you and seek always to the share the Light of Divinity within me even and especially in whatever moments of darkness may come. It is my intention to be with you forever, in a Holy partnership of the soul that we may do together God' s work, sharing all that is good within us, with all those whose lives we touch.

\_\_\_Do you choose to grant \_\_\_request that you be his/her (husband/wife)?

*(I do)*

With this ring, I thee wed, I take the ring you give to me and place it upon my hand that all may see and know of my love for you. We recognize with full awareness that only a couple can administer the sacrament of marriage to each other, and only a couple can sanctify it. Neither my church, nor any power vested in me by the State, can grant me the authority to declare what only two hearts can declare, what only two souls can make real. And so now, inasmuch as you \_\_\_and\_\_\_ have announced the truths that are already written in your hearts and have witnessed the same in the presence of these, your friends and the one living spirit, we observe joyfully, you have declared yourself to be husband and wife!

Let us join in prayer.

Spirit of Love and Life; out of this whole world, two souls have found each other. Their destinies shall now be woven into one design and their perils and their joys shall not be known apart. \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ may your home be a place of happiness for all who enter it; a place where the old and young are renewed in each other's company, a place for growing and sharing, a place for music and laughter, a place for prayer and a place for love.

May those who are nearest to you be constantly enriched by the beauty and bounty of your love for one another, may your work be a joy of your life that serves the world and may your days be good and long upon the Earth.

Amen and amen.

## Poems and Readings

Couples often choose to include family members or friends or to have the officiant recite a poem or reading during their ceremony. Here are some favorites. Weddings are a time when we not only celebrate new vows and commitments, but also renew our commitments and our love for those who are close to us. Think about all the commitments you have made as a spouse, friend, parent sibling or child. In essence you say, I do, to those commitments every day in your words and in your actions.

### The Poem I Do — Rev. Shirley Anne

I do want to give you warm smiles when you are lonely and comfort when something goes wrong, support in whatever you try to achieve, any help that might see you along. I do want to share all my hopes and ideas, my moods both the high and the low, to share the adventures each new day can bring, all the beauty the world has to show. I do want to laugh with you, learn with you, grow with you, be with you my whole life through, for I love with all of my heart and today I am so happy to tell you I do.

### A Version of Corinthians Love Passage

(a) Love is always patient and kind, it is never jealous. Love is never boastful or conceited. It is never rude or selfish. It does not take offense and is not resentful. Love takes no pleasure in other people's faults, but rather delights in the truth. It is always ready to excuse, to trust, and to hope. It is always ready to endure whatever comes. True love does not come to an end.

### 1 Corinthians Love Passage -The Holy Bible

Love suffers long and kind, it does not envy. Love does not parade itself, is not puffed up. Does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil. Does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth. Bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails.

### Old Irish Blessing — Author Unknown

May the road rise to meet you. May the wind be always at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your face, the rain fall soft upon your fields and until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of his hand. May God be with you and bless you. May you see your children's children. May you be poor in misfortune, rich in blessing and may you know nothing but happiness from this day forward. May warm rays of sun fall upon your home and may the hand of a friend always be near. May green be the grass you walk on, may blue be the skies above you, May pure be the joys that surround you. May true be the hearts that love you.

## The Prophet — Khalil Gibran

We were born to be together and together we shall be forevermore. We shall be together when the wings of death scatter our days. We shall be together even in our silent memory. But let there be spaces in our togetherness and let the winds of the heaven dance between us. Let us love one another, but make not bondage of love. Let it rather be a moving sea between the shores of our souls. Fill each other's cup, but drink not from one cup. Give each other of our bread, but eat not of the same loaf. Sing and dance together and be joyous, but let each of us be alone. Even as the strings of a lute are alone, though they quiver with the same music. Give our hearts, but not into each other's keeping... for only the hands of life can contain our hearts. Stand together, yet not too near together, for the pillars of the temple stand apart, and the Oak tree and the Cypress grow not in shadow.

## Love's Philosophy — Percy Bysshe Shelley

The fountains mingle with the river and the rivers with the ocean. The winds of heaven mix forever, with a sweet emotion. Nothing in the world is single, all things by a law divine. In one another's spirit mingle, why not I with thine? See the mountains kiss high heaven and the waves clasp one another. No sister flower would be forgiven, if it disdained its brother. And the sunlight clasps the earth and the moonbeams kiss the sea... What are all these kissings worth, if thou kiss not me?

## I Carry Your Heart — EE Cummings

I carry your heart with me  
I carry it in my heart  
I am never without it  
anywhere I go you go my dear  
and whatever is done  
by only me is your doing, my darling  
I fear no fate, for you are my fate, my sweet  
I want no world, for beautiful you are my world, my true  
And it's you- are whatever a moon has always meant  
And whatever a sun will always sing is- you.  
Here is the deepest secret nobody knows  
Here is the root of the root and the bud of the bud  
and the sky of the sky of a tree called life  
Which grows higher than soul can hope or mind can hide  
And this is the wonder that's keeping the stars apart  
I carry your heart; I carry it in my heart.

## On Love — Thomas à Kempis

Love is a mighty power, a great and complete good. Love alone lightens every burden and makes rough places smooth, it bears every hardship as though it were nothing, and renders all bitterness sweet and acceptable. Nothing is sweeter than love, nothing stronger, nothing higher, nothing wider, nothing more pleasant, nothing fuller or better in heaven or earth; for love is born of God.

Love flies, runs and leaps for joy. It is free and unrestrained. Love knows no limits, but ardently transcends all bounds. Love feels no burden, takes no account of toil, and attempts things beyond its strength. Love sees nothing as impossible, for it feels able to achieve all things. It is strange and effective, while those who lack love faint and fail. Love is not fickle and sentimental nor is it intent on vanities. Like a living flame and a burning torch, it surges upward and surely surmounts every obstacle.

## Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi

Lord; make me an instrument of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love. Where there is injury, pardon. Where there is doubt, faith. Where there is despair, hope. Where there is darkness, light. Where there is sadness, joy. O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled, as to console. To be understood as to understand to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

## Happiness in Marriage — Author Unknown

Happiness in marriage is not something that just happens. A good marriage must be created. In the art of Marriage, the little things are the big things; it is never being too old to hold hands. It is reminder to say, I love you as least once a day. It is never going to sleep angry. It is at no time taking the other for granted

The courtship should not end with the honeymoon, it should continue through all the years. It is having a mutual sense of values and common objectives. It is standing together facing the world. It is forming a circle of love that gathers in the whole family. It is doing things for each other, not in the attitude of duty or sacrifice, but in the spirit of joy.

It is speaking words of appreciation and demonstrating gratitude in thoughtful ways. It is not expecting the husband to wear a halo or the wife to have wings of an angel. It is not looking for perfection in each other; it is cultivating flexibility, patience, understanding and a sense of humor. It is having the capacity to forgive and forget. It is giving each other an atmosphere in which each can grow. It is finding room for the things of the spirit. It is a common search for the good and the beautiful. It is establishing a relationship in which independence is equal, dependence is mutual and obligation is reciprocal. It is not only marrying the right partner; it is being the right partner.

## Marriage Advice — Author Unknown

Let your love be stronger than your anger. Learn the wisdom of compromise, for it is better to bend than break. Look for the best in your beloved rather than the worse. Confide in your partner and ask for help when you need it. Remember that true friendship is the basis for any lasting relationship. Give your spouse the same courtesies and kindnesses you bestow on your friends. Say I love you every day.

## A Lovely Prayer

Smile on these two people Lord  
As side by side they stand  
Promising to love and live together  
Hand in hand  
Fill their hearts with laughter  
And their souls with understanding  
Touch them with your gentle strength  
For times when life is demanding  
Warm them with the Light of Truth  
And Wisdom's precious gold  
And bless their friendship Lord  
With all the love two hearts can hold.