

GROOM and BRIDE have chosen to “tie the knot” to symbolize their union.

The story goes, that around the turn of the nineteenth century, an art form arose from the ranks of deep-water sailors. That art form was “knotting”. Sailors used rope to create knots that were anywhere from simple to elaborate. Some knots were purely for use, some only for decoration and some knots were used to signify meaning. One knot that arose during this time period was the “true-lover’s knot”.

It was a simple and clear knot, implying its forthright goal. It is made up of two overhand knots, linked together, much like true lovers are in their hearts. A deep-water sailor would tie the knot loosely, and send it to his “intended” back home. Upon receiving it, the woman could:

a) untie it, meaning the sailor shouldn’t show his face around the next time he was in port, or

b) she could send it back, leaving it loose, the way she received it, meaning the sailor would be welcomed home, but he better be on his best behavior, or

c) she could tighten the knot before returning it, meaning the sailor should hurry his way to the homestead.

(To GROOM and BRIDE): GROOM, since you are asking BRIDE to marry you, take these cords (official hands GROOM the ropes), which represents the bond between you, and tie the knot which signifies your intentions for your gathered friends and family to see.

Do it slow for the photographer:

1. First You will hold your strand out in front of you by each end, stretching it out in front of your man.
2. he will take his strand and wrap his little over underknot around your strand.
3. he will hold his ends stretching his tied piece out to you.
4. take your ends and tie your simple knot.
5. the you both pull one of your ends, and the knots will slide together and "kiss" creating the knot.

(Officiant holds knot up for all to see.)

It is known to be one of the simplest knots to tie, but it is also one of the strongest there is; it will not break, and will only become stronger when under pressure. The rope itself will break before the knot comes undone.

(Speaking to GROOM and BRIDE): These two cords represent your pasts- your own individual and separate lives before today. As you intertwine your pieces, you are joining your two lives into one, representing the present. The finished knot symbolizes your future, and how your love and marriage will continue to be strong despite any trials life may throw your way. (To GROOM and BRIDE): Let this knot be a symbol of the strength of your love for each other.