
Who am I?

- Andy Chatham - Good friends from church. I'm honored to have been asked to PRESIDE over their Ring Ceremony.

Why are We Here Today?

- Matthew 18:20

Where two or more are gathered in His name, HE will be in their midst.

Where two or three are gathered in His name, there is love...

The first marriage was between Adam and Eve. Heavenly Father performed that sealing. Since then marriages have taken many forms, depending on traditions.

1. Some are as simple as placing a stack of rocks together in a field.
2. Some marriages are **prearranged** by parents while their children are still infants.
3. In some cultures the groom **barters** with the father of the bride and trades money or merchandise for the bride.
4. Sometimes brides are chosen by the size of their **dowry**.
5. Marriage ceremonies can last a few seconds and some can take weeks.

Ryan and Molly chose to begin their marriage by going to the Oakland Temple of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. **In the Temple, both were dressed in white signifying their purity before the Lord. Within a beautiful sealing room, they knelt over an altar and quietly made covenants to each other and to their Heavenly Father. By the power of the priesthood, they were sealed together for time and all eternity.** This decision was not made on **a whim**, nor without great consideration for all that would be affected. **The temple sealing was chosen because they believe it is Heavenly Father's way.**

The wedding ring has no part in this sacred sealing ceremony. The placing of a ring upon the finger of the husband or wife is strictly a social custom. Because the wedding ring is a natural symbol of the eternal nature of the sacred marriage covenant, the exchange of rings is permitted within the temple.

However - **Ryan and Molly** have chosen to exchange rings here in the presence of their family and friends, so that you could all participate in their exciting day.

Ryan specifically mentioned to me the importance of his Grandmother and Molly her sisters. **Obviously**, you were all on the short list of important people in their lives.

We hope that the rings they place on each others fingers tonight will remind them of the eternal, unending sacred covenants they made in the Oakland Temple today.
We hope that those covenants will never be broken.

Give You Some Advice:

As I have the floor (and this microphone) I would like to take a few minutes to offer some marriage advice. As you will most likely not remember a word I say, I'm speaking to the other married guests here. For when you are long since married and you go to a wedding OR ring ceremony, you too will have the opportunity to 'pay attention.'

- And not just stare into her deep BLUE eyes... :)

Build Righteous habits & traditions. you'll find that these keep you safe.

Every day express your love for each other. Say, "I love you." There will be incredibly hard days, in the house, with the kids, at work, at church. Knowing that you are there for each other will help you be able to take the necessary steps into another day.

Make a habit of every day praying together. Then after your prayer, kiss your spouse. It's hard to stay mad at someone if you were just praying for them, and then you have kiss them. :) This helps to melt away any anger from the day.

Practice Good communication, every day.

Good communication about your

- **Goals and Dreams:** Share them. Work to build and grow together, for if you're not growing together, you are growing apart.

Good communication about your

- **Finances:** Control them. When we were first married we agreed we wouldn't make a purchase of more than \$25 without speaking to each other. That number is far larger now, but in the beginning it helped to make sure we were on the same page financially. Stay out of debt, or it will crush you.

Good communication about everything in your lives.

They say the 3 main reasons why people get divorced: **Money, Kids and Intimacy.** Good communication will help you work through these issues and make them strengths in your life.

- Since I've brought up intimacy -

Keep your private things private. There's no need to bring your parents or friends into the private parts of your relationship. Talking to your parents or your friends about the problems with your spouse will only jade them against your spouse. Yes you can ask for counsel as a couple but don't gossip about what faults you found that week. When Jodi and I were still dating we went to a party with my parents and a bunch of their friends. Toward the end they were sitting

around making fun of things their spouses had done. Everyone was laughing, but lots of “**dirty laundry**” was being shone to all. Except for one couple who laughed but did not add their own Dirty Laundry. We decided right there that we were going to be like that couple who didn’t embarrass each other in front of others just for a laugh. Instead, find things of praise to say about one another in public. It will be a positive influence on your relationship.

Date Night. Do it religiously, at least once a week. Even if it is just a short walk or a trip to the ice cream store. Spend time nurturing your relationship as husband and wife. It’s easy when you’re first married. But when the jobs and kids hit, it gets harder and harder. You need to focus on the thing that brought you together - **your love**. Keep it alive and growing. Because in the end, if it’s not flourishing, what else matters?

Temple attendance. I advise you to take this time to go to the temple often. Get there as often as possible. At least every month. There’s a temple in Seattle, work to get there. You’ll be blessed for it.

Pride is the root of all sin and will sink your marriage faster than anything else. As Elder Maxwell once said, stay away from the inward focused word “I” and look to the humble bowed knees in the word “WE.” You are now one. Make sure all you do is focused on the success of your family. As Pres. Hinckley said in General Conference, the man and woman walk side by side, not one in front of the other in importance or stature.

Listen to the advice of your parents.

Just because you’re married now doesn’t mean they aren’t your parents any longer. Our Heavenly Father made them your parents for a reason. This goes for your grandparents as well. Seek their wisdom.

Let’s Bring Forward the Rings:

A ring is a perfect circle, eternal in nature. There is no beginning and there is no end. The exchange of rings will represent the never ending covenant they made with God and each other in the temple today.

- Ryan, please place the ring on Molly’s finger.
- Molly, please place the ring on Ryan’s finger.

A kiss is typically appropriate, at this point. :)

If it’s at all possible - “Never get angry at the same time.”

Molly and Ryan Grow - Ring Ceremony

Wedding Date - November 8th

Molly's mom's side of the family, Ryan's mom's side of the family. Non-members

Sealing: 11am - Oakland

Pictures: 3:30 - Ridgemark

Andy Arrive 4:30pm -

Ring Ceremony: 5pm - Ridgemark / Reception

Dinner (for ring ceremony) starts at 5:45

Reception - 7pm

Only the bridesmaids, groomsmen, Molly and Molly's dad are walking down the aisle.

4:45pm wedding party ready and waiting

5:00pm brother Chatham and Ryan head to front

music for processional starts, wedding party starts down the aisle

Wedding party procession

once the wedding party is at the front, (brother Chatham will ask everyone to stand) my dad and I will walk down the aisle.

thoughts by Brother Chatham (around 15 minutes)

exchange of rings

kiss

Ryan and I will walk back down the aisle to the reception room, followed by the wedding party and then the guests.

We need to be done 5:30/5:35pm so Ryan and I can greet the guests of the ring ceremony and the chairs can be moved from the ring ceremony to the reception room for dinner. Dinner will start at 5:45pm, we'll have a prayer on the food first.