

Civil Marriage

GROOM and BRIDE

Introduce myself—ask all to remain seated while wedding party enters

Come Forward except BRIDE and her Father

Opening Prayer (NAME)

BRIDE and Father come forward—everyone stands

Introduction of Parents

Comments:

Before the Wedding Ceremony, I have the opportunity to say a few words. I realize that GROOM and BRIDE will never remember what I say today. They may not even remember the marriage ceremony. That is alright. I will not be saying anything today that they have not heard in a less stressful environment.

I can just imagine how Adam must have stood as a sign of respect when Eve was introduced to him by Heavenly Father. Weddings began in the Garden of Eden when Adam and Eve were blessed by Heavenly Father for truly marriage is a blessing to both male and female. Since that time, weddings have taken various forms. Some are as simple as stacking rocks together in a field. Some are complex and take days to celebrate. In some cultures the marriage is arranged by the parents. The groom may negotiate with the bride's father for her hand. Or the groom may be attracted to the bride by her dowry. And some are contracted by parents when their children are still young. other GROOM and BRIDE have chosen to be married in this place at this time and in this fashion.

Fortunately, marriage is hard work. For through hard work comes growth. GROOM and BRIDE are both outstanding athletes. They understand the concept of “no pain no gain”. Every marriage is not like that of Cinderella and Prince Charming where “they live happily every after”.

Fortunately, every couple brings to the marriage some differences. There are individual differences, male/female perspectives, family traditions, community and cultural backgrounds—to name just a few. GROOM and BRIDE no doubt have worked through some of those differences—strengthening their relationship. They will need to continue, understanding that if they please each other 80% of the time it is a good relationship but true “oneness” comes by working on the remaining 20%. They have a lifetime to do that.

The strongest marriages are between couples who are not afraid to make covenants and then are determined to keep those covenants—never giving up or break covenants to hurt the other partner. From time to time family responsibilities need to be renegotiated to the betterment of the marriage. Indeed the highest level of maturity is not independence but rather interdependence. GROOM and BRIDE are capable of being interdependent. They can be full and equal partners with complimentary responsibilities.

In this ceremony they are going to be asked to make covenants. Those covenants are:

To cleave unto each other and none else.
To observe all laws, covenants and obligations pertaining to marriage.
To love, honor, and cherish each other.

Pondering those covenants will get them through the difficult times and insure the happiness they feel today.

Wedding Ceremony

Please take each other by the right hand

Full name of GROOM and **FULL NAME OF BRIDE**, you have taken each other by the right hand in token of the covenants you will now enter into in the presence of God and these witnesses.

GROOM do you take **BRIDE** as your legal and lawfully wedded wife

and of your own free will and choice covenant as her companion and lawfully wedded husband that you will cleave unto her and none else;

that you will observe all the laws, covenants, and obligations pertaining to the holy state of matrimony;

and that you will love, honor, and cherish her as long as you both shall live?

BRIDE do you take **GROOM** as your legal and lawfully wedded husband

and of your own free will and choice covenant as his companion and lawfully wedded wife that you will cleave unto him and none else;

that you will observe all the laws, covenants, and obligations pertaining to the holy state of matrimony;

and that you will love, honor, and cherish him as long as you both shall live?

By virtue of the legal authority vested in me as an elder of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, I pronounce you, GROOM and BRIDE husband and wife, legally and lawfully wedded for the period of your mortal lives.

May God bless your union with joy in your posterity and a long life of happiness together, and may He enable you to keep sacred the covenants you have made. These blessings I invoke upon you in the name of the Lord, Jesus Christ, amen.

You may kiss each other as husband and wife.

The ring ceremony is not a part of the church marriage ceremony. It is a tradition. While it means many things to many people, I think it is most significant of never ending love—with no beginning and no end.

GROOM and **BRIDE** will now exchange rings after which we will be favored by a vocal solo - - - - -

After _____'s solo the wedding party will proceed to the reception room assisted by the ushers where you may congratulate them as husband and wife.

You may now exchange rings

Put together by Bishop John Starkweather, Bishop Hollister 1st Ward, CA