

Optional Readings (Poems) for Civil Marriage Ceremonies

1) Art of Marriage – Wilferd A. Peterson

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 remembering to say “I love you” at least once each day.
It is never going to sleep angry.
It is having a mutual sense of values and common objectives.
It is forming a circle of love that gathers in the whole family.
It is speaking of appreciation, and demonstrating gratitude in thoughtful ways.
It is having the capacity to forgive and forget.
It is giving each other atmosphere in which each can grow.
It is a common search for the good and the beautiful.
It is not only marrying the right partner,
It is being the right partner.

2) The One - Unknown

When the one whose hand you're holding
is the one who holds your heart,
When the one whose eyes you gaze into
gives your hopes and dreams their start,
When the one you think of first and last
is the one who holds you tight,
And the things you plan together
makes the whole world seem just right,
When the one whom you believe in
puts their faith and trust in you,
You've found the one and only
to share your whole life through.

3) Corinthians 13:4-7, ESV

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 delights in the truth.
It is always ready to excuse, to trust, to hope. It is always ready to endure whatever comes.
True love does not come to an end.

4) "An excerpt from "The Prophet" by Khalil Gibran"

Love one another, but make not a bond of love:
Let it rather be a moving sea between the shores of your souls.
Fill each other's cup but drink not from one cup.
Give one another of your bread but eat not from the same loaf.
Sing and dance together and be joyous, but let each one of you be alone,
Even as the strings of a lute are alone though they quiver with the same music.

Give your hearts, but not into each other's keeping.
For only the hand of Life can contain your hearts.
And 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 each other's shadow.

5) Marriage Joins Two People in the Circle of its Love -

By Edmund O'Neill

Marriage is a commitment to life,
the best that two people can find and bring out in each other.
It offers opportunities for sharing and growth
that no other relationship can equal.
It is a physical and an emotional joining that is promised for a lifetime.

Within the circle of its love,
marriage encompasses all of life's most important relationships.
A wife and a husband are each other's best friend,
confidant, lover, teacher, listener and critic.
And there may come times when one partner is heartbroken or ailing and the love of
the other may resemble the tender caring of a parent to a child.

Marriage deepens and enriches every facet of life.
Happiness is fuller, memories are fresher,
commitment is stronger, even anger is felt more strongly,
and passes away more quickly.

Marriage understands and forgives the mistakes life
is unable to avoid. It encourages and nurtures new life,
new experiences, new ways of expressing a love that is
deeper than life.

When two people pledge their love and care for each other in marriage, they create a
spirit unique unto themselves which binds them closer than any spoken or written
words.

Marriage is a promise, a potential made in the hearts of two people who love each
other and takes a lifetime to fulfill.

6) Maybe... - Unknown

Maybe...we are supposed to meet the wrong people before we meet the right one so when they finally arrive we are truly grateful for the gift we have been given.

Maybe...it's true that we don't know what we have lost until we lose it but it is also true that we don't know what we're missing until it arrives.

Maybe...the happiest of people don't have the best of everything, but make the best of everything that comes their way.

Maybe...the best kind of love is the kind where you sit on the sofa together, not saying a word and walk away feeling like it was the best conversation you've ever had.

Maybe...once in a lifetime you find someone who not only touches your heart but also your soul, someone who loves you for who you are and not what you could be.

Maybe...the art of true love is not about finding the perfect person, but about seeing an imperfect person perfectly.

7) Love – Ann Landers

Love is friendship that has caught fire.

It is quiet understanding, mutual confidence, sharing and forgiving.

It is loyalty through good and bad times.

It settles for less than perfection and makes allowances for human weaknesses.

Love is content with the present, it hopes for the future, and it doesn't brood over the past.

It's the day-in and day-out chronicle of irritations, problems, compromises,

small disappointments, big victories and working toward common goals.

If you have love in your life, it can make up,

for a great many things that are missing.

If you don't have love in your life, no matter what else there is,

It's not enough.

8) True Love – Bryan L. Harvey

True love is a sacred flame
That burns eternally,
And none can dim its special glow
Or change its destiny.
True love speaks in tender tones
And hears with gentle ear,
True love gives with open heart
And true love conquers fear.
True love makes no harsh demands
It neither rules nor binds,
And true love holds with gentle hands
The hearts that it entwines.