

The Power of Love

Ceremony:

Family and friends, we are here today to share with **S** and **P** the most important moment of their lives.

Both **S** and **P** bring a particular personality and spirit which is uniquely their own, and out of which they will grow their life together. In the time they have been together their love and understanding of each other has grown and matured.

But real love is not total absorption in each other; it is looking outward in the same direction – together. Love makes burdens lighter, because you divide them. It makes joys more intense because you share them. It makes you stronger so you can reach out and become involved with life in ways you dared not risk alone.

To marry is to form an equal partnership, tied together by the bonds of emotion and love. It is at once the most fragile of relationships and the strongest. Fragile because it requires exactly the right mix of freedom and interdependence, of caring and of sharing, of being together and of being alone. But it is strong because it involves the unseen forces of something we usually call love – mutual devotion, concern for the happiness of the other, and joy in each other's company.

Now **S** and **P** have decided to live their lives together as husband and wife.

It is your marriage and not something created by others – it is yours to define, yours to make real, yours to live.

I know that you may be excited and nervous at this time but this is the easy part! Tomorrow is when your real work begins...your promise today must be renewed every day. At the end of this ceremony, legally, you will be husband and wife, but you still must decide each day that stretches out before you, that you want to be married.

And so as **S** and **P**'s friends and family, we are here to share with them this joy and hope, and to see them off on the path they will walk together. May it be a path blessed with bright flowers of prosperity and spiritual awakening; a path of ever deepening, every broadening love that they will travel, arm in arm throughout eternity.

Now ___ and ___ would like to read something that they have prepared for this occasion. (prepared script)

Vows:

P, repeat after me please, "I do solemnly declare that I do not know of any lawful impediment why I may not be joined in matrimony to S."

S, repeat after me please, "I do solemnly declare that I do not know of any lawful impediment why I may not be joined in matrimony to P."

P, repeat after me please, "I call upon these persons here present to witness that I, P do take you S to be my lawful wedded wife to have and to hold, in sickness and health, for richer or for poorer, and I promise my love to you."

S, repeat after me please, "I call upon these persons here present to witness that I, S do take you P to be my lawful wedded husband to have and to hold, in sickness and in health, for richer or for poorer, and I promise my love to you."

P, please place the ring you have on the third finger of S's left hand repeating after me, "With this ring, I thee wed. I shall love, honour and cherish you and this ring shall be the symbol of my love for you."

S, please place the ring you have on the third finger of P's left hand repeating after me, "With this ring, I thee wed. I shall love, honour and cherish you and this ring shall be the symbol of my love for you."

S and P, in so much as the two of you have agreed to live together in matrimony, have promised your love for each other by theses vows, I _____ by virtue of the powers vested in me by the marriage act, do hereby pronounce you P and S to be husband and wife.

P, you may kiss the bride.

Introduce **Mr. & Mrs. P** after the signing of the register.