

# **Ring Exchange**

(red punctuation indicates where I pause for the bride/groom to repeat after me)

#### **Thousands Of Years**

For thousands of years lovers have exchanged rings as a token of their vows. The ring is a symbol of unity. It's an unbroken circle without beginning or end and thus signifies the continuation of true love. Bride and Groom, today you both give and receive these rings as you bind your separate lives together as one. From this point forward you'll work each day to create a love that is whole, unbroken and to love each other without end, just like the circle and the ring. Your wedding rings tell the world that you've been found, that you've chosen to be bound together for life.

May your rings be blessed as symbols of your affection. Proudly wear them as reminders of your unity, love, respect for each other and trust.

"Bride, do you accept this ring, as a <u>symbol</u> of <u>my promise</u>, to <u>love</u> and cherish you <u>forever</u>?" "Groom, do you accept this ring, as a <u>symbol</u> of <u>my promise</u>, to <u>love</u> and cherish you <u>forever</u>?"

### **Bright Like The Sun**

Bride and Groom, your rings serve as <u>symbols</u> of the <u>vows</u> you've <u>just spoken</u>. They are the outward and <u>visible sign</u> of an <u>inward and invisible love</u> that binds your hearts and souls together. They're made from <u>metals</u> that came from <u>deep</u> within the earth. May your rings <u>remind</u> you that your <u>love must also come</u> from deep within <u>you</u>. Heated to over <u>a thousand degrees</u> and then forged with <u>great effort</u>, may your rings <u>remind</u> you that your marriage is <u>crafted</u> each and every day. It's <u>forged through</u> open communication, <u>flexibility</u>, daily giving and <u>forgiving</u>. <u>Round</u> like arms that <u>embrace</u>, may your rings <u>remind</u> you that you've got someone <u>special</u> who'll be there to <u>support</u> you <u>through</u> the hills and valleys of <u>life</u>. <u>Bright</u> like the <u>sun</u>, may your rings <u>remind</u> you that your love is meant to illuminate your lives.

"Bride, do you accept this ring, as a <u>symbol</u> of <u>my promise</u>, to <u>love</u> and cherish you <u>forever</u>?" "Groom, do you accept this ring, as a <u>symbol</u> of <u>my promise</u>, to <u>love</u> and cherish you <u>forever</u>?"

#### **Spiritual Belief**

A <u>circle</u> symbolizes the <u>sun</u>, the <u>earth</u> <u>and</u> the <u>universe</u>. It has <u>no</u> beginning and <u>no</u> end and thus <u>symbolizes</u> eternal, spiritual truth, love, light, and peace. Bride and Groom, your rings are made of <u>precious metal</u> and your love <u>is rich</u> in spiritual value. Your rings stand for <u>unity</u> and <u>unending</u> devotion, and your <u>exchange</u> of rings is a symbol of your <u>larger understanding</u> of your <u>spiritual</u> <u>nature</u> and your <u>spiritual truth</u>. It stands for the <u>purity</u> of your <u>real</u> and <u>highest selves</u> and for the purity of God's love that shines upon you <u>now</u>. Your <u>two lives</u> are being joined today in <u>one</u> <u>unbroken circle</u>. Rings are without <u>end or seam</u> so they symbolize a love that's <u>eternal</u> and that's our hope for you.

"Bride, will you accept this ring, and be my wife from this day forward?" "Groom, will you accept this ring, and be my husband from this day forward?"





(no need to mention my name or Derek Powazek's during your ceremony)

## **Humble Beginnings (partially written by Derek Powazek)**

This is the point in the <u>ceremony</u> when people talk about the <u>wedding bands</u> being a <u>perfect circle</u>, having <u>no beginning</u> and <u>no end</u>, but we all <u>know</u> that these rings <u>have</u> a beginning. <u>Rock</u> is mined from the earth. <u>Metals</u> are <u>liquefied</u> in a furnace at <u>two thousand degrees</u> and <u>then</u> the metal is <u>forged</u>, <u>cooled</u>, and then <u>painstakingly polished</u>. Something <u>beautiful</u> is made from raw elements. Love is like <u>that</u>. It comes from <u>humble</u> beginnings. It is the process of making something <u>beautiful</u> where there <u>was once nothing at all</u>. The <u>promises</u> that you've <u>made</u> to each other today are inscribed <u>forever</u> in your <u>minds and</u> in your <u>hearts</u>, but words are <u>fleeting</u>, so let your rings serve as a <u>reminder</u> of the <u>feelings</u> you have in your hearts at this <u>very moment</u>. Your rings are <u>visible</u>, <u>tangible</u> symbols of your <u>commitment</u> to one another <u>and</u> of your emotional and <u>spiritual</u> connection. Your rings announce to the world that <u>you've been found</u>. They are a reminder <u>and celebration</u> of the promises you've <u>made</u> today and in exchanging these bands you <u>knit</u> your <u>two lives</u> together as <u>one</u>. When you <u>look down</u> at your wedding band, <u>remember</u> the great gift that you have been given and all that you have in one another.

"Bride, with this ring, I am giving you my promise, to always love and cherish you, honor you and comfort you. I promise to keep my heart open to you, all the days of my life."

"Bride do you accept this ring from Groom?"

"Groom, with this ring, I am giving you my promise, to always love and cherish you, honor you and comfort you. I promise to keep my heart open to you, all the days of my life."

"Groom do you accept this ring from Bride?"

