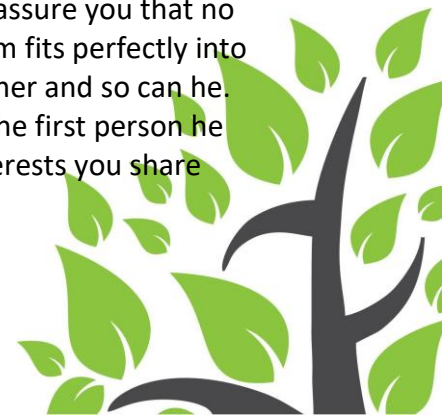


BONUS Ceremony That's Ready To Go

Today's the day that Bride and Groom formally make their promises to one another. Although today is certainly a high point in their lives, they both know that marriage is a journey not a destination, and that their commitment to each other can't possibly be summed up by any single event, even their wedding. But today's act is important. It's a promise to each other that will be renewed daily through their actions and by honoring a responsibility taken on in the spirit of faith, hope, and love. The promise of their marriage will bring comfort in times of sadness and also heighten their greatest joy. You're a few of the most important and influential people in their lives and in various ways you support and contribute to their relationship. Every conversation that you've had with Bride and Groom, even before they met, helped them to find themselves and then to find each other. Each of you has played some part in bringing them to this moment. That's why having you here was such an important part of their wedding ceremony. You've shared in their best and their worst days and that makes you the greatest gifts that life has given them, so although this is their day, believe me, in many ways today's celebration is also a tribute to all of you. Bride and Groom are in love and feel so connected that they've chosen to be lifelong partners and I know they're thrilled to have you here!

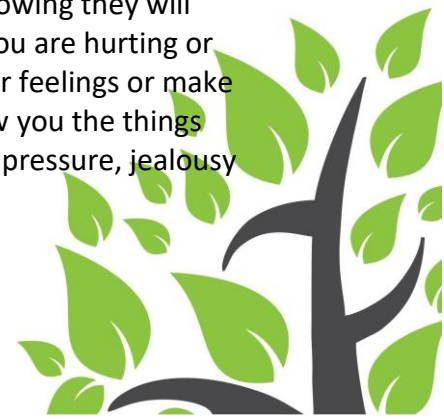
Bride and Groom, the marriage ceremony is important across nearly every culture, religion, generation, and society. We have thousands of important moments that happen throughout our lives, but this one is so significant, we acknowledge its special status by sharing it with others because love is the great unifier, our one universal truth. No matter who we are, where we've come from, or what we believe, we know that love is what we're doing right. You know that. That's why you're both standing here today and that's why they came to support you. Your relationship stands for love, honesty and trust, but also for friendship. You're not just in love with each other, you're great friends too. You're two people who like being around each other and that's important because lifelong marriages are successful friendships. Think about how much fun you have and how much you enjoy doing together, and today you truly do start the rest of your lives. This ceremony solidifies your moral, emotional and physical union. Groom, you've found Bride. With her, you can safely let your guard down to be vulnerable. With Bride you feel secure. You've got someone to share the smallest things with, like inside jokes and fun little memories, as well as someone to support you during tough times so remember Groom, that your anniversary is a special day and a card won't suffice! I'm speaking from personal experience, so plan something that requires a little thought. Surprise her with a weekend trip somewhere you've talked about going or relive a favorite date. Show the world how successful marriage and serious commitment can be. Bride, you've found Groom, someone who will always get you a blanket when you are cold and who will assure you that no matter what you're wearing, that you're beautiful and you look great! Groom fits perfectly into your life in the most important ways, so you can easily see your future together and so can he. It might sound cliché, but you're the last person he wants to see at night at the first person he wants to see each day because you're his other half. Think of how many interests you share



and how that strengthens your connection! Groom's there to share the highlights and he's there to give you a shoulder to lean on when things are too stressful to handle on your own. He's your home base. Love's usually a high note you two, but there are chapters in all love stories that are sad or disappointing, and you're both there to support each other when challenging times come up. You know that no matter what, you won't have to face life's challenges alone and that you're there for each other every step of the way, so make your marriage a life-long practice of loving one another to the fullest, and it is a practice. So, rest assured that it's alright to admit that you are wrong, that you don't know, and even that you weren't paying attention. You both know that disagreements and mistakes are so trivial when compared to the loving energy between you because you balance each other out. It's your perfectly matched imperfections that make you perfect for one another, so do your best to be flexible and embrace change. All successful marriages do and foster the playful part of your personalities, so that you deepen your love for one another over time, because the ability to love is the very best part of our humanity. This is a time to look back and smile at all the moments that brought you here, and a time to look ahead to all the moments yet to come. It's not one moment that matters most, not even this moment. Every moment matters; the big ones, like saying "I love you," moving in together, getting engaged, but mostly a million little ones that come in between the big moments; spending holidays together, getting a big hug when you get home, making dinner, binge-watching a new favorite show and then falling asleep next to one another. These everyday moments fuse together into one big experience and this experience is so incredible, words fail us when we try and explain it because love's meant to be felt, not described, but trying to describe it is one of our favorite pastimes. Think of all the songs, books and movies about love. Even though we describe it in different ways, and even though love can look and feel different from one person to the next, we all know it when we see it. And we can easily see it here, with you two! Love will be the basis of every aspect of your relationship. Love's not just a word, it's an action. Love is something you say, but it's also something you express. Allow it to show through in everything you do; in good times and in bad. The promises that you'll make to each other in a few minutes, encompass everything I've just said. You know it and that's why we're all so happy for you both. Congratulations!

There's a reading called, True Friend and Soul Mate that was written by an unknown author and it says...

If you're lucky in life, you find someone who can completely turn your world around. You tell them things that you've never shared with another soul and they absorb everything you say and actually want to hear more. You share hopes for the future, dreams that will never come true, goals that were never achieved and the many disappointments life has thrown at you, but when something wonderful happens, you can't wait to tell them about it, knowing they will share in your excitement. They are not embarrassed to cry with you when you are hurting or laugh with you when you make a fool of yourself, but never do they hurt your feelings or make you feel like you are not good enough, but rather they build you up and show you the things about yourself that make you special and even beautiful. There is never any pressure, jealousy



or competition but only a quiet calmness when they are around. You can be yourself and not worry about what they will think of you because they love you for who you are. In their presence, there's no need for continuous conversation, but you find you're quite content in just having them nearby. Things that never interested you before become fascinating because you know they are important to this person who is so special to you. You think of this person on every occasion and in everything you do. You find strength in knowing you have a true friend and a soul mate who will remain loyal to the end.

Before Bride and Groom exchange their vows and rings, I'm going to read the poem, On Your Wedding Day and I'd like to remind everyone that this is why we've gathered today. They're about to fully devote their lives to each other!

On Your Wedding Day, Unknown Author

Today's a day that you'll always remember, the greatest in anyone's life. You'll start off the day just two people in love and end it as husband and wife. It's a brand new beginning, the start of a journey, with moments to cherish and treasure, and although there'll be time when you both disagree, these will surely be outweighed by pleasure. You'll have heard many words of advice in the past when the secrets of marriage were spoken, but you both know that the answers lie hidden inside where the bond of true love lies unbroken. So live happy forever as lovers and friends. It's the dawn of a new life for you, as you stand here together with love in your eyes from the moment you whisper, "I do." All your hopes and dreams can be real. May success find its way to your hearts. Tomorrow can bring you the greatest of joys, but today is the day it all starts.

I Groom, take you Bride to be my wife, my partner in life and my one true love. I will cherish our marriage and love you more each day than I did the day before. I will trust you and respect you, laugh with you and cry with you, and I will love you faithfully through good times and bad. I give you my heart and love from this day forward for as long as we live.

I Bride, take you Groom to be my husband, my partner in life and my one true love. I will cherish our marriage and love you more each day than I did the day before. I will trust you and respect you, laugh with you and cry with you, and I will love you faithfully through good times and bad. I give you my heart and love from this day forward for as long as we live.

This is the point in the ceremony when people talk about the wedding bands being a perfect circle, having no beginning and no end, but we all know that these rings have a beginning. Rock is mined from the earth. Metals are liquefied in a furnace at two thousand degrees and then the metal is forged, cooled, and then painstakingly polished. Something beautiful is made from raw elements. Love is like that. It comes from humble beginnings. It is the process of making something beautiful where there was once nothing at all. The promises that you've made to each other today are inscribed forever in your minds and in your hearts, but words are fleeting, so let your rings serve as reminders of the feelings you have in your hearts at this very moment.



Your rings are visible, tangible symbols of your commitment to one another and of your emotional and spiritual connection. Your rings announce to the world that you've been found. They are a reminder and celebration of the promises you've made today and in exchanging these bands you knit your two lives together as one. When you look down at your wedding band, remember 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." "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."

Your final reading is meant to honor your youthful spirit and desire not to take life too seriously. It was written by Adam Sandler and borrowed from the movie, The Wedding Singer.

I wanna make you smile whenever you're sad and carry you around when your arthritis is bad. Oh all I wanna do is grow old with you. I'll get your medicine when your tummy aches, build you a fire if the furnace breaks. Oh, it could be so nice, growing old with you. I'll miss you, kiss you, give you my coat when you are cold. Need you, feed you, even let ya hold the remote control. So let me do the dishes in our kitchen sink, put you to bed when you've had too much to drink. Oh it could be so nice, growing old with you. I wanna grow old with you.

Bride and Groom, may all that you are always be in love and may all that is love always be in you. May your connection be as pure on each day you share as it is on this day of celebration and may each day you share be as precious to you as the day you first fell in love. My hope is that you look back on your lives when you're old, to see that you gave your love and marriage the best that you had and that you were grateful for all of life's experiences, both good and bad, knowing that tough times can be great teachers, but may you always see and encourage the best in each other so that the challenges life brings your way make your marriage even stronger and may you always be each other's best friend and greatest love. You are now, as your hearts have always known you to be, husband and wife! Groom, kiss your beautiful bride!

It is my absolute privilege to introduce you to the world as Mr. and Mrs. _____ !

