

## Wedding Ceremony

**Text:** Genesis 2:18-24

Introduction:

Friends, we are gathered in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, in order to join this man and this woman in the bond of holy wedlock and to send them forth with our prayers and blessings. Let us look briefly at marriage as God ordained it.

I. Definition: Marriage is an institution ordained of God for the honor and happiness of mankind, in which one man and one woman enter into a bodily and spiritual union, pledging each to the other mutual love, honor, fidelity, sympathy, forbearance and comradeship, such as would assure an unbroken continuance of their wedlock so long as both shall live.

II. This relationship should be held in honor by all. - Hebrews 13:4

III. Basis: The very basis for this marriage should be mutual love. - Ephesians 5:25; Titus 2:4-5

IV. Permanence: God intended from the very beginning that marriage be a life-long relationship between one man and one woman. - Matthew 19:3-9

Conclusion:

Your marriage can either be your greatest source of happiness this side of heaven or your greatest cause of misery this side of hell. Whether your marriage will be one of joy and permanence or of despair and separation will be determined by whether you follow the law of the Lord concerning marriage or not. If each of you will live a life of faithfulness to God and to each other, your marriage will be your highest, most secure of all earthly sources of joy, peace and comfort. Our sincere prayer is that you will always turn to the Word of God to find the answers to life's problems and thus grow closer to God and to one another as the years pass.

Prayer

Gracious Father, we praise You for your wise and gracious provisions for us. Especially we praise You for your wisdom and love in instituting the marriage relationship. We humbly thank You for this man and this woman and their mutual love. We pray they might realize the importance of the decision they have made and the covenant they are about to enter. May they each day fulfill their obligations to You and to each other and thus be granted a life of love and joy and the hope of eternal life. In the name of Jesus Christ, Your only begotten Son, we pray. Amen.

Ceremony

To the Groom: Do you, \_\_\_\_\_, take \_\_\_\_\_ to be your lawful wedded wife, to have and to hold, to love, cherish, honor and provide for, in sickness and in health, for richer or for poorer, for better or for worse, forsaking all others, until death do you part?

To the Bride: Do you, \_\_\_\_\_, take \_\_\_\_\_ to be your lawful wedded husband, to have and to hold, to love, cherish, honor and obey, in sickness and in health, for richer or for poorer, for better or for worse, forsaking all others until death do you part?

To the Groom: What token do you give in commemoration of this pledge?

To the Bride: What token do you give in commemoration of this pledge?

To both: Please join your right hands. Forasmuch, then, as you, \_\_\_\_\_, and you, \_\_\_\_\_, have consented together in holy wedlock and have pledged your love and faithfulness to one another, I now pronounce you husband and wife. What, therefore, God has joined together, let not man put asunder.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I present to you Mr. And Mrs.