

Marriage Ceremony

We are assembled here to celebrate the marriage contract between ***Bride*** and ***Groom***.

Bride and ***Groom***, today you are making the deepest commitment of your lives as you publicly pledge your promise of trust and devotion to each other. Marriage is a special covenant relationship that is to be entered into with reverence and care. Whatever the future holds for you, your love for each other will help you to accept happiness with gratitude and adversity with graceful humility.

Love has the capacity to forgive and forget. It finds room for things of the spirit; it's a common search for the good. With love, you establish a relationship in which the independence is equal, the dependence upon each other is mutual, and the obligation to each other is shared. Love is not only marrying the right person, it is being the right partner.

In *The Road Less Traveled*, M. Scott Peck describes love as follows:

"Love is the will to extend one's self for the purpose of nurturing one's own or another's spiritual growth."

In other words, love is not a feeling. It's a decision. It's an act of will. It's giving the best you've got to help somebody else. And, in the giving, you grow.

Bride, do you take ***Groom*** to be your lawfully wedded husband, to love, honor and cherish him, to protect him in sickness and in health, forsaking all others, and keeping only to him till death do you part?

(**Bride**: I do.)

Groom, do you take ***Bride*** to be your lawfully wedded wife, to love, honor, and cherish her, to protect her in sickness and in health, forsaking all others, and keeping only to her till death do you part?

(**Groom**: I do.)

Rings

The wedding ring is a visible symbol of your enduring commitment to love one another and to always honor your marriage vows.

Groom, repeat after me and place the ring on the third finger of her left hand, "With this ring I thee wed and pledge my love to thee."

(**Groom**: With this ring I thee wed and pledge my love to thee.)

Bride, repeat after me and place the ring on the third finger of his left hand, "With this ring I thee wed and pledge my love to thee."

(**Bride**: With this ring I thee wed and pledge my love to thee.)

Bride and **Groom**, keep these promises which both of you have just made. Each day, be a source of strength and comfort to each other, share in each other's joy, be consolers in each others' disappointments, and helpers to each other through the varying and changing experiences of your life together. Encourage each other in whatever you set out to do and achieve. Trust in each other. May the understanding and love that each of you provides the other fill your lives with peace and joy.

Forasmuch as **Groom** and **Bride** have consented together in marriage and have pledged their faith each to the other, and have declared the same by giving and receiving a ring, by virtue of the authority vested in me as the Mayor of Shaker Heights, I now pronounce that they are husband and wife together according to the laws of the State of Ohio. Whom we here have joined together let no person put asunder.

Bride and **Groom**, I offer you my best wishes. May your marriage be filled with much happiness and love.