

Grand Covenant

Of the world's three great institutions – the home, the church, and the state – the home is the oldest and most sacred. In the consummation of the first marriage, the woman whom God made as a helpmate for man was not taken from his head to rule over him, nor from his feet to be trampled by him. But from his side that she might be his equal. From under his arm that she might receive his protection, and from near his heart that she might own and command his love.

The relation of husband and wife is the most sacred when it is that of two souls with a single thought – two hearts that beat as one. It is the blending of two lives together.

_____, you are about to take upon yourself a pure resolve, a solemn vow, and incurring grave and lasting responsibilities. The woman of your choice is the partner of your life, the coheir of your possessions, and the queen of your home. In no other way could she so manifest her love for you. She leaves her home ties, the companionship of friends, all these to share with you the joys and sorrows of life. With you she now abides, and for you she lives.

_____, you are also to assume grave responsibilities. He whom you are about to wed will look to you for solace in the hour of trial. Your smile should be his brightest day, your voice his sweetest music, your industry his greatest wealth, your economy his safest steward, your lips his faithful counselor, your prayer his most able advocate at heaven's court.

_____ and _____, you are to become one. There are ahead great adventures in your lives that you will share together. You will share the storms as well as the good times. Just remember you are one, no longer to fight the battles of life by yourselves. Lift one another in prayer, in God, and in love.

_____, do you come here today of your own free will and without any reservation, to take _____ as you're lawfully wedded wife? If so, say I DO.

_____, do you come here today of your own free will and without any reservation to take _____ as you're lawfully wedded husband? If so, say I DO.

Who gives _____ to be married to _____?

RING CEREMONY

_____, what token do you give as evidence that you will keep you marriage vows?
You have for this purpose selected a ring. This ring is the token of your marriage covenant. It is made of the precious and enduring metal, and thus fittingly represents the ties which bind husband and wife. The ring an endless circle until broken by some outside force is a symbol of the unbroken "union" that should continue until broken by death.

_____, will you take this ring and place it upon the finger of _____, and say after me:

I, _____, with this ring do wed _____ and with my worldly goods I entrust and by this act declare in the presence of these witnesses I take _____ to be my beloved wife that I will be unto her a faithful husband.

_____, what token do you give as evidence that you will keep your marriage vows?

You too, have selected a ring with its symbolism of enduring ties and unbroken union.

_____, will you take this ring and place it upon the finger of _____, and say after me:

I, _____, with this ring do wed _____ and with my worldly goods I entrust and by this act declare in the presence of theses witnesses I take _____ to be my beloved husband that I will be unto him a faithful wife.

_____, just as the ring compasses _____ finger, so are you to compass her life with strength and protecting love.

_____, just as this ring compasses _____ finger, so are you to compass his life with encouragement and protecting love.

Now let me speak to your hearts, I change you both as you hope for happiness in your married life, to be true to these vows you have made to each other.

With your marriage, from this day forward, you begin life anew, with larger responsibilities.

_____, guard well your bride who now commits herself into your keeping, and strive so to live that no word or deed of yours shall cloud her brow with grief, or dim her eyes with tears.

_____, it will be your part to strive to retain by your virtues the heart you have won by your graces.

To you both I would say, let not your voices lose the tender touch of affection, nor eyes forget the tender ray with which they shone in courtships day, and greatest of all – let God be enthroned above all else at all times

-----PRAYER-----

Now having heard you make these pledges of your affection and take these vows of fidelity, I do by the authority vested in me, as an ordained minister in the State of Arizona

Pronounce you husband and wife

_____, you may now kiss your wife.

It is my privilege to introduce for the first time:
Mr. and Mrs. _____