

Welcome, we are here this today to celebrate love. Name 1 and Name 2 have chosen this day as their wedding day. Let us surround them with our love and best wishes.

Doubly blessed is the couple who comes to their marriage ceremony with the love of their friends and family.

Name 1 and Name 2, your relationship began (xx) years ago. And over these past (xx) years you have come to rely on each other's friendship, wisdom, humor, and love. You have become for each other a place of sanctuary and peace.

# Marriage Box

Most people get married believing a myth that marriage is a beautiful box full of all the things they have longed for: companionship, intimacy, friendship, etc. The truth is that marriage at the start is an empty box. You must put something in before you can take anything out. There is no love in marriage. Love is in people. And people put love in marriage. There is no romance in marriage. You have to infuse it into your marriage. A couple must learn the art and form the habit of giving, loving, serving, praising keeping the box full. If you take out more than you put in, the box will be empty.

A good marriage must be created.

The little things are the big things.

It is never being too old to hold hands.

It is remembering to say I love you at least once a day.

It is never going to sleep angry.

It is at no time taking the other for granted.

The courtship should not end with the honeymoon, it should continue through all the years.

It is having a mutual sense of values and common objectives.

It is standing together to face the world.

It is forming a circle of love that gathers in the whole family.

It is doing things for each other, not in the attitude of duty or sacrifice, but in the spirit of joy.

It is speaking words of appreciation and demonstrating gratitude in thoughtful ways.

It is not expecting one person to wear a halo, or the other to have the wings of an angel.

It is not looking for perfection in each other.

It is cultivating flexibility, patience, understanding and a sense of humor.

It is having the capacity to forgive and forget.

It is giving each other an atmosphere in which each can grow.

It is finding room for things of the spirit. To be open to the many miracles and blessings that God provides each day.

It is a common search for the good and the beautiful in the world He has provided.

It is establishing a relationship in which the independence is equal, dependence is mutual and the obligation is reciprocal.

It is a love that reflects God's unconditional love and never ending forgiveness.

It is not only marrying the right partner, it is being the right partner.

(This reading can be changed/personalized to your relationship)

Name 1 and Name 2, please face each other and hold each others hands so that you may see the gift that they are to you. These are the hands of your best friend, strong and full of love for you, that are holding yours on your wedding day as you promise to love each other today, tomorrow and forever. These are the hands that will work alongside yours as together you build your future.

These are the hands that will love you and cherish you through the years, and with the slightest touch will comfort you like no other. These are the hands that will hold you when fear or grief temporarily comes to you. These are the hands that will countless times wipe the tears from your eyes, tears of sorrow and tears of joy.

These are the hands that will tenderly hold your children, the hands that will join your family as one. These are the hands that will give you strength when you need it, support and encouragement to pursue your dreams, and comfort through difficult times.

And lastly, these are the hands that even when wrinkled and aged will still be reaching for yours, still giving you the same unspoken tenderness with just a touch.

Name 1 and Name 2 are you now prepared to make your promises to each other?

Name 1 do you now take Name 2 to be your wife/ partner in all that life brings, to share her moments of glory and achievement, to marry your voice with hers when it rings out in laughter, and to comfort her when she is in pain, for as long as you both shall live?

Name 2, do take Name 1 to be your husband/your partner in all that life brings, to share his moments of glory and achievement, to marry your voice with his when it rings out in laughter, and to comfort him when he is in pain, for as long as you both shall live?

The rings please:

The ring is a symbol of the unbroken circle of love. Love freely given has no beginning and no end, no giver and no receiver, for each is the giver and each is the receiver. May these rings always remind you of the vows you have just taken.

Name 1, as you place Name 2's ring on her finger do you pledge to her your faithful and unconditional love, taking her as your wife, promising to share your life with her, and to honor, respect, and tenderly care for her forever?

Name 2, as you place Name 1 ring on his finger do you pledge to him your faithful and unconditional love, taking him as your husband, promising to share your life with him, and to honor, respect, and tenderly care for him forever?

"Love is friendship caught fire; it is quiet, mutual confidence, sharing and forgiving. It is loyalty through good and bad times. It settles for less than perfection, and makes allowances for human weaknesses. Love is content with the present, hopes for the future, and does not brood over the past. It is the day-in and day-out chronicles of irritations, problems, compromises, small disappointments, big victories, and working toward common goals. If you have love in your life, it can make up for a great many things you lack. If you do not have it, no matter what else there is, it is not enough."

Name 1 and Name 2, today you have made a lasting commitment to share the rest of your lives with each other, joining your two lives as one. What God has joined together let no man separate.

Let the power of your love make you happy and the strength of your dedication to each other make you inseparable. Be close but not too close, be understanding and patient with each other. For each of you have your journey of life. Storms will come but they will pass quickly. Be open always

to God's guidance. Pray together, laugh together, talk together. Find the humor in the moment.

Name 1 and Name 2, because you promised to give yourselves to one another and to love one another, which has been symbolized the sharing of vows and giving and receiving of rings, with the blessings of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy spirit and by law of the State of Oregon, I now pronounce you husband and wife.

Kiss now and seal your love.