

## MARRIAGE CEREMONY #1

Friends, we are gathered here in the presence of God to join this man and woman in the bonds of sacred marriage. We, who are led by faith, know that God originated marriage in the beginning when He made man and woman. God created man and there was found no help-meet for him, and God saw that it was not good for man to be alone, so He took one of Adam's ribs and made woman, soft and fair, for his companionship and delight.

God's purpose in marriage is three-fold: (1) To satisfy man's desire for companionship; (2) to perpetuate the human race; (3) and to prevent immorality. *"Marriage is honorable in all and the bed undefiled"* (Heb. 13:4). In marriage the husband and wife should possess each other (I Cor. 7: 2 - 5). This marriage can only be dissolved honorably in one way, that is by the death of either companion (Rom. 7: 1 - 4). It can be dissolved dishonorably by fornication (Matt. 19:9).

This covenant is not to be entered into thoughtlessly and lightly, for upon this relationship depends much of your future usefulness and happiness. Excepting the covenant of grace, this covenant is the most solemn, serious, intimate and tender into which human hearts can enter.

(Prayer)

Read: Ephesians 5: 22 - 33

VOWS:

JOIN RIGHT HANDS

TO THE MAN: Do you \_\_\_\_\_, take this woman \_\_\_\_\_ whose right hand you now hold, to be your lawful, wedded wife; promising before God in the presence of these witnesses, that you will honor her and love her and remain with her in sickness and health, in prosperity and in adversity, and forsaking all others you will keep yourself to her only until death shall separate you?-----

TO THE WOMAN: Do you, \_\_\_\_\_, take this man \_\_\_\_\_, whose right hand you now hold to be your lawful, wedded husband; promising before God and in the presence of these witnesses, your friends, that you will be to him a faithful, loving and devoted wife; that you will obey him, honor him, love him and remain with him in sickness and in health, in prosperity and in adversity, and forsaking all others, you will keep yourself to him, and to him only until death shall separate you?-----

IS THERE SOME TOKEN OF YOUR VOWS? (Rings)

The ring from ancient time has been a symbol of eternity and becomes a fitting symbol of the eternal duration of the wedding vow. It is made of pure gold, that which is tarnish least. It may pass through fire, but will never lose its luster. This marriage may pass through trials of fire, but with continued faith in God its luster will never be dimmed.

TO THE MAN: Repeat after me: (woman's name) \_\_\_\_\_ "with this ring I do thee wed, and with all my earthly goods and love I do on thee endow"

TO THE WOMAN: Repeat after me: (man's name) \_\_\_\_\_ "With this ring I do thee wed, and all my love and affection I do on thee bestow."

I, in view of the vows you have now made on this day, by the authority of the state of \_\_\_\_\_, and as a gospel preacher, I now pronounce you husband and wife.

**KISS your wife!**

I now present to you Mr. and Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_.