

## Sample Ceremony – “A Good Marriage”

Today we have come together to witness the joining of these two lives. For them, out of the routine of ordinary life, the extraordinary has happened. They met each other, fell in love and are finalizing it with their wedding today.

Romance is fun, but true love is something far more and it is their desire to love each other for life and that is what we are celebrating here today.

A good marriage must be created.

In marriage 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 standing together and facing the world.

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

It is having the capacity to forgive and forget.

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

It is a common search for the good and the beautiful.

It is not only marrying the right person -- it is being the right partner

Officiant, X please repeat after me:

**I declare that I do not know of any lawful impediment (or can say reason) why I, X's full name, may not be joined in matrimony to Y's full name.**

Officiant, Y please repeat after me:

**I declare that I do not know of any lawful impediment (or can say reason) why I, Y's full name, may not be joined in matrimony to X's full name.**

Officiant, X please repeat after me:

**I call upon all persons present to witness that I, X's full name, take you, Y's full name, to be my lawful wedded partner/spouse/husband/wife.**

Officiant, Y please repeat after me:

**I call upon all persons present to witness that I, Y's full name, take you, X's full name, to be my lawful wedded partner/spouse/husband/wife.**

GROOM/BRIDE AND GROOM/BRIDE I would ask that you always treat yourself and each other with respect, and remind yourselves often of what brought you together today.

Give the highest priority to the tenderness, gentleness and kindness that your marriage deserves. When frustration and difficulty assail your marriage - as they do to every relationship at one time or another - focus on what still seems right between you, not only the part that seems wrong.

This way, when clouds of trouble hide the sun in your lives and you lose sight of it for a moment, you can remember that the sun is still there. And if each of you will take responsibility for the quality of your life together, it will be marked by abundance and happiness.

Officiant:

**X (full name), do you take Y (full name) to be your lawful partner/spouse/husband/wife (can end here or add) to have and to hold and to be faithful to him/her from this day forward, for better or worse, for richer or poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, so long as you both shall live?**

First spouse answers: **I do.**

Officiant:

**Y (full name), do you take X (full name) to be your lawful partner/spouse/husband/wife (can end here or add) to have and to hold and to be faithful to him/her from this day forward, for better or worse, for richer or poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, so long as you both shall live?**

Second spouse answers: **I do.**

Officiant: Please present the rings.

Your wedding ring is a symbol of your promise to one another. The ring, an unbroken, never ending circle, is a symbol of committed, unending love.

Y, as you place this ring on X's finger, repeat these words after me: As a token of the solemn vows of this marriage, I, full name, give you this ring.

X, as you place this ring on Y's finger, repeat these words after me: As a token of the solemn vows of this marriage, I, full name, give you this ring.

Officiant: X and Y, you have come here today of your own free will and in the presence of family and friends, have declared your love and commitment to each other. You have given and received a ring as a symbol of your promises. By the power of your love and commitment to each other, and **by virtue of the authority vested in me by The Marriage Act, I pronounce you, X's full name and Y's full name, to be husband and wife/lawfully wedded partners/lawfully wedded.**

You may now share your first kiss as husband and wife/married couple/wedded partners. Congratulations.

Signing

Ladies and gentlemen, please rise as we welcome....