

Marriage Ceremony Circa 1955 by Dr. Ernest Holmes
Transcribed August 2015

[This Marriage Ceremony is taken from the "Religious Science Minister's Service Book" that belonged to Dr. Ernest Holmes, himself. The original is lovingly preserved at the Science of Mind Archives & Library Foundation. Please consider making a love donation at www.somarchives.org/donate to support our preservation efforts and in helping the Science of Mind message reach around the world.]

Friends: We are assembled here in the presence of God (*another version had:* and these witnesses) to join in holy marriage

_____ and _____

There are no ties on earth so sweet and tender as those you are about to assume. There are no vows so solemn as those you are about to make. There is no institution on earth so sacred as that of the home you are about to form. You are linking your lives in the closest possible relationship with that of another human soul. Your separate lives with their memories, hopes, challenges and trials are being merged in one on this wonderful day.

Marriage to be complete must first be spiritual. From an inner state of conscious unity in faith, love, thought, purpose, plan and action, there comes the outer state corresponding to it, making a peaceful and harmonious state of being. You are now forming an act of faith, believing in each other, trusting and loving each other. Let that love grow through the years so that you remain steadfast and sure in your devotion. As the years pass the happiness of others will be involved with yours.

May you through the years bear witness to the fact that love increases and encompasses all with whom you come in contact as you find your oneness in each other and in God. Two souls have the power to love each other more and more indefinitely. The larger the love becomes the more loveable do the objects of that love become and the consciousness of perfect unity in pure affection increases. True marriage is the result of two souls coming together in that union which is the most sacred of all earthly unions. It is to be entered into thoughtfully and with reverence, and with full understanding of its sacredness.

(Question to bride and groom) Do you understand this? (Bride and groom respond) "Yes."

Kahlil Gibran had this to say of marriage.

"You were born together and together you shall be forevermore. Aye, you shall be together even in the silent memory of God. But let there be spaces in your togetherness. And let the winds of the heavens dance between you. Love one another, but make not a bond of love. Let it rather be a moving sea between the shores of your souls. Fill each other's cup, but drink not from one cup. Give one another of your bread, but eat not from the same loaf. Sing and dance and be joyous but let each of you be alone. Even as the strings of a lute are alone though they quiver with the same music. Give your hearts but not into each other's keeping. For only the hand of life can contain your hearts. And stand together yet not too near together. For the pillars of the temple stand apart, and the oak tree and the cypress grow not in each other's shadow."

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Today as you begin this new life together will you bring into it each for the sake of the other the best that you can? (Bride and groom respond) "Yes."

Who gives this woman to be married to this man? "Her mother and I do." Bride hands bouquet to made of honor or attendant. Will you both join your right hands?

_____, will you take this woman, whose hand you hold, choosing her alone to be your wedded wife? Will you live with her in the true state of matrimony? Will you love her, comfort her and at all times be faithful to her? "I will."

_____, will you take this man, whose hand you hold to be your wedded husband? Will you live with him in the true state of matrimony? Will you love him, comfort him, honor him and at all times be faithful to him? "I will."

Groom _____, will you repeat after me?

"I, _____, take thee _____, to be my wife, to love and cherish, from this day forward; and thereto I pledge you my faith, love and trust."

Bride _____, will you repeat after me?

"I, _____, take thee _____, to be my husband, to love and cherish, from this day forward; and thereto I pledge you my faith, love and trust."

Groom _____ What token do you give of your sincerity? (Groom responds) "A ring."

God bless this ring that he who gives it and she who wears it may ever abide in thy peace, living together in unity, in love and in happiness and with good purpose to thy will. Amen.

This ring is a symbol of the unbroken unity of truth now to be symbolized in your married life.

Groom _____, will you repeat after me?

With this ring I thee wed.
Let it ever be to us, a symbol of our love.
As a token of our faithfulness each to the other,
I place it now upon your hand.

Bride _____ What token do you give of your sincerity? (Bride responds) "A ring."

God bless this ring that she who gives it and he who wears it may ever abide in thy peace, living together in unity, in love and in happiness and with good purpose to thy will. Amen.

This ring is again a symbol of the unbroken unity of truth now to be symbolized in your married life.

Bride _____, will you repeat after me?

With this ring I thee wed.

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Let it ever be to us, a symbol of our love.
As a token of our faithfulness each to the other,
I place it now upon your hand.

Groom (name) _____ will you repeat after me?

As a token of our faithfulness, each to the other,
I give it place upon my hand.

There is no difficulty that enough love will not conquer;
no illness that enough love will not heal;
no door that enough love will not open;
no gulf that enough love will not bridge;
no wall that enough love will not throw down;
no mistake that enough love will not redeem.

It make no difference how deeply seated may be the trouble,
how hopeless the outlook,
how muddled the tangle,
how great the mistake;
a sufficient realization of love will dissolve it all.

Inasmuch as you (bride name) _____ and you (groom name) _____
have consented together in the holy bonds of wedlock and have witnessed the same before God,
and these present, and have pledged your faith each to the other, I now pronounce you husband
and wife by the authority vested in me by the ordinances of God through this church and the laws
of the State of California.

Prayer:

Let us pray!

Eternal Spirit...Life...Truth, and Substance of all...with whom to be in conscious union is
joy...and from whom to feel separated is darkness...may this man and this woman...who have
entered into this spiritual union...always be conscious of Thy indwelling presence...may they be
one with each other as they are one even now with Thee...may they rejoice in perfect love and
perfect peace together...and live always in accord with the true Law of their being...Amen.

I am pleased to introduce to you: M and M _____

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(Found in another section of the book)

Basic Order of Chapel or Church Wedding Service:

1. Music prelude
2. Candle lighting (ushers)
3. Mother of groom seated (usher 2)
4. Mother of bride seated (usher 1)
(This begins the service)
5. Song
6. Place Canvas (ushers) (generally already done in these days)
7. Wedding procession (see diagram)
8. Marriage Ceremony
9. (Song, such as Lord's Prayer can follow ring exchange if desired)
10. Recessional

NOTES: Bride enters on father's right arm (or other male relative). Bride hands over bouquet in ring service to Matron of Honor. If double ring service, best man holds bride's ring; matron groom's. Bride lifts veil for kiss after benediction, at indication of Minister.

If both present, bride's father can step to other's side and reply, "Her mother and I do" in place of "I do" to the Minister's question.

Recessional: Bride and groom, flower girl, ring bearer, matron on best man's right arm, bridesmaids on usher's right arms, brides' parents, groom's parents (escort).

Audience stands in pews until all file out; also for entrance.

Flower girl sprinkles petals. Ring bearer has small white satin pillow, with rings over upright pins to hold them and easy for best man to lift off.

If couple kneels for prayer, can arrange in advance for bench, generally from wedding chapel or any florist, or a long white pillow. If couple remains standing, they clasp hands at this point of the service.