

SAMPLE CEREMONY #1 (Ryan and Emily's wedding)

ORDER OF SERVICE

Ushers - Guys in tux's sit...

Groom's grandparents seated by

Bride's Grandparents seated by

Groom's parents seated by

-Angela, Brittany S., Mandi involved? (*gifts, scripture reading, guest book*)

Bride's mother seated by

Candles lighted – Mothers

P. Thad, Groom

Entry of Bridal Party

Bride Enters (brother)

CEREMONY INTRODUCTION

Welcome today to this beautiful uniting of two amazing lives between Emily and Ryan

Giving of Bride

Emily's brother has walked her to the altar today, but who gives this bride to be married to this groom
Father ... "Her mother and I" from the father at his seat

To the Congregation: "you may be seated"

Ascend Stairs

Message

The Word is very explicit concerning marriage. It's an institution established by God, full of wisdom and kindness towards what would complete a person. He said at the very dawn of creation, "It is not good that man should be alone. I will make a help-mate for him. Therefore, a man shall leave his mother and father and be joined to his wife, and they shall be one flesh."

Love is the greatest gift in the world. And, of all human love, the love between a man and a woman is the highest and most tender, when celebrated within the marriage commitment. This love can only be fulfilled in self-forgetfulness and its essence is sacrifice....to put the others needs before your own. "Love is very patient and kind, never jealous or envious, never boastful or proud, never haughty or selfish or rude. Love does not demand its own way. It is not irritable or touchy. It does not hold grudges and will hardly even notice when others do it wrong. It is never glad about injustice, but rejoices whenever truth wins out. If you love someone, you will be loyal to him no matter what the cost. You will always believe in him, always expect the best of him, and always stand your ground in defending him. All the special gifts and powers from God will some day come to an end, but love goes on forever." (Paraphrase of I Corinthians 13)

Personal comments from P Thad

Ryan:

Proverbs 19:14 (NIV)

¹⁴ Houses and wealth are inherited from parents, but a prudent wife is from the LORD.

Proverbs 18:22 (NIV)

²² He who finds a wife finds what is good and receives favor from the LORD.

You know this...but you are about to enjoy the favor of the Lord...and it is exactly that. Never forget that what you are receiving, in this union of Emily, is a gift; His expression of forgiveness, belief, trust and blessing on your future. Congratulations...good things definitely come to those who wait! What a crazy thing the Lord will do in one's life in just one year. I am proud of you and as you stand here...embrace the understanding that God is too.

Through discipline and honor and building worth and value in your relationship with Christ...you will take the first and most important step in being an amazing husband. The marriage relationship is more than just you and her...but Him, you and her.

And Emily:

You have found a man with a heart after God. A tender spirit that will lead you, nurture your passions and deepen your love for life. From what I hear...he doesn't wear red jerseys...so there is nothing to fear. (inside joke...well...not that inside)

And...I remember your passion and genuine desire to determine your call and destiny. Contemplating the ministry as your call in life. And let me just say...God has His hand on you and He could do no greater thing than bring Ryan into that picture. Who shares similar passions.

God is going to use the two of you to touch many lives...and you will find yourselves doing it together. Congratulations on being open to God's call, listening to Him through the noise of an opinionated world, and saying yes. To the call and to Ryan...you have as well found favor and are well blessed. I am proud of you.

VOWS

I, Ryan, take you, Emily, to be my wife, to have and to hold from this day until the end of life's journey together, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, I promise to cherish you, to honor you, to love and respect you. You are the one I choose to spend my life with. Emily, according to God's holy ordinance, I give myself and my love to you without condition for all the days of my life.

I, Emily, take you, Ryan, to be my husband, to have and to hold from this day until the end of life's journey together, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, I promise to cherish you, to honor you, to love and respect you. You are the one I choose to spend my life with. Ryan, according to God's holy ordinance, I give myself and my love to you without condition for all the days of my life.

Emily and Ryan have very appropriately chosen to take communion today:

...a celebration of his life, death and soon return. He is coming back to take to himself his own. Those who have surrendered their lives to the message of life, and hope through the life of Christ.

They celebrate in this communion their relationship with God and in the lighting of this unity candle, signifying two individual lives with the unity of the bride of Christ and the unity of the church.

I am reminded of that passage..."let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven"

Communion & Lighting of Candle & Signing of license

Music during

RING CEREMONY

Emily and Ryan have chosen a very fitting poem prior to their exchanging of rings today. And I remember the pastor at our wedding not being able to make it through with dry eyes...hopefully my fate is not predestined today!

Marriage is a lifetime of hands.

It's a shaking hand sliding a shiny gold band onto the finger of another shaking hand

It's an anxious hand tugging on a suddenly shy hand

It's hands touching in sudden tenderness or swinging together down a crowded street

or fingers interlocking in the darkness of a theater

It's expressive hands- the playful pat on the cheek, the beckoning wave, the ruffled hair, the "help me please" gesture

And sometimes, the clenched fist.

It's two ecstatic hands being grasped by tiny brand-new hands

It's hurrying hands setting dinner for hungry hands

It's angry hands pushing away angrier hands

It's an optimistic hand, patting a discouraged hand

It's a panicky hand clutching a calm hand

It's a proud hand, introducing an embarrassed hand

It's joyous hands, grabbing happy hands, and hands sharing sadness with a touch

It's healthy hands, holding sick hands

It's a strong hand supporting a grief stricken hand

It's also tear-stained hands entwining other tear-stained hands

It's hands joined in prayer

And finally, it's a shaking hand sliding a dull gold band off the ringer of a very still hand

Marriage is a lifetime of hands

The ring is a symbol of the covenant between you. It is an endless circle signifying unending and unqualified love. It is made of gold, a metal which when tried by fire, becomes purer, as will your love. In the giving and receiving of these rings, you are pledging before God and these friends that you will keep the covenant and perform the vows that you have made

RING EXCHANGE & VOWS

Ryan: With this ring, I pledge my love to you and receive you as my loving wife. With this ring I promise to be true to you until death parts us in the Name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Emily: With this ring, I pledge my love to you and receive you as my loving husband. With this ring I promise to be true to you until death parts us, in the Name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

PRAYER

PRONOUNCEMENT

During your life together, may there be enough tears to keep you tender, enough hurts to keep you human, enough of failure to keep your hands tightly in God's. And enough of success to make sure you walk with God. May you never take each other's love for granted, but always experience that breathless wonder that exclaims, "Out of this entire world, you have chosen me!"

Then, when life is done and the sun is setting, may you be found then as now, still hand in hand, still very proud, still thanking God so much for each other. May you serve God happily, faithfully together...till life's pathway has ended.

Now having committed yourselves to each other in openness, love, and permanency, and having sealed these vows by giving and receiving rings, I do, by virtue and authority bestowed upon me as a minister of the Gospel, by the ordinances of God and the laws of the State of Washington, pronounce you husband and wife, in the Name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

May I present to you, Mr. and Mrs. Ryan Agnew!

Ryan, you may kiss your bride...

RECESSIONAL

I would like to take a moment to acknowledge **Randy Agnew's birthday!**

You are all invited downstairs to a reception in the honor of Emily and Ryan. They will be taking photos for about 20 minutes and then join you...so enjoy your company until they make it down.

Wedding Party

Maid of Honor: Brittany Dunn

Bridesmaids: Christine Cezar, Marla Deklotz, Ashley Phelps

Best Man: Jon North

Groomsmen: Jason Paschal, Jeff Paschal, Josh Shugarts

Flower girls: Joslyn and Jenna Huff

Ring bearer: none

Minister of vows: Pastor Thad Huff