

SAMPLE CEREMONY #2 (JOSH & SHERRI)

Seating of guests

Seating of Grandparents

Seating of Parents

Mother's Lighting of Unity Candle

Processional

Flower Girl

Bridesmaids

Bride Enters

Welcome today...*The Congregation may be seated...*

Exhortation

Introductory comments...

We are gathered together here in the sight of God, and in the face of this company to join together this man and this woman in holy matrimony; ... it is not by any to be entered into unadvisedly or lightly; but reverently, discreetly, advisedly, soberly, and in the fear of God.

Traditionally, marriage ceremonies have said that each should love, honor and cherish the other until death parts them. In the light of the deeper meaning of the Scriptures, we would like to go a step further and state that a true marriage means intimacy, openness, tenderness, respect, appreciation, self-giving, and at times, self-sacrifice for each other's welfare and happiness. With this attitude a union is formed that only death could sever. Marriage is a joyous occasion. Marriage is an institution of God. It is the uniting of two hearts and lives, and is not to be entered into inadvertently or lightly, but rather reverently and discreetly.

Giving of Bride

"Who gives this woman to be married to this man?"

Father..."Her Mother and I"

Ascend Stairs

Prayer

Message

The Scripture sets an honor upon the woman as being the glory of the man. She was not taken from man's head in order to dominate him. Nor was she taken from his feet to be trampled upon by him. But rather, God took her out of man's side to walk hand in hand with him; from under his arm to be protected by him; and from near his heart to be loved by him for the remainder of their lives.

Love is the greatest gift in the world. And of all human love, the wedded love between a man and a woman is the highest and most tender. Love can only be fulfilled in self-forgetfulness and its essence is sacrifice. . . to give up its treasure for another to find in such self-surrender its richest blessing. "Love is patient and kind, never jealous or envious, never boastful or proud, 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. 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. Ephesians 5:21-23; "Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God. Wives

submit yourselves unto your own husbands as unto the Lord. . . As the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be subject unto their own husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives even as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for it.”

Personal comments to both of them:

Exchange of vows

Groom: I **Josh**, take you, **Sherri**, to be my wedded wife, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love, honor, and cherish, as long as we both shall live, according to God’s holy ordinance, I give you my love.

Bride: I, **Sherri**, take you, **Josh**, to be my wedded husband to have and to hold from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love, honor, and cherish, as long as we both shall live, according to God’s holy ordinance, I give you my love.

Introduction to taking of communion and lighting of the unity candle:

Lighting of Unity Candle/ Communion

Josh and Sherri 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.

Hopefully all of you have made that decision before today...if not, today would be a fitting time to make that commitment to God. What a gift to Josh and Sheri that would be even as they celebrate in this communion their relationship with God and in the lighting of this candle, signifying two individual lives with the unity of the bride of Christ and the unity of the church.

“let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven”

Special song by Dave: “Broken Road” Dedicated to Sherri from Josh

Exchange of Rings

Now that you have taken these vows, we come to the significant moment of giving and receiving rings. The ring is a symbol of the covenant between you. It is an endless circle signifying unending and unqualified love. May these rings be the outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual bond which unites your two hearts in love and has no end. Let these rings continue to be for both of you, a symbol of the value, the purity, and the constancy of true wedded love, and a seal of the vows which you have made.

Groom: I give you this ring as a symbol of our vows. I pledge my love to you and receive you as my loving wife. With all that I am, and all that I have I honor you. In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. With this ring, I thee wed.

Bride: I give you this ring as a symbol of our vows. I pledge my love to you and receive you as my loving husband. With all that I am, and all that I have I honor you. In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. With this ring, I thee wed.

Pronouncement of Husband and Wife

For as much as Sherri and Josh have consented together in holy wedlock, and have witnessed the same before God, their families and friends, pledging their vows each to the other, and have declared the same by giving and receiving rings and by joining hands, I do, by the virtue of the authority bestowed upon me as a minister of the Gospel, by the ordinance of God and the laws of this state, pronounce you husband and wife, in the name of the Father and the Son and in the Holy Spirit.

You May Kiss the Bride**Still Kissing the Bride☺****Receiving Line/ Reception**