

SAMPLE CEREMONY #4 David & LeAna (backyard...super simple wedding)

Groom and Minister Enter

Dad will walk me down the aisle

"who gives this woman to be married to this man" and he'll say "**her mother and I do**", then will take his seat next to my mom.

You may be seated.

Greeting and reading

We are gathered here in the presence of God and these people to celebrate the joining of David and LeAna in the unity of marriage. 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 Christian 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 and isn't to be entered into lightly, but reverently and discreetly. God's Word is very clear about marriage. It is a partnership established by heaven in the wisdom and kindness of God. 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."

I am excited to be a part of this day, from my understanding there is a special moment to have your Dad here to give you away. Truly...that is the power of God's blessing over marriage. When all is said and done...that peace would reign and restoration would be felt by all.

I think it would be fitting to say there is deep personal fulfillment in today as well, for you Leana...to come into alignment of the marriage relationship sealed by the covenant not only of the law of the land, but that ordained by God. It's a stepping beyond the bonds of your physical relationship and into the covering and protection of the marriage covenant with God. I believe this will open up the doors for even a deeper intimacy, trust and fulfillment within your relationship. Pretty exciting.

Scripture suggests this in Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

Two are better than one because they have a good return for their labor.

For if either of them falls, the one will lift up his companion. But woe to the one who falls when there is not another to lift him up.

And the vows you exchange today with the giving and receiving of rings will seal this promise to lift up your companion, the unbroken symbol of love in the endless circle of the refined rings...proving their endurance, and reflecting the covenant of your endless love you promise to uphold till death will part you today.

Vows (You read we say I do J)

(LeAna) Do you promise to love David, to be his best friend, to respect and support him, to be patient with him, working together to achieve his goals, to accept David for who he is, and to share life with him throughout the remainder of your years (I DO)

(David) Do you promise to love LeAna, to be her best friend, to respect and support her, to be patient with her, working together to achieve her goals, to accept LeAna for who she is, and to share life with her throughout the remainder of your years (I DO)

Pronouncement

With the exchange of these vows and the giving of these rings as a symbol of your love, with the authority given me as a minister in the presence of your family, friends and before God...I now pronounce you man and wife.

You may now kiss your bride.