

# Vows #1

On behalf of Bride and Groom I'd like to welcome the family and friends who have come here today to be a part of this joyous occasion.

Minister:

Bride and Groom, in presenting yourselves here today to be joined in marriage, you perform an act of faith. This faith can grow and develop and last, but only if you both decide to make it so. A lasting and growing love is not guaranteed by any ritual.

If you would have the foundation of your marriage be the devotion you have for one another, not just at this moment, but for all the days to come, then treasure the hopes and dreams that you bring here today. Establish that your love will never be blotted out by the common nor obscured by the ordinary in life. Faults will surface where now you find comfort, and admiration can be shattered by the routine of daily life.

Dedication, love, and joy can grow only when you nourish them together. Stand fast in that hope and confidence, having faith in your shared destiny just as strongly as you have faith in yourselves and in one another today. Only with this spirit can you forge a union that will strengthen and endure all the days of your lives.

Minister (If appropriate)

Who gives Bride to be married to Groom .

Addressing the Bride and Groom:

Before these gathered witnesses, your family and friends, will you Groom take Bride to be your wife?

Will you love her and comfort her, honor her and keep her and preserve with her this bond of matrimony?

Groom responds I will

Before these gathered witnesses, your family and friends, will you Bride take Groom to be your husband? Will you love him and comfort him, honor him and keep him and preserve with him this bond of matrimony?

Bride responds I will

Vows

(Bride and Groom turn and face one another)

**Groom:** (repeat after minister)

I, Groom, take you, Bride, as my friend and love, beside me and apart from me, in laughter and in tears, in conflict and tranquility, asking that you be no other than yourself, loving what I know of you, trusting what I do not know yet, in all the ways that life may find us.

**Bride:** (repeat after minister)

I, Bride, take you, Groom, as my friend and love, beside me and apart from me, in laughter and in tears, in conflict and tranquility, asking that you be no other than yourself, loving what I know of you, trusting what I do not know yet, in all the ways that life may find us.

As a token of this wedding ceremony we will now have the exchanging of rings: The rings are a symbol of eternity and the gold is that which is untarnished and shows the purity of your love one for another.

The Groom places the Bride's ring on her finger and repeats:

Bride, I give you this ring as a symbol of my vow, and with all that I am, and all that I have, I honor you.

The Bride places the Groom's ring on his finger and repeats:

Groom, I give you this ring as a symbol of my vow, and with all that I am, and all that I have, I honor you.

(Have Bride and Groom turn to face minister)

Minister:

Inasmuch as you, Groom and you, Bride have consented in matrimony and have witnessed the same before your family and friends, in accordance with the statement of love and trust, which you have just made and according to the laws of the State of New York, I now pronounce you husband and wife.

To seal this marriage, you may now kiss the Bride

May this day shine eternally in your lives.

May it add brilliance to every achievement and cast a divine light over any misfortune.

May you care for each other in all sadness.

May you give cheer to each other.

May you give vitality to each other in all undertakings.

May all that is virtuous, beautiful and honest, remain with you always.

(Turn and face the gathering)

May I present to you for the first time Mr. And Mrs. Groom .

## **Vows #2**

On behalf of bride and groom I would like to welcome the family and friends who have come here today to be a part of this joyous occasion.

We are gathered here today to take part in the most time-honored celebration of the human family, uniting a woman and a man in marriage. Bride and Groom have come to witness before us,

telling of their love for each other. We remember, theirs is a love whose source is the affection of those who loved them into being.

We remind them that they are performing an act of complete faith, each in the other; that the heart of their marriage will be the relationship they create. In a world where faith often falls short of expectation, it is a tribute to these two who now join hands and hearts in perfect faith.

Minister (If appropriate)

Who gives Bride to be married to Groom

(Have Bride and Groom face each other)

Minister to Groom:

Groom, will you receive Bride as your wife? Will you pledge to her your love, faith and tenderness, cherishing her with a husband's loyalty and devotion?

**Groom:** I will.

Minister to Bride:

Bride, will you receive Groom as your husband? Will you pledge to him your love, faith and tenderness, cherishing him with a wife's loyalty and devotion?

**Bride:** I will.

Minister (Turn and face one another)

**Groom:** I, Groom, take you, Bride to be no other than yourself, in all the ways life may find us, tending you in sickness and rejoicing with you in health, as long as we both shall live.

**Bride:** I, Bride, take you, Groom to be no other than yourself, in all the ways life may find us, tending you in sickness and rejoicing with you in health, as long as we both shall live.

**Minister:** Will you now give and receive the rings?

**Bride and Groom:** We will.

**Minister:** This circle of precious metal is justly regarded as a fitting emblem of the purity and perpetuity of the Marriage State. The ancients were reminded by the circle of eternity, as it is so fashioned as to have neither beginning nor end; while gold is so incorruptible that it cannot be tarnished by use or time. So may the union, at this time solemnized, be incorruptible in its purity and more lasting than time itself.

**Minister hands the ring to Groom, who places it on Bride's finger:** Wear this ring forever, Bride, as a symbol of love and peace and of all that is unending.

**Minister hands the ring to Bride, who places it on Groom's finger:** Wear this ring forever, Groom, as a symbol of love and peace and of all that is unending.

(Turn to face the minister)

**Minister:** We speak to Bride and Groom of love, in which the trust and freedom of the other person becomes as significant as the trust and freedom of one's self. We speak to them of generosity, which gathers the beauty of earth for riches, and the kindness which turns away the wrath of foolish men and women.

We speak of each of our hopes for their continued growth through patience, one for the other. We speak of our confidence that new levels of understanding, discovered by them in experiences of sorrow and tribulation, shall bring ever new surprises of strength and fortitude they do not now know.

In the years which shall bring Bride and Groom into greater age and wisdom, we pray that their love shall be ever young; that they shall be able always to recover from moments of despair. In this hope may they keep the vows made on this day, in freedom, teaching each other who they are, what they yet shall be, enabling them to know that in the fullness of being, they are more than themselves and more than each other; and that together they share joyously the fruits of life.

Inasmuch as Bride and Groom have declared their love and devotion to each other before family and friends, in accordance with the statements of love and trust which you have just made, and by the power vested in me by the State of New York, I now pronounce you husband and wife.

As a seal of these marriage vows you may now kiss the bride

May you never feel cold as you revel in the warmth of your love one for the other, may you never know isolation or loneliness as there are now two of you, but one life to be shared together.

Go now and enter into the days of your togetherness.

(Turn and face the gathering)

May I present to you for the first time Mr. And Mrs. Groom.