

The Pledge/Betrothal

The Pledge or Betrothal is a declaration of intent. You declare to the congregation witnessing your action that your intent to marry is a matter of your own free will. In your wedding vows you make promises directly to each other.

This is a traditional form, but in many older weddings and in some today there is only one set of vows. The examples below are for the traditional service. You may vary this in several ways. 1) You may reword these vows so that both of you answer "we do" in unison. 2) You may completely omit these vows. 3) You may omit the other set of vows (listed under "wedding vows") and let these be your wedding promises.

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- A. _____, will you have _____ to be your (wife/husband), to live together as friend and mate? Will you live (her/him) as a person, respect (her/him) as an equal, sharing joy as well as sorrow, triumph as well as defeat. And keep (her/him) beside you as long as you both shall live?
- B. _____, is it your will to have this (woman/man) to be your (wife/husband), to live together in the covenant of marriage? Is it your will to love (her/him), in sickness and in health; and, forsaking all others to be faithful to (her/him) as long as you both shall live?
- C. _____ and _____, having heard these words of instruction and admonition concerning love and marriage, do you now consent to be faithful to the obligations of this sacred relationship as long as you both shall live?
- D. _____, wilt thou have this (woman/man) to be thy (wife/husband), and wilt thou pledge thy troth (or trust) to (her/him), in all love and honor, in all duty and service, in all faith and tenderness, to live with (her/him) and cherish (her/him) according to the ordinances of God in the holy bond of marriage?
- E. _____, do you take _____ to be your wedded (wife/husband), and in the presence of these witnesses do you vow that you will do everything in your power to make your love for (her/him) a growing part of your life? Will you continue to strengthen it from day to day and week to week with the best resources of your (womanhood/manhood)? Will you stand by (her/him) in sickness or in health, in poverty or in wealth, and will you shun all others and keep yourself to (her/him) alone as long as you both shall live?

- F. _____, will you have _____ to be your wedded (wife/husband), to live together in the covenant of faith, hope, and love according to the intention of God for your lives together in Jesus Christ? Will you listen to (her/him) inmost thoughts, be considerate and tender in your care of (her/him), and stand by (her/him) faithfully in sickness and in health, and, preferring (her/him) above all others, accept full responsibility for (her/him) every necessity for as long as you both shall live?
- G. _____, will you have _____ to be your (wife/husband)?
- H. _____, will you have _____ to be your wedded (wife/husband), to live together after God's ordinance in the holy estate of matrimony? Will you love, honor, comfort, and keep (her/him) in sickness and in health, in prosperity and adversity, forsaking all others, keeping yourself only for (her/him) as long as you both shall live?
- I. _____, are you ready to take _____ as your (wife/husband), to live together with (her/him) in a growing marriage relationship? Will you covenant with (her/him) to be partners in life in such a way that together you will meet every situation of life; the peaceful and the chaotic, the routine and the exciting, the sorrowful and the joyful, the threatening and the inviting. Will you love (her/him), affirm (her/him), and commit yourself to (her/him) in marriage relationship as long as you both shall live?