

The Wedding Vows

In these promises, each partner pledges to do everything in their power to help the other achieve the fullest possible development despite all obstacles - forever. It is one thing to whisper such a pledge in private, but a new dimension is added when such a pledge to each other is acknowledged in the presence of family and friends and phrased in the form of a sacred vow. Often a couple will choose to write their own personal vows with the minister's help. Vows of groom and bride do not need to be identical.

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- A. I, _____, take you _____, to be my wedded (husband/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 and to cherish, 'til death do us part: according to God's holy ordinance, and thereto I pledge you my faith.
- B. In the presence of God and these our friends, I take you _____ to be my (husband/wife) promising with Divine assistance to be unto you a loving and faithful (husband/wife) as long as we both shall live.
- C. I, _____, pledge to you _____ the rest of my life, as your (husband/wife), your lover and your friend.
- D. I, _____, take you _____, to be my (husband/wife), and in doing so, commit my life to you, encompassing all sorrows and joys, all hardships and triumphs, all the experiences of life; a commitment made in love, kept in faith, lived in hope, and eternally made new.
- E. I love you _____ as I love no other. All that I am I share with you. I take you to be my (husband/wife) through health and sickness, through plenty and want, through joy and sorrow, now and forever.
- F. I take you _____, to be my (wife/husband), loving you now and in your growing and becoming. I will love you when we are together and when we are apart; when life is peaceful and when it is in disorder; when I am proud of you and when I am disappointed in you; in times of leisure and in times of work. I will honor your goals and dreams and help you to fulfill them. From the depth of my being, I will seek to be open and honest with you. I say these things believing that God is in the midst of them all.
- G. I, _____, give myself to you _____ completely as your (wife/husband). I accept you as, my (wife/husband) to live and to understand, to stay by your side in sickness and in health, at all times, for all the days of my life.
- H. _____, I promise with God's help to be your faithful (husband/wife), to love and serve as Christ commands as long as we both shall live.

- I. _____, I have freely chosen you to be my (wife/husband). I pledge my love to you as long as we both live. I give you this ring as a reminder of this day and our covenant of love.
- J. _____, I have chosen you alone from all the world to be my wedded (wife/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 and to cherish 'til death do us part.
- K. I _____ take you _____ to be my (wife/husband), and these things I promise you:
 I will be faithful to you and honest with you.
 I will respect, trust, and help and care for you.
 I will share my life with you.
 I will forgive you as we have been forgiven; and I will try with you better to understand ourselves, the world, and God; through the best and the worst of what is to come as long as we live.
- L. I will be your (husband/wife). I give you all my love without reservation. We have so many joyful times ahead of us--many decisions and many possibilities. I promise to place our personal growth and the continuous growth of our love above all other considerations. I will be honest with you. I will accept you as an equal and as a unique individual. I will be open with my affection and support. Together I know that we can build a life filled with satisfactions. I'm happy we found each. I love you.
- M. **Minister:** _____ and _____, **having felt the joy which accompanies your love for one another, and firmly believing in the fulfillment of a lifetime together, do you take each other to be husband and wife?**
 Groom: I, _____, take you _____, as my wife.
 Bride: *I, _____, take you _____, as my husband.*
Minister: **Do you promise to bring faith, hope, and joy to your marriage.**
 Groom: I promise to bring faith, hope and joy to our marriage.
 Bride: *I promise to bring faith, hope and joy to our marriage.*
Minister: **Will you both be consoling, understanding, and forgiving.**
 Groom: I will be consoling, understanding, and forgiving.
 Bride: *I will be consoling, understanding, and forgiving.*
Minister: **Will you love each other and give yourselves full to each other as husband and wife?**
 Groom: _____, I will love you and give myself fully to you as your husband.
 Bride: _____, *I will love you and give myself fully to you as your wife.*
- N. I, _____ take you _____, to be my (wife/husband); and I promise in the midst of our families and friends and God, to stand beside you and with you always; in times of celebration and times of sadness; in times of pleasure and times of anger; in times of pain and times of health; I will live with you and love you as long as we live.

- O. _____, I promise to share my whole life with you. I pledge to celebrate with you all the joyful memories we create, the comfortable silences we will have, the confused and depressing times we may come to know, but also the refreshing laughter and deepening closeness we hope the coming years will bring. I will always be honest with you and respect what you are now and what we will become together. I will honor those decisions we make together and will work to establish a home where peace, joy and prayer reign and where Christ is the center of our lives.
- P. _____, do you take _____ to be your (wife/husband), to live together in the holy bond of married life? Do you promise to honor and uphold (her/him), and to join with (her/him) in making a home that shall endure in love and peace? Do you affirm your purpose of a deeper union with (her/him) whereby you both shall know joy and the fulfillment of love? Do you pledge to (her/him) your complete faithfulness through all the changing experiences of life? And, of your own free volition, do you now give yourself to (her/him) completely--body, mind, and soul--that from this day forth and will be (his/hers) alone so long as you both live?
Reply: "Yes, I do."
- Q. _____, I take you to be my (wife/husband).
to laugh with you in joy,
to grieve with you in sorrow,
to grow with you in love,
to be faithful to you alone, serving mankind together in peace and hope as long as
we both shall live.
- R. _____, I take you to be my (wife/husband), to be faithful to you alone, to share all that is to come, encompassing all sorrows and joys, all hardships and triumphs, all the experiences of life; a permanent commitment made in love, kept in faith, lives in hope, and eternally made new.
- S. _____, with joy I make this vow to be your (wife/husband). I have chosen you as the one I want to be my life's partner. I covenant to love you in the midst of the everydayness and the specialness of life; in times of sorrow and times of joy. I want to share the responsibility of building a Christian home together with you. I want to accept and affirm your personhood and your uniqueness. I want to join with you to seek the meaning and fulfillment of our lives under God. I love you _____, and before God, our family, and our friends, and by God's grace, I commit myself and my life to you in marriage relationship, now and forever.

T. I _____, as you _____, to be the (wife/husband) of my days.... to share with me all that life brings to each of us, alone and together. I seek in this marriage to be my own person. I need your help in my becoming. I wish for you in this marriage to be your own person. I offer my help in your becoming.

With the help of God and persons who care I want to make our commitment to each other, not a duty but a gift....giving unconditionally as Christ gave unto us.

When I am worse- -help me become better.

When I am sick- -locate my disease and help me to recover my health if you can.

When I am poor or rich in spirit or goods-

-help me to accept my poverty or my wealth as a gift to be used.

I will not forsake all others, for I am called to care....But I do offer you "that special place" in my life that has been reserved for my most significant other.

I love you _____. Amen!

U. In the presence of God and these our friends, I take thee _____ to be my (wife/husband) promising with Divine assistance to be unto thee a loving and faithful (wife/husband) so long as we both shall live.
(Tradition Quaker Vow)

Another Promise

You may wish to add another vow to your covenant, one to say together. This vow is a pledge to establish a Christian home. For example:

A. We have received our love from each other as a gift from you, our God. We want you to be at the center of our marriage and our home. We want our home to be a vortex of love not only for ourselves, but also for others. We want our home to be a place where your love is shared. We pledge ourselves to making Christ the Head of our homes.

B. _____ and _____, you have recognized that your love for each other is a gift from God. Will you now ask God to be at the center of your marriage and your home? Will you pledge that you will try to make your home a vortex of love not only for yourselves but also for others; a place where Christian love is shared? Will you pledge yourselves to making Christ the Head of your home?

Answer: "We do" or "We so promise."