

TONY'S MODERN CEREMONY

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Friends we have come today at the invitation of **G:** _____ and **B:** _____ to share in the joy of their wedding. This celebration we shall experience is an outward expression of the inner love and devotion they have in their hearts.

The Bible reminds us that at the beginning the Creator, GOD, made us male and female, and said, "For this cause a man shall leave his father and mother and shall cleave to his wife; and the two shall become one flesh."

Marriage is of God. God loved us and created us to love others. Our lives find completion only as we love and are loved in return. Together we can become what we could never be separately.

The union of husband and wife in heart, body, and mind is intended by God for their mutual joy and pleasure; for the help and comfort given one another in prosperity and adversity. Therefore, marriage is not to be entered into unadvisedly or lightly, but reverently, deliberately, and in accordance with the purposes for which it was instituted by God. Marriage is not merely a social construct. Nor is happiness its goal. Happiness is a benefit of marriage, but it is not the goal. The goal of marriage is to reflect God's image and to advance His kingdom.

Marriage is not a contract. A contract is a conditional agreement between two or more persons signifying that all parties will do something. Contracts are made for a limited period of time and are based on "if, then, else" statements. "if you do this then I will do that, else this will happen." Marriage is a covenant. God created marriage as a sacred covenant. A covenant is a divinely created bond meaning it is permanent. It has rules, responsibilities and YES benefits. Covenants are intimate relationships initiated for the benefit of the other person. Into this holy union, **G:** _____ and **B:** _____ have now come to be joined.

DECLARATION OF INTENT: (*Parents should stand*)

G: _____, do you now leave your father and mother to establish you own home with

B: _____ as her husband, to receive her as your wife, to make a home where she is loved and cared for as long as God grants her life in a covenant and faithful relationship? If so, answer, "I do."

B: _____, do you now leave your father and mother to establish your own home with **G:** _____ as his wife, to receive him as your husband, to make a home where he is loved and cared for as long as God grants him life in a covenant and faithful relationship? If so, answer, I do."

To the Parents of the Bride and Groom: ()

Do you promise to encourage **G:** _____ and **B:** _____ in their marriage, to present an example of love and devotion to both, helping them to build a strong and stable home for themselves and their family? If so, answer "we do."

WHO GIVES THIS WOMAN TO BE MARRIED TO THIS MAN?

As stated earlier according to the Bible, "The two shall become one flesh. Consequently, they are no longer two, but one flesh." **G:** _____ & **B:** _____, you have come to be made husband and wife. If you still agree with what you have heard, will you join hands, face one another.

THE MARRIAGE VOWS:

Optional: “personal statement of Love” | “personal vows”

I, **G**: _____, take you, **B**: _____ to be my wife, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better for worse, for richer or poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, until we are parted by death; as God is my witness, I give you, my promise.

I, **B**: _____, take you, **G**: _____ to be my husband, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better for worse, for richer or poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, until we are parted by death; as God is my witness, I give you, my promise.

READING OF SCRIPTURE:

The Word of God from 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 describes the kind of love we are to have, each for the other: “Love is patient, love is kind, and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails. Having this love in mind as your goal, you have chosen to seal your vows by giving and receiving of rings.

THE EXCHANGE OF RINGS: (may we have the rings please)

Though small in size, these rings are very large in significance. Made of precious metal, they remind us that love is not cheap nor common; indeed, love may cost us dearly. Made in a circle, their design tells us that love must never come to an end; we must keep it fresh and continuous.

As you wear these rings, whether together or apart for a moment, may they be constant reminders of these glad promises you are making today.

G: _____, will you take your ring and place it upon the third finger of **B**: _____ left hand, and repeat after me this promise: “with the ring, I seal my promise, to be your faithful and loving husband, as God as my witness.”

B: _____ will you take your ring and place it upon the third finger of **G**: _____ left hand and repeat after me this promise: “with this ring, I seal my promise, to be your faithful and devoted wife, as God as my witness.”

Optional: Unity Ceremony

FAMILY PRAYER FOR BRIDE AND GROOM

THE PRONOUNCEMENT OF MARRIAGE

Now that **G**: _____ and **B**: _____ have given themselves to each other by solemn vows, before us and before God as witness, and have shown their affection and trust by the joining hands and sharing of rings. I have great pride and honor in pronouncing that they are husband and wife, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Therefore, what God has joined together, let no man, woman, boy or girl separate.

THE NUPTIAL KISS

PRESENTATION OF MARRIED COUPLE