



Sample Elegant Custom

Wedding Ceremony

Good Evening I am Joe Black, a Vancouver Marriage Commissioner and I am so happy to be here with you all on this very special occasion, which also happens to be the eighth Anniversary of John and Mary's First Date! They welcome us here today to join them as they give witness and express their desire to share the rest of their lives together.

What is marriage? Why do we get married? We hear a lot of things about marriage in our everyday lives. The average television sitcom would have you believe that marriage, to paraphrase the band R.E.M., is the end of the world as you know it. That marriage is effectively the end of your life. Today John and Mary respectfully submit that marriage is not an end but a beginning. It's not a perfect beginning. It's not a clean slate. Marriage is a process. Marriage is growth. Marriage is a bold step into an unknown future. It is risking who we are for the sake of who we can be.

John and Mary are coming into their marriage with individual personalities and individual histories. They've already chosen each other for their family, and today they are choosing to celebrate what has already begun and will continue to grow for years to come. Marriage is a commitment to life, to the best that two people can find and bring out in each other.

As Madeleine L'Engle wrote in *The Irrational Season*,

“To marry is the biggest risk in human relations that a person can take. If we commit ourselves to one person for life this is not, as many people think, a rejection of freedom; rather it demands the courage to move into all the risks of freedom, and the risk of love which is permanent; into that love which is not possession, but participation.”

John and Mary understand the importance of the decision they have made to marry and this will be reflected in the vows they will make as they each pledge themselves the other.

John, please repeat after me:

I solemnly declare / that I do not know / of lawful impediment / why I,
John Doe / may not be joined in matrimony.

Mary, please repeat after me:

I solemnly declare / that I do not know / of lawful impediment / why I,
Mary Street / may not be joined in matrimony.

As you enter this marriage you are embarking on an exciting adventure. Although adventures always encounter challenges, problems and pressures, if you face them together you can create new opportunities and strengths. Now that each has freely and deliberately chosen the other in this union, I ask you to face each other and join hands.

John, please repeat after me: I call on those present to witness/ that I John Doe/ take Mary Street/ to be my lawful wedded wife.

Mary, please repeat after me: I call on those present to witness/ that I Mary Street / take John Doe/ to be my lawful wedded husband.

In as much as you have made this declaration of your vows concerning one another, I ask that these rings be used and regarded as a seal and a confirmation and acceptance of the vows you have made.

John, please place the ring on your Bride's finger, while repeating after me:

With this ring / I give to you / my life in marriage.

Mary, please place the ring on your Groom's finger, while repeating after me:

With this ring / I give to you / my life in marriage.

"The Art Of Marriage"

by Wilferd A. Peterson

The little things are the big things.
It is never being too old to hold hands.
It is remembering to say "I love you" at least once a day.

It is never going to sleep angry.
It is at no time taking the other for granted;
the courtship should not end with the honeymoon,
it should continue through all the years.

It is having a mutual sense of values and common objectives.
It is standing together facing the world.

It is forming a circle of love that gathers in the whole family.
It is doing things for each other, not in the attitude of duty or sacrifice,
but in the spirit of joy.

It is speaking words of appreciation and demonstrating
gratitude in thoughtful ways.

It is not expecting the husband to wear a halo or the wife to have wings of
an angel.

It is not looking for perfection in each other.

It is cultivating flexibility, patience, understanding and a sense of humor.

It is having the capacity to forgive and forget.

It is giving each other an atmosphere in which each can grow.

It is finding room for the things of the spirit.

It is a common search for the good and the beautiful.

It is establishing a relationship in which the independence is equal,
dependence is mutual and the obligation is reciprocal.

It is not only marrying the right partner, it is being the right partner.

John and Mary', may you enjoy a happy and loving life together and may
your home be a place of comfort and peace for you and for all those who
visit, filled with warmth, humour and love. Now with the blessing of all the
family and friends who are present, under the authority vested in me by the
Province of British Columbia, I pronounce you husband and wife.

John, You may kiss your bride.