

# *Sample Readings & Vows.*



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## **SAMPLE WEDDING READINGS**

### **Well Known Readings For Weddings**

#### **Extract from *Gift From The Sea* Anne Morrow Lindbergh**

When you love someone, you do not love them all the time, in exactly the same way, from moment to moment. It is an impossibility. It is even a lie to pretend to. And yet this is exactly what most of us demand.

We have so little faith in the ebb and flow of life, of love, of relationships. We leap at the flow of the tide and resist in terror its ebb. We are afraid it will never return.

We insist on permanency, on duration, on continuity; when the only continuity possible, in life as in love, is in growth, in fluidity - in freedom, in the sense that the dancers are free, barely touching as they pass, but partners in the same pattern.

The only real security is not in owning or possessing, not in demanding or expecting, not in hoping, even. Security in a relationship lies neither in looking back to what was in nostalgia, nor forward to what it might be in dread or anticipation, but living in the present relationship and accepting it as it is now.

Relationships must be like islands, one must accept them for what they are here and now, within their limits - islands, surrounded and interrupted by the sea, and continually visited and abandoned by the tides.

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#### **Shakespeare Sonnet 18**

Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?  
Thou art more lovely and more temperate:  
Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May,  
And summer's lease hath all too short a date;  
Sometime too hot the eye of heaven shines,  
And often is his gold complexion dimm'd;  
And every fair from fair sometime declines,  
By chance or nature's changing course untrimm'd;  
But thy eternal summer shall not fade,  
Nor lose possession of that fair thou ow'st;  
Nor shall death brag thou wand'rest in his shade  
Which in eternal lines to time thou grow'st  
So long as men can breathe and eyes can see,  
So long lives this, and this gives life to thee

#### **Shortened version Shakespeare Sonnet 18**

Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?  
Thou art more lovely and more temperate...  
When in eternal lines to time thou grow'st  
So long as men can breathe or eyes can see,  
So long lives this, and this gives life to thee.

## **Shakespeare Sonnet 116**

Let me not to the marriage of true minds  
Admit impediments. Love is not love  
Which alters when it alteration finds,  
Or bends with the remover to remove:  
O, no! It is an ever-fix'd mark,  
That looks on tempests and is never shaken;  
It is the star to every wandering bark,  
Whose worth's unknown, although his height be taken.  
Love's not Time's fool, though rosy lips and cheeks  
Within his bending sickle's compass come;  
Love alters not with his brief hours and weeks,  
But bears it out even to the edge of doom.  
If this be error and upon me prov'd,  
I never writ, nor no man ever lov'd.

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## **Marriage Joins Two People in the Circle of Its Love, by Edmund O'Neill**

Marriage is a commitment to life, the best that two people can find and bring out in each other. It offers opportunities for sharing and growth that no other relationship can equal. It is a physical and an emotional joining that is promised for a lifetime.

Within the circle of its love, marriage encompasses all of life's most important relationships. A wife and a husband are each other's best friend, confidant, lover, teacher, listener, and critic. And there may come times when one partner is heartbroken or ailing, and the love of the other may resemble the tender caring of a parent for a child.

Marriage deepens and enriches every facet of life. Happiness is fuller, memories are fresher, commitment is stronger, even anger is felt more strongly, and passes away more quickly.

Marriage understands and forgives the mistakes life is unable to avoid. It encourages and nurtures new life, new experiences, and new ways of expressing a love that is deeper than life.

When two people pledge their love and care for each other in marriage, they create a spirit unique unto themselves which binds them closer than any spoken or written words. Marriage is a promise, a potential made in the hearts of two people who love each other and takes a lifetime to fulfil.

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## **The Art of Marriage by Wilferd A Peterson**

A good marriage must be created. In the marriage, 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 the 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. This is *The Art of Marriage*.

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## **Carl August Sandburg US Poet**

I love you for what you are, but I love you yet more for what you are going to be. I love you not so much for your realities as for your ideals. I pray for your desires that they may be great, rather than for your satisfactions, which may be so hazardously little.

A satisfied flower is one whose petals are about to fall. The most beautiful rose is one hardly more than a bud wherein the pangs and ecstasies of desires are working for larger and finer growth. Not always shall you be what you are now. You are going forward toward something great. I am on the way with you and therefore I love you.

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## **Kahil Gilbran philosopher and poet**

You were born together, and together you shall be forevermore.  
You shall be together when the white wings of death scatter your days.  
Ay, you shall be together even in the silent memory of God.  
But let there be spaces in your togetherness,  
And let the winds of heavens dance between you.

Love one another, but make not a bond of love:  
Let it rather be a moving sea between the shores of your souls.

Fill each other's cup but drink not from one cup.  
Give one another of your bread but eat not from the same loaf.  
Sing and dance together and be joyous, but let each one of you be alone,  
Even as the strings of a lute are alone though they quiver with the same music.

Give your hearts, but not into each other's keeping.  
For only the hand of Life can contain your hearts.  
And stand together yet not too near together:  
For the pillars of the temple stand apart,  
And the oak tree and the cypress grow not in each other's shadow.

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### **Kahil Gilbran**

Then said the student Almitra, Speak to us of love. And he raised his head and looked upon the people, and there fell a stillness upon them. And with a great voice he said: When love beckons to you, follow him, though his ways are hard and steep. And when his wings enfold you yield to him, though the sword hidden among his pinions may wound you.

And when he speaks to you believe in him, though his voice may shatter your dreams as the north wind lays waste the garden. For even as love crowns you so shall he crucify you. Even as he is for your growth so is he for your pruning. Even as he ascends to your height and caresses your tenderest branches that quiver in the sun, so shall he descend to your roots and shake them in their clinging to the earth.

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### **Kahil Gilbran**

And a woman who held a babe against her bosom said, 'Speak to us of Children.' And he said, 'Your children are not your children. They are the sons and daughters of Life's longing for itself. They come through you, but not from you. And though they are with you, yet they belong not to you.

You may give them your love, but not your thoughts, for they have their own thoughts. You may house their bodies, but not their souls, for their souls dwell in the house of tomorrow, which you cannot visit, not even in your dreams. You may strive to be like them, but seek not to make them like you.

For life goes not backward, nor tarries with yesterday. You are the bows from which your children, as living arrows, are sent forth. The Archer sees the mark upon the path of the infinite, and He bends you with His might that His arrows may go swift and far.

Let your bending in the Archer's hand be for gladness, for even as He loves the arrow that flies, so He loves also the bow that is stable.

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## **Kahil Gilbran**

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## **Extract from Captain Corelli's Mandolin by Louis de Bernieres**

Love is a temporary madness; it erupts like volcanoes and then subsides. And when it subsides you have to make a decision. You have to work out whether your roots have so entwined together that it is inconceivable that you should ever part. Because this is what love is.

Love is not breathlessness, it is not excitement, it is not the promulgation of eternal passion. That is just being in love, which any fool can do. Love itself is what is left over when being in love has burned away, and this is both an art and a fortunate accident.

Those that truly love have roots that grow towards each other underground, and when all the pretty blossoms have fallen from their branches, they find that they are one tree and not two.

## **Wedding Prayer - Robert Louis Stevenson**

Lord, behold our family here assembled.  
We thank you for this place in which we dwell,  
for the love that unites us,  
for the peace accorded us this day,  
for the hope with which we expect the morrow,  
for the health, the work, the food,  
and the bright skies that make our lives delightful;  
for our friends in all parts of the earth.

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## **Touched by an Angel Maya Angelou Poet**

We, unaccustomed to courage  
exiles from delight  
live coiled in shells of loneliness  
until love leaves its high holy temple  
and comes into our sight  
to liberate us into life.

Love arrives  
and in its train come ecstasies  
old memories of pleasure  
ancient histories of pain.  
Yet if we are bold,  
love strikes away the chains of fear  
from our souls.

We are weaned from our timidity  
In the flush of love's light  
we dare be brave  
And suddenly we see  
that love costs all we are  
and will ever be.  
Yet it is only love which sets us free.

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## **Dante Alighieri**

On Love The love of God unutterable and perfect flows into a pure soul the way  
that light rushes into a transparent object.

The more love that it finds, the more it gives itself, so that, as we grow more clear  
and open, the more complete the joy of loving is.

And the more souls who resonate together, the greater the intensity of their love,  
for, mirror-like, each soul reflects the others.

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## **Leo Tolstoy**

Having embarked on marriage he saw at every step that it was not at all what he  
had imagined. At every step he experienced what a man experiences when, after  
admiring the smooth, happy motion of a boat on a lake, he finds himself sitting in  
it himself.

He found that it was not enough to sit quietly without rocking the boat, that he  
had constantly to consider what to do next, that not for a moment must he forget  
what course to steer or that there was water under his feet, that he had to row,  
much as it hurt his unaccustomed hands, that it was pleasant enough to look at it  
from the shore, but very hard, though very delightful, to sail it.

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## **Paul Kurtz**

A successful marriage is one where each partner discovers that it is better to give love than to receive it. To truly love another person is to wish that person to develop and flourish in his or her own terms. In a long marriage there will be joy and laughter, but also sadness and sorrow, harmony and discord, as you strive to overcome adversity and fulfil your dreams.

The key value of wedlock is that it allows for intimacy between a woman and a man, who can enjoy each other's company, share ideals and expectations, confess failures and admit defeats to each other, and yet realise in union the qualities of the good life.

As you build your home, embark upon careers, and raise a family, your marriage can become a work of art in which both of you together give it line and form, colour and tone. You will be challenged every day and in every way to make your marriage work. If you do, it can become a thing of beauty, a joint creation of aesthetic"

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## **Albert Schweitzer Philosopher**

We are each a secret to the other. To know one another cannot mean to know everything about each other; it means to feel mutual affection and confidence, and to believe in one another. We must not try to force our way into the personality of another. To analyse others is a rude commencement, for there is a modesty of the soul which we must recognise just as we do that of the body.

No one has a right to say to another: *Because we belong to each other as we do, I have a right to know all your thoughts.* Not even a mother may treat her child in that way. All demands of this sort are foolish and unwholesome. In this matter giving is the only valuable process; it is only giving that stimulates. Impart as much as you can of your spiritual being to those who are on the road with you, and accept as something precious what comes back to you from them.

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## **Frank Yerby - Novelist**

You are a part of me. I do not know  
By what slow chemistry you first became  
A vital fibre of my being.  
Go Beyond the rim of time or space, the same  
Inflections of your voice will sing their way  
Into the depths of my mind still. Your hair  
Will gleam as bright, the artless play  
Of word and glance, gesture and the fair  
Young fingers waving, have too deeply etched  
The pattern of your soul on mine. Forget  
Me quickly as a laughing picture sketched  
On water, I shall never know regret  
Knowing no magic ever can set free  
That part of you that is a part of me.



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### **Blessing For A Marriage by James Dillet Freeman**

May your marriage bring you all the exquisite excitements a marriage should bring, and may life grant you also patience, tolerance, and understanding. May you always need one another – not so much to fill your emptiness as to help you to know your fullness. A mountain needs a valley to be complete; the valley does not make the mountain less, but more; and the valley is more a valley because it has a mountain towering over it. So let it be with you and you.

May you need one another, but not out of weakness. May you want one another, but not out of lack. May you entice one another, but not compel one another. May you embrace one another, but not out encircle one another. May you succeed in all important ways with one another, and not fail in the little graces. May you look for things to praise, often say, *I love you!* and take no notice of small faults.

If you have quarrels that push you apart, may both of you hope to have good sense enough to take the first step back. May you enter into the mystery which is the awareness of one another's presence – no more physical than spiritual, warm and near when you are side by side, and warm and near when you are in separate rooms or even distant cities. May you have happiness, and may you find it making one another happy. May you have love, and may you find it loving one another!

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### **Friendship by Judy Bielicki**

It is often said that it is love that makes the world go round. However, without doubt, it is friendship which keeps our spinning existence on an even keel. True friendship provides so many of the essentials for a happy life-it is the foundation on which to build an enduring relationship, it is the mortar which bonds us together in harmony, and it is the calm, warm protection we sometimes need when the world outside seems cold and chaotic.

True friendship holds a mirror to our foibles and failings, without destroying our sense of worthiness. True friendship nurtures our hopes, supports us in our disappointments, and encourages us to grow to our best potential.

*Bride and Groom* came together as friends. Today, they pledge to each other not only their love, but also the strength, warmth and, most importantly, the fun of true friendship

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### **Looking For Your Face by Rumi**

From the beginning of my life I have been looking for your face, but today I have seen it. Today I have seen the charm, the beauty, the unfathomable grace of the face that I was looking for.

Today I have found you, and those who laughed and scorned me yesterday are sorry that they were not looking as I did. I am bewildered by the magnificence of your beauty, and wish to see you with a hundred eyes.

My heart has burned with passion and has searched forever for this wondrous beauty that I now behold. I am ashamed to call this love human, and afraid of God to call it divine.

Your fragrant breath, like the morning breeze, has come to the stillness of the garden. You have breathed new life into me. I have become your sunshine, and also your shadow. My soul is screaming in ecstasy.

Every fiber of my being is in love with you. Your effulgence has lit a fire in my heart, and you have made radiant for me the earth and sky. My arrow of love has arrived at the target. I am in the house of mercy, and my heart is a place of prayer

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### **Extract from *The Irrational Season*, by Madeleine L'Engle**

Ultimately there comes a time when a decision must be made. Ultimately two people who love each other must ask themselves how much they hope for as their love grows and deepens, and how much risk they are willing to take. It is indeed a fearful gamble. Because it is the nature of love to create, a marriage itself is something which has to be created.

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. It takes a lifetime to learn another person. When love is not possession, but participation, then it is part of that co-creation which is our human calling.

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### **The Magic of Love by Helen Steiner Rice**

Love is like magic, and it always will be,  
For love still remains life's sweet mystery.  
Love works in ways that are wondrous and strange,  
And there's nothing in life that love cannot change!  
Love can transform the most commonplace  
Into beauty and splendor and sweetness and grace.  
Love is unselfish, understanding and kind,  
For it sees with its heart, and not with its mind.  
Love is the answer that everyone seeks;  
Love is the language that every heart speaks.  
Love can't be bought, it is priceless and free.  
Love, like pure magic, is life's sweet mystery!!

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### **Genuises of Countless Nations by Ogden Nash**

Have told their love for generations  
Till all their memorable phrases  
Are common as goldenrod or daisies.  
Their girls have glimmered like the moon,  
Or shimmered like a summer moon,  
Stood like a lily, fled like a fawn,  
Now the sunset, now the dawn,  
Here the princess in the tower  
There the sweet forbidden flower.  
Darling, when I look at you  
Every aged phrase is new,  
And there are moments when it seems  
I've married one of Shakespeare's dreams

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### **Dance Me To The End Of Love by Leonard Cohen**

Dance me to your beauty, with a burning violin,  
Dance me through the panic, till I'm gathered safely in,  
Lift me like an olive branch, and be my homeward dove,  
Dance me to the end of love.  
Let me see your beauty, when the witnesses are gone,  
Let me feel you moving, like they do in Babylon,  
Show me slowly what I only know the limits of,  
Dance me to the end of love.

Dance me to the wedding now, dance me on and on,  
Dance me very tenderly, and dance me very long,  
We're both of us beneath our love, we're both of us above,  
Dance me to the end of love.

Dance me to the children, who are asking to be born,  
Dance me through the curtains that our kisses have outworn,  
Raise a tent of shelter now, though every thread is torn,  
Dance me to the end of love.

Dance me to your beauty, with a burning violin,  
Dance me through the panic, till I'm gathered safely in,  
Touch me with your naked hand, touch me with your glove,  
Dance me to the end of love.

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## **Sealed With Love**

The vows we make are sealed with love  
The rings we take are blessed from above  
Each kiss we give each other with love  
Glide to our hearts on the wings of a dove

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## **Extract from The Invitation by Oriah Mountain Dreamer**

It doesn't interest me what you do for a living. I want to know what you ache for, and if you dare to dream of meeting your heart's longing. It doesn't interest me how old you are. I want to know if you will risk looking like a fool for love, for your dreams, for the adventure of being alive.

It doesn't interest me what planets are squaring your moon. I want to know if you have touched the center of your own sorrow, if you have been opened by life's betrayals, or have become shriveled and closed from fear of further pain. I want to know if you can sit with pain, mine or your own, without moving to hide or fade it or fix it.

I want to know if you can be with joy, mine or your own; if you can dance with wildness and let the ecstasy fill you to the tips of your fingers and toes without cautioning us to be careful, be realistic, or to remember the limitations of being a human. It doesn't interest me if the story you're telling me is true.

I want to know if you can disappoint another to be true to yourself; if you can bear the accusation of betrayal and not betray your own soul. I want to know if you can be faithful and therefore be trustworthy. I want to know if you can see the beauty even when it is not pretty everyday, and if you can source your life from its presence.

I want to know if you can live with failure, yours and mine, and still stand on the edge of a lake and shout to the silver of the full moon, "Yes!" It doesn't interest me to know where you live or how much money you have. I want to know if you can get up after the night of grief and despair, weary and bruised to the bone, and do what needs to be done for the children. It doesn't interest me who you are, or how you came to be here.

I want to know if you will stand in the center of the fire with me and not shrink back. It doesn't interest me where or what or with whom you have studied. I want to know what sustains you from the inside when all else falls away.

I want to know if you can be alone with yourself, and if you truly like the company you keep in the empty moments.

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## **Extract from The Hungering Dark by Frederick Buechner**

Matrimony is called holy, because this brave and fateful promise of a man and a woman, to love and honor and serve each other through thick and thin, looks beyond itself to more fateful promises still, and speaks mightily of what human life at its most human and most alive and most holy must always be.

Every wedding is a dream, and every word that is spoken there means more than it says, and every gesture - the clasping of hands, the giving of rings - is rich with mystery. And so it is that we hope with every bride and groom, that the love they bear one another, and the joy they take in one another, may help them grow in love for this whole world where their final joy lies.

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### **I Am Love**

Some say I can fly on the wind, yet I haven't any wings. Some have found me floating on the open sea, yet I cannot swim. Some have felt my warmth on cold nights, yet I have no flame.

And though you cannot see me, I lay between two lovers at the hearth of fireplaces. I am the twinkle in your child's eyes. I am hidden in the lines of your mother's face. I am your father's shield as he guards your home.

And yet... Some say I am stronger than steel, yet I am as fragile as a tear. Some have never searched for me, yet I am around them always. Some say I die with loss, yet I am endless.

And though you cannot hear me, I dance on the laughter of children. I am woven into the whispers of passion. I am in the blessings of Grandmothers. I embrace the cries of newborn babies.

And yet... Some say I am a flower, yet I am also the seed. Some have little faith in me, yet I will always believe in them. Some say I cannot cure the ill, yet I nourish the soul. And though you cannot touch me, I am the gentle hand of the kind.

I am the fingertips that caress your cheek at night. I am the hug of a child. I am love.

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### **Sonnets from the Portuguese Elizabeth Barrett Browning**

How do I love thee? Let me count the ways.  
I love thee to the depth and breadth and height  
My soul can reach, when feeling out of sight  
For the ends of Being and ideal Grace.  
I love thee to the level of every day's  
Most quiet need, by sun and candle-light.  
I love thee freely, as men strive for Right;  
I love thee purely, as they turn from Praise.  
I love thee with the passion put to use  
In my old griefs, and with my childhood's faith.  
I love thee with a love I seemed to lose

With my lost saints, -- I love thee with the breath,  
Smiles, tears, of all my life! -- and, if God choose,  
I shall but love thee better after death.

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### **Extract from *The Strength to Love*, by Martin Luther King, Jr.**

The meaning of love is not to be confused with some sentimental outpouring. Love is something much more than emotional bosh. An overflowing love which seeks nothing in return, is the love of God operating in the human heart.

Love is the most durable power in the world . . . the most potent instrument available in mankind's quest for peace and security. The great military leaders of the past have gone, and their empires have crumbled and burned to ashes. But the empire of Jesus, built solidly and majestically on the foundation of love, is still growing.

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### **Chinese Blessing**

Ten thousand things bright  
Ten thousand miles, no dust  
Water and sky one color  
Houses shining along your road.

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### **Benediction of the Apaches**

Now you will feel no rain,  
For each of you will be shelter to the other.  
Now you will feel no cold,  
For each of you will be warmth to the other.  
Now there is no more loneliness for you.  
For each of you will be companion to the other.  
Now you are two bodies,  
But there is only one Life before you.  
Go now to your dwelling place,  
To enter into the days of your togetherness.  
And may your days be good and long upon the earth

*So I will ask, what is a friend?  
Someone who when you see them, brightens your day  
When they have to leave to go home, you want them to stay*

*When you talk on the phone, for hours day and night  
Everything they say seems to make your problems right  
Someone who laughs with you not at you  
A person who respects you and you respect them too.*

*Someone who you can call upon, when times get tough*

## **Like the sun after a storm, when you have had enough**

*I don't think I can put a price on someone like you  
When you read this I hope your thinking of me too.*

Written by Alexander Turenko

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## **BIBLE READINGS;**

### **Bible Readings For Weddings**

Readings for weddings taken from extracts from the Bible. Translations of the Bible differ so it is recommended, for your wedding to take the reading from your own personal Bible or from the Bible from the church you are getting married in.

Samples of popular biblical readings:

#### **Genesis 1 26:28,31**

Then God said, *Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.*

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

God blessed them and said to them, *Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground.*

God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning, the sixth day.

#### **Genesis 2 22:25**

Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.

The man said, *This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man.*

For this reason a man leaves his father and mother and is united with his wife, and become one.

The man and his wife were both naked, but they felt no shame.

#### **Song of Solomon 8 6:7**

Set me as a seal upon thine heart, as a seal upon thine arm: for love is strong as death; jealousy is cruel as the grave: the flashes thereof are flashes of fire, a very flame of the LORD.

Much water may not put out love, or the deep waters overcome it: if a man would give all the substance of his house for love, it would be judged a price not great enough

## **1 Corinthians 13 popular extract for weddings**

Love endures and is kind. Love is not envious or jealous. Love wants not itself, is not puffed up, does not behave itself unseemly, seeks not its own, it is not easily provoked and thinks no evil.

Love does not rejoice in unrighteousness - but in the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, and endures all things. Love never fails.

So faith, hope and love remain and the greatest of these is love.

### **1 Corinthians 7 1:5, 10:11**

And now for the matters you wrote about: It is good for a man not to marry.

But since there is so much immorality, each man should have his own wife, and each woman her own husband.

The husband should fulfill his duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband, and each should satisfy each others needs,

The wife's body does not belong to her alone but also to her husband. In the same way, the husband's body does not belong to him alone but also to his wife.

Do not deprive each other except by mutual consent and for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer. In this way you will be kept from giving in to Satan's temptation because of your lack of self control,

To the married I give this command, not I, but the Lord, A wife must not separate from her husband.

But if she does, she must remain unmarried or else be reconciled to her husband.

And a husband must not divorce his wife.

### **1 Corinthians 13 1:13**

If I make use of the tongues of men and of angels, and have not love, I am like sounding brass, or a loud-tongued bell. And if I have a prophet's power, and have knowledge of all secret things; and if I have all faith, by which mountains may be moved from their place, but have not love, I am nothing. And if I give all my goods to the poor, and if I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it is of no profit to me.

Love is never tired of waiting; love is kind; love has no envy; love has no high opinion of itself, love has no pride; Love's ways are ever fair, it takes no thought for itself; it is not quickly made angry, it takes no account of evil; 6 It takes no pleasure in wrongdoing, but has joy in what is true; Love has the power of undergoing all things, having faith in all things, hoping all things.

Though the prophet's word may come to an end, tongues come to nothing, and knowledge have no more value, love has no end. For our knowledge is only in part, and the prophet's word gives only a part of what is true: But when that which is complete is come, then that which is in part will be no longer necessary.

When I was a child, I made use of a child's language, I had a child's feelings and a child's thoughts: now that I am a man, I have put away the things of a child. For now we see things in a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now my knowledge is in part; then it will be complete, even as God's knowledge of me. But now we still have faith, hope, love, these three; and the greatest of these is love.



**Another translation 1 Corinthians 13 1:13** excerpts from J. B. Philips' *paraphrase*

If I speak with the eloquence of men and of angels, but have no love, I have become no more than blaring brass, or crashing cymbal. If I have the gift of foretelling the future, and hold in my mind not only all human knowledge, but the very secrets of God, and if I also have that absolute faith which can move mountains, but have no love, I amount to nothing at all. If I dispose of all that I possess...but have no love, I achieve precisely nothing.

This love of which I speak is slow to lose patience, it looks for a way of being constructive. It is not possessive: it is neither anxious to impress, nor does it cherish inflated ideas of its own importance.

Love has good manners, and does not pursue selfish advantage. It is not touchy. It does not keep account of evil, or gloat over the wickedness of other people. On the contrary, it shares the joy of those who live by the truth.

Love knows no limit to its endurance, no end to its trust, no fading of its hope; it can outlast anything. Love never fails...In this life we have three lasting qualities -- faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love.

**Colossians 3:12-17**

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness, and patience, forbearing one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful.

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teach and admonish one another in all wisdom, and sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

**Matthew 5:1-10**

Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down his disciples came to him. And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:  
Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

### **Mark 10:6-9, 13-16**

But from the beginning of creation, 'God made them male and female.' For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man put asunder. And they were bringing children to him, that he might touch them; and the disciples rebuked them.

But when Jesus saw it he was indignant, and said to them, *Let the children come to me, do not hinder them; for to such belongs the kingdom of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it.* And he took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands upon them.

### **Ruth 1:16-17**

But Ruth said, *Entreat me not to leave you or to return from following you; for where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God my God; where you die I will die, and there will I be buried. May the LORD do so to me and more also if even death parts me from you.*

### **John 15:9-12**

As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love.

These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

For parallel translations or to find an online bible visit [Biblos](#)

Other suggested Bible readings:

Genesis 2:4-9

Genesis 2:15-24

Proverbs 31:10-31

Ephesians 5:1-2, 21-33

Colossians 3:12-17

I John 4:7-16

Matthew 7:21, 24-29

John 2:1-11

Psalms 127:1-5

Psalms 128:1-6

Ecclesiastes 3:1-11

Jeremiah 31:31-32a, 33-34a

Romans 12:1-2, 9-13

Ephesians 3:14-19

Matthew 5:13-16  
Matthew 22:1-14  
Matthew 22:35-40  
Luke 24:13-35  
John 17:20-26

## **READINGS FOR CHILDREN;**

### **Wedding Readings For Children**

Hug O' War

I will not play at tug o' war. I'd rather play at hug o' war, where everyone hugs instead of tugs, where everyone giggles, and rolls on the rug, where everyone kisses, and everyone grins, and everyone cuddles, and everyone wins.

*Shel Silverstein author, playwright and songwriter*

## **HUMEROUS;**

### **Funny Wedding Readings**

#### **I Wanna be Yours by John Cooper Clarke English Poet**

I wanna be your vacuum cleaner  
Breathing in your dust,  
I wanna be your Ford Cortina  
I will never rust,  
If you like your coffee hot  
Let me be your coffee pot,  
You call the shots,  
I wanna be yours.

I wanna be your raincoat  
For those frequent rainy days,  
I wanna be your dreamboat  
When you want to sail away,  
Let me be your teddy bear  
Take me with you anywhere,  
I don't care,  
I wanna be yours.

I wanna be your electric meter  
I will not run out,  
I wanna be the electric heater  
You'll get cold without,

Adrian Downey NSW Celebrant

I wanna be your setting lotion  
Hold your hair in deep devotion,  
Deep as the deep Atlantic ocean  
That's how deep is my devotion.

\*

**Written by Andrew Boyd from [Daily Afflictions](#)**

We're all seeking that special person who is right for us. But if you've been through enough relationships, you begin to suspect there's no right person, just different flavors of wrong.

Why is this?

Because you yourself are wrong in some way, and you seek out partners who are wrong in some complementary way. But it takes a lot of living to grow fully into your own wrongness. It isn't until you finally run up against your deepest demons, your unsolvable problems – the ones that make you truly who you are – that you're ready to find a life-long mate.

Only then do you finally know what you're looking for. You're looking for the wrong person. But not just any wrong person: the right wrong person – someone you lovingly gaze upon and think, "This is the problem I want to have.

\*

**Recipe for Love**

Put the love, good looks and sweet temper into a well furnished house. Beat the butter of youth to a cream, and mix well together with the blindness of faults.

Stir the pounded wit and good humour into the sweet argument, then add the rippling laughter and common sense. Work the whole together until everything is well mixed, and bake gently for ever.

*From the i-do Forums Emma*

NSW Celebrant

## VOWS (Traditional);

**\*\* Under the Marriage Act 1961 the vows MUST contain the following at the beginning; \*\***

**I call upon the persons here present to witness that I ..... take you..... to be my lawful wedded husband or wife or spouse... (you may then add your own wording to personalise as you wish).**

For a non-religious civil wedding ceremony omit the references to God.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, take you, \_\_\_\_\_, to be my *husband/wife*, my constant friend, my faithful partner and my love from this day forward. In the presence of God, our family and friends, I offer you my solemn vow to be your faithful partner in sickness and in health, in good times and in bad, and in joy as well as in sorrow.

I promise to love you unconditionally, to support you in your goals, to honour and respect you, to laugh with you and cry with you, and to cherish you for as long as we both shall live.

*Perri*

\*

I \_\_\_\_\_, take you \_\_\_\_\_ to be my *husband/wife*, my partner in life and my one true love. I will cherish our union and love you more each day than I did the day before.

I will trust you and respect you, laugh with you and cry with you, loving you faithfully through good times and bad, regardless of the obstacles we may face together. I give you my hand, my heart, and my love, from this day forward for as long as we both shall live.

*faith\_2*

\*

Before God and these witnesses, I, \_\_\_\_\_, take you, \_\_\_\_\_, to be my *husband/wife*, and I promise to love you, and to be faithful to you as long as we both shall live.

Read together:

Entreat me not to leave you, or to return from following after you, For where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God. And where you die, I will die and there I will be buried.

*faith\_2*

\*

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

*mj\_02*

\*

I take you ,\_\_\_\_\_, to be my *husband/wife* and I promise before God and all who are present here to be your loving and faithful *husband/wife*, as long as our lives shall last. I will serve you with tenderness and respect, and encourage you to develop God's gifts in you.

*viki\_06*

\*

Do you, \_\_\_\_\_, take this *man/woman*, \_\_\_\_\_, to be your *husband/wife*, according to God's holy decree; do you promise to be to *him/her* a loving and loyal *husband/wife*, to cherish and keep *him/her* in sickness and in health; and, forsaking all others, to be faithful only to *him/her* as long as you both shall live?

*Answer : I do.*

\*

\_\_\_\_\_, will you have this *man/woman* to be your *husband/wife* to live together according to God's decree in the holy estate of marriage? Will you love *him/her*, comfort *him/her*, honour and keep *him/her*, in sickness and in health, and forsaking all others, faithfully keep to *him/her* alone, so long as you both shall live?

*Answer : I will*

\*

I, \_\_\_\_\_, take thee, \_\_\_\_\_, 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, till death do us part. According to God's holy ordinance, and thereto I pledge thee my faith.

I promise you \_\_\_\_\_, that I will be your loving and loyal *husband/wife* from now on. I will share with you all of life's joy and sorrow, pleasure and pain, until death parts us.

*mel04*

\*

I, \_\_\_\_\_, take you \_\_\_\_\_ to be my *husband/wife*, my partner in life and my one true love. I will cherish our friendship and love you today, tomorrow, and forever. I will trust you and honor you I will laugh with you and cry with you.

I will love you faithfully, through the best and the worst, through the difficult and the easy. What may come I will always be there. As I have given you my hand to hold so I give you my life to keep so help me God.

Entreat me not to leave you, or to return from following after you, For where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God. And where you die, I will die and there I will be buried.

*mel04*

\*

I, \_\_\_\_\_, take thee, \_\_\_\_\_, to be my lawfully wedded *husband/wife*, secure in the knowledge that you will be my constant friend, my faithful partner in life, and my one true love.

On this special holy day, I give to you in the presence of God and these witnesses my sacred promise to stay by your side as your faithful *husband/wife* in sickness and in health, in joy and in sorrow, as well as through the good times and the bad.

I promise to love you without reservation, comfort you in times of distress, encourage you to achieve higher goals, laugh with you and cry with you, grow with you in mind and spirit, always be open and honest with you, and cherish you for as long as we both shall live.

*yubi2*

### **Modern Wedding Vows**

You are my *husband/wife*  
My feet shall run because of you  
My feet dance because of you  
My heart shall beat because of you  
My eyes see because of you  
My mind thinks because of you  
And I shall love because of you.

*Eskimo Love Song*

\_\_\_\_\_, I take you to be my lawfully wedded *husband/wife*. Before these witnesses I vow to love you and care for you as long as we both shall live.

I take you, with all your faults and strengths, as I offer myself to you with all my faults and strengths. I will help you when you need help, and turn to you when I need help. I choose you as the person with whom I will spend my life.

*P&J*

\*

\_\_\_\_\_, I take you to be my *husband/wife* from this time onward, to join with you and to share all that is to come, to be your faithful husband/wife, to give and to receive, to speak and to listen, to inspire and to respond; a commitment made in love, kept in faith, and eternally made new.

*Sam*

\*

I love you, \_\_\_\_\_. You are my best friend. Today I give myself to you in marriage. I promise to encourage and inspire you, to laugh with you, and to comfort you in times of sorrow and struggle.

I promise to love you in good times and in bad, when life seems easy and when it seems hard, when our love is simple, and when it is an effort. I promise to cherish you, and to always hold you in highest regard. These things I give to you today, and all the days of our life.

*Sarah*

\*

I promise to be there when you need me, to fill your days with sunshine, to comfort you and encourage you, to help you reach your goals, to be your best friend ever and to love you all my life with all my heart.

*DL*

\*

Because of you, I laugh, I smile, I dare to dream again. I look forward with great joy to spending the rest of my life with you, caring for you, nurturing you, being there for you in all life has for us, and I vow to be true and faithful for as long as we both shall live.

*Sass*

I, \_\_\_\_\_, take you, \_\_\_\_\_, to be my partner, loving what I know of you, and trusting what I do not yet know. I eagerly anticipate the chance to grow together, getting to know the man/woman you will become, and falling in love a little more every day. I promise to love and cherish you through whatever life may bring us.

*Marie*

\*

I, \_\_\_\_\_, take you, \_\_\_\_\_, to be my wedded *husband/wife*. With deepest joy I receive you into my life that together we may be one. I promise you my love, my fullest devotion, my tenderest care. I pledge to you my life as a loving and faithful *husband/wife*.

*Marie*

\*

On this day, *month, day, year*, I, \_\_\_\_\_, join myself to you \_\_\_\_\_, before this company. May our days be long, and may they be seasoned with love, understanding and respect.

*belinda\_2*

\*

I, \_\_\_\_\_, take you, \_\_\_\_\_, to be my *husband/wife*, knowing in my heart that you will be my constant friend, my faithful partner in life, and my one true love. My commitment is made in love, kept in faith, lived in hope and eternally made anew.

*Sarah*

\*

From this day forward I promise you these things. I will laugh with you in times of joy and comfort you in times of sorrow. I will share in your dreams, and support you as you strive to achieve your goals.

I will listen to you with compassion and understanding, and speak to you with encouragement. I will help you when you need it, and step aside when you don't. I will remain faithful to you for better or worse, in times of sickness and health. You are my best friend and I will love and respect you always.

*lucy\_b*

\*



\_\_\_\_\_, I pledge to you to be your loving friend and partner in marriage. To talk and to listen, to trust and appreciate you; to respect and cherish your uniqueness; and to support, comfort, and strengthen you through life's joys and sorrows. I promise to share hopes, thoughts, and dreams as we build our lives together.

May our lives be ever intertwined, our love keep us together. May we build a home that is compassionate to all, full of respect and honour for others and each other. And may our home be forever filled with peace, happiness, and love.

*stella\_03*

\*

I join my life with yours. Wherever you go, I will go; whatever you face, I will face. For good or ill, in happiness or sadness, come riches or poverty, I take you as my *husband/wife*, and will give myself to no other.

*stella\_03*

\*

On this special day, I give to you in the presence of God and all these witnesses my promise to stay by your side, in sickness and in health, in joy and in sorrow, through good times and bad.

I promise to love you without reservation, comfort you in times of distress, encourage you to achieve all of your goals, laugh with you and cry with you, grow with you in mind and spirit, always be open and honest with you, and cherish you for as long as we both shall live.

*Janet*

\*

\_\_\_\_\_, today I will marry you, my friend, the one I will live with, dream with, and love forever. I take you to be my *husband/wife*. From this day forward I will cherish you. I will look with joy down the path of our tomorrows, knowing we will walk it together side by side, hand in hand, and heart to heart.

*OleJ*

\*

\_\_\_\_\_, I promise to love you and to value your friendship as a precious gift. I look forward to raising our family, and building our relationship, under the care and guidance of God. I promise to stand beside you in sickness or health, in times of prosperity and decline, in peace and in turmoil, as long as we both shall live.

*Sam*

\*

I, \_\_\_\_\_, take you \_\_\_\_\_, to be my *husband/wife*, and friend. We shall bear together whatever of sorrow and adversity life may place upon us, and share together whatever of joy and fulfillment life may hold in store. I commit my life to you; a commitment made in love, kept in faith, lived in hope and eternally made anew.

I pledge to you a life of giving and of hoping, of growing and of loving. I shall be with you in your tears and in your laughter, just as I shall bring to you my own joys and my own sorrows. You will be my *husband/wife*, as long as love remains. My commitment is made in love, kept in faith, lived in hope and eternally made anew.

*MrsM*

\*

I, \_\_\_\_\_, choose you \_\_\_\_\_, as my *husband/wife*, in friendship and in love, in strength and weakness, to share the good times and misfortune, in achievement and failure. I will cherish and respect you through all the changes of our lives, forever giving thanks that we found each other.

*L&M*

\*

I love you. You are my best friend. Today I give myself to you in marriage. I promise to encourage and inspire you, to laugh with you, and to comfort you in times of sorrow and struggle.

I promise to love you in good times and in bad, when life seems easy and when it seems hard, when our love is simple, and when it is an effort. I promise to cherish you, and respect you. These things I give to you today, and all the days of our life.

*T&T*

\*

Where there has been cold, you have brought warmth; where there was darkness, you have brought light. Our miracle lies in the path we have chosen together. I enter this marriage with you, knowing that the true magic of love is not to avoid changes, but to follow the path together, hand in hand. Let us commit to the miracle of making each day work, together.

Whatever lies ahead, good or bad, we will face together. Distance may test us for a time, and time may try us. But if we look to each other first, we will always see a friend. For better or worse, richer or poorer, in sickness and health, in joy and in sorrow, to love and to cherish, to be faithful to you alone.

*P&M*

\*

Today, I take my place as your *husband/wife*. May our days be long, and may they be seasoned with faith, love, understanding, and respect, forever and ever. Today is the beginning of the rest of our lives. I choose to spend today, and all of my tomorrows, with you.

*Shellie*

\*

Today we move from I to We, \_\_\_\_\_, take this ring as a symbol of my decision to join my life with yours until death should part us. I walked to this place to meet you today, we shall walk from it together.

*Shellie*

\*

\_\_\_\_\_, this day, before our family and friends, with joy in my heart, I pledge myself to you as your husband/wife, promising to love you, to cherish our moments together, for now and forever.

*Tessa*

\*

My beloved \_\_\_\_\_, emptying my heart of all others, I fill it now with you, to love you until the end of my days as my most treasured spouse. I promise that I will love you, hold you, and enjoy you, console you, delight you, astound you when I can, and cherish you dearly.

*Luci*

\*

I \_\_\_\_\_, take you \_\_\_\_\_, to be my husband/wife, secure in the knowledge that you will be my constant friend, my faithful partner in life, and my one true love.

On this special day, I give you in the presence of God and all those in attendance, my sacred promise to stay by your side as your faithful *husband/wife*, in sickness and in health, in joy and in sorrow, through the good times and the bad.

I promise to love you without reservation, comfort you in times of distress, encourage you to achieve all of your goals, laugh with you and cry with you, grow with you in mind and spirit, always be open and honest with you, and cherish you for as long as we both shall live.

*faith\_08*

\*

\_\_\_\_\_, I take you to be my partner; to have and to hold, from this day forward. I give to you my unending love and devotion. I promise to be true to you, to cherish you, and to share my thoughts, hopes, and dreams with you. I look forward to spending the rest of my life with you, my best friend. I will love you forever.

*BJ*

\*

I take you, \_\_\_\_\_, to be my *husband/wife*. I promise to be true to you, in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health, and I will love and honour you all the days of my life.

*Claire*

\*

\_\_\_\_\_, I promise to be there when you need me, to fill your days with sunshine, to comfort you and encourage you, to help you reach your goals, to be your best

friend ever, and to love you all my life, with all my heart.

*Izzie*

\*

\_\_\_\_\_, I take you to be my lifetime partner, secure in the knowledge that you will be my constant friend, and my one true love.

*Bella\_83*

\*

On this special day, \_\_\_\_\_, I give to you, in the presence of (God and) all these witnesses, my promise to stay by your side, in sickness and in health, in joy and in sorrow, through the good times and the bad.

I promise to love you without reservation, comfort you in times of distress, encourage you to achieve all of your goals, laugh with you and cry with you, grow with you in mind and spirit, always be open and honest with you, and cherish you, for as long as we both shall live.

*Fate*

\*

I, \_\_\_\_\_, take you, \_\_\_\_\_, to be my *husband/wife*, knowing in my heart that you will be my constant friend, my faithful partner in life, and my one true love.

*MissP*

\*

I, \_\_\_\_\_, ask you, \_\_\_\_\_, to be my *husband/wife*, as my friend and my love. On this day I affirm the relationship we have enjoyed, looking to the future to deepen and strengthen it. I will be yours in plenty and in want, in sickness and in health, in failure and in triumph. Together we will dream, will stumble but restore each other.

We will share all things, serving each other and our fellow humanity. I will cherish and respect you, comfort and encourage you, be open with you, and stay with you as long as we shall live, freed and bound by our love.

*Amanda*

\*

\_\_\_\_\_, I offer you my Love. I offer you my strength. I offer you my weaknesses. I offer you my support. I offer you my loyalty. I offer you my faith, for as long as we both shall live.

*dani*

\*

Love has given us wings, and our journey begins today, \_\_\_\_\_, wherever the wind may carry me, I will stay by your side as your *husband/wife*. Take this ring as a sign of my love and commitment to you.

*dani*

\*

\_\_\_\_\_, I take you to be my *husband/wife*, from this time onward; to join with you and to share all that is to come; to be your faithful *husband/wife*; to give and to receive; to speak and to listen; to inspire and to respond; a commitment made in love, kept in faith, and eternally made new.

*beautifullife*

\*

\_\_\_\_\_, you are my best friend for life. I pledge to honour, encourage, and support you through our walk together. When our way becomes difficult, I promise to stand by you and uplift you, so that through our bond we can accomplish more than we could alone.

I promise to work at our love, and always make you a priority in my life. With every beat of my heart, I will love you. This is my solemn vow.

*BindiJ*

\*

\_\_\_\_\_, all that I am, and all that I have, I offer to you, in love and in joy. From this day forward I will love and comfort you, hold you close, prize you above all others, and remain faithful to you all the days of our lives.

*Samantha*

\*

\_\_\_\_\_, I bring myself to you this day to share my life with you. You can trust my love, for it's real. I promise to be a faithful mate, and to unfailingly share and support your hopes, dreams, and goals. I vow to be there for you always.

When you fall, I will catch you; when you cry, I will comfort you; when you laugh, I will share your joy. Everything I am, and everything I have is yours, from this moment forth, and for eternity.

*Kerrie*

\*

\_\_\_\_\_, the sun smiles on us today, our wedding day, and how can it not, for our love is stronger than forever, and our hearts beat together as one.

I promise to be a true and faithful partner, from this day forward, in all life's circumstances, as we face them together. In the joys and sorrows, the good times and bad, in sickness or in health, I will always be there for you, to comfort you, love you, honour and cherish you, now and forevermore.

*Amanda*

\*

Today, a day of music and celebration, I pledge to share my life with you. Whether the days that come are happy or sad, I will live them with you. \_\_\_\_\_, I give myself as I am and as I will be, and I do it for all of life as your *husband/wife*.

*Faith*

\*

Today, \_\_\_\_\_, I join my life to yours, not merely as your *husband/wife*, but as your friend, your lover, and your confidant. Let me be the shoulder you lean on, the rock on which you rest, the companion of your life. With you I will walk my path from this day forward.

*T&T*

