

# Formal Wedding Celebration

Cheryl and Paul

All Rise! (As Bride Enters)

## **Greeting**

Good evening my name is Doug. On behalf of Paul and Cheryl I would like to welcome you to this most important occasion in their lives. We are here this evening to witness the making of a marriage. Marriage is the most intimate of all relationships. It is the ultimate commitment to love, share, trust and grow with another person. It is the beginning of a whole new life and the creation of a family.

By entering into this marriage Paul and Cheryl are stating publicly, the feelings and commitments they have held privately between them. They are proclaiming their love for, their trust in and their loyalty to the one they cherish above all others. Marriage has been described as living in love with your best friend. Love is one of the few constants in the universe. It is reality, affinity and communication. Only love is capable of joining living beings by their deepest essence, uniting, completing and fulfilling them. Marriage is a symbol of the commitment to create a lifelong partnership based on love.

## **Charge to Couple**

Cheryl and Paul, you have known each other from the first glance of acquaintance to this point of commitment. At some point, you decided to marry. From that moment of yes to this moment of yes, indeed, you have been making promises and agreements in an informal way. All those conversations that were held while riding in a car or over a meal or during long walks—all those sentences that began with "When we're married" and continued with "I will and you will and we will"—those late night talks that included "someday" and "somehow" and "maybe"—and all those promises that are unspoken matters of the heart.

All these common things, and more, are the real process of a wedding. The symbolic vows that you are about to make are a way of saying to one another, "You know all those things we've promised and hoped and dreamed—well, I meant it all, every word." Look at one another and remember this moment in time. Before this moment you have been many things to one another—acquaintance, friend, companion, lover, dancing partner, and even teacher, for you have learned much from one another in these years. Now you shall say a few words that take you across a threshold of life, and things will never quite be the same between you. For after these vows, you shall say to the world, this—is my husband, this—is my wife.

## **Declaration of Consent**

Please face each other and hold hands!

Paul, do you desire to have Cheryl as your wife, to live together in the covenant of marriage? Do you intend to love her, comfort her, honor her, and keep her in sickness and in health and, forsaking all others, be faithful to her so long as you both shall live? If so, answer, "I do."

Cheryl, do you desire to have Paul to be your husband, to live together in the covenant of marriage? Do you intend to love him, comfort him, honor and keep him in sickness and in health and, forsaking all others, be faithful to him so long as you both shall live? If so, answer, "I do."

## **Words about Love**

I would now like to read "The Blessing of the Hands" the Author is unknown.

These are the hands of your partner, young and strong and full of love, holding your hands as you promise to love each other, today, tomorrow, and forever. These are the hands that will work along side yours as you build your future. These are the hands that will hold you and comfort you in grief and uncertainty. These are the hands that will countless times wipe the tears from your eyes, tears of sorrow and of joy. These are the hands that will hold your family as one. These are the hands that will give you strength. And these are the hands that even, when wrinkled and aged, will still be reaching for yours, still giving you the same unspoken tenderness with just a touch.

## **The Marriage Vows**

Having consented you will now express your vows of love and devotion.

Paul, repeat this vow to Cheryl after me: I, Paul, take you, Cheryl, to be my 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 until death do us part.

Likewise, Cheryl, repeat this vow to Paul after me: I, Cheryl, take you, Paul, to be my 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 until death do us part.

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## **The Exchange of Rings**

Having love in your hearts, you have chosen to exchange rings as the sign and seal of the vows you are making today.

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 continuous.

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

*Paul*, you will take your ring and place it upon Cheryl's left hand, and repeat after me this promise: I give you this ring as a symbol of my vow, and with all that I am, and all that I have, I honor you

Cheryl, you will take your ring and place it upon Paul's left hand, and repeat after me this promise: I give you this ring as a symbol of my vow, and with all that I am, and all that I have, I honor you.

## **Sand Ceremony**

Love is a force more formidable than any other. It cannot be seen or measured, yet it is powerful enough to transform you in a moment, and offer you more joy than any material possession ever could. But although this love joins you together as one, remember the gift of your individuality. Cherish and affirm your differences as you love each other. Be supportive of your strengths, and tender towards your weaknesses. Laugh together, cry together, be comforted by each other's presence, and secure in each other's absence.

To symbolize the importance of each of you within the marriage and the joining of your two lives into one, 3 colors of sand will now be combined in a sand ceremony.

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First, we will pour sand representing the strong foundation of their relationship. Then Paul and Cheryl will each separately pour their sand into the vase, symbolizing who they are as individuals. Then, they will pour together, blending their two colors as a symbol of their joining together forever in love. Lastly, I will add another layer of beach sand, representing you, their community, supporting them in their marriage and holding them in love. Though the vase may be moved around, and the colors may shift and blend in new ways, the grains of sand cannot be separated. They will remain joined in a harmonious whole. May your love be as eternal and as inseparable as this sand.

### **Pronouncement of Marriage**

Cheryl and Paul, You have come before us and have expressed your desire to be husband and wife. You have shown your love and affection by joining hands, have made promises of faith and devotion, each to the other, and have sealed these promises by the giving and receiving of rings.

I, therefore, pronounce that you are husband and wife.

Paul, you may kiss your bride!

### **Presentation**

Ladies and Gentlemen, it is my privilege to present to you Mr. and Mrs. Paul xxxxxx!