

Christian Service 2

Two Guys and a Wedding

We are gathered here, in the presence of God and his beautiful creation, that
Bride and Groom may be united in holy matrimony. We are also here to
celebrate and share in the glorious act that God is about to perform-the act by which
He converts their love for one another into the holy and sacred estate of marriage.

A few words about marriage

The Marriage Box

Most people get married believing the myth that marriage is a beautiful box full of all the things they have longed for; companionship, intimacy, friendship, and so on.... The truth is that marriage, at the start, is an empty box.

A place where you must put something in before you can take anything out. There is no love in marriage. Love is in people and people put love into marriage. There is no romance in marriage. You have to infuse it into your marriage.

A couple must learn the art of and form the habit of giving, loving, listening, and serving one another in order to keep the box full. They must learn that if you take more out of it than you put into it, it will be empty.

The Apostle Paul writes in his first letter to the Corinthians.....

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.

Pastor to read: Blessings of the Hands (optional)

“These are the hands of your best friend, young and strong and full of love for you, that are holding yours on your wedding day, as you promise to love each other today, tomorrow, and forever.

These are the hands that will work alongside yours, as together you build your future.

These are the hands that will passionately love you and cherish you through the years, and with the slightest touch, will comfort you like no other.

These are the hands that will hold you when fear or grief fills your mind. These are the hands that will countless times wipe the tears from your eyes; tears of sorrow, and as in today, tears of joy.

These are the hands that will help you to hold your family as one.

These are the hands that will give you strength when you need it. And lastly, 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.”

God, bless the hands that you see before you this day. May they always be held by one another. Keep them tender and gentle as they nurture each other in their love. Help these hands to continue building a relationship founded in your grace.

Let us pray:

Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for bringing all of us together today so we can see your plan for Bride and Groom unfold before our very eyes.

Thank you for bringing them together so that they may help each other overcome the hardships of life. Thank you also for doubling their joy because the happiness of one is the happiness of the other. I pray that they be a haven for each other's hearts, as you

have intended. Let them have Bride in each other and believe in love, which is the greatest gift you have given all mankind. Amen.

May I have the rings please? The rings given in a marriage are to tell the whole world that you are promised to another. They also serve to remind you of the vows you make to one another. They are an endless circle, no beginning and no end just like the love we all hope you have for each other.

Let us pray:

I hold these rings up to you O Lord that you may bless this sacred union. May Bride and Groom abide in peace and grow in their knowledge of your presence through their marriage.

May the seamless circle of these rings become the symbol of their endless love and serve to remind them of the covenant they have entered into today-to be faithful, loving and kind to each other. Amen

The Vows

Please join hands and repeat after me.....

I, Groom, take you, Bride as my friend and love, beside me and apart from me, in laughter and in tears, in conflict and peace, asking that you be no other than yourself, loving what I know of you, trusting what I do not know yet, in all the ways that life may find us.

The Groom places the Bride's ring on her finger and says:

Bride, 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, in the name of God.

I, Bride, take you, Groom, as my friend and love, beside me and apart from me, in laughter and in tears, in conflict and in peace, asking that you be no other than yourself, loving what I know of you, trusting what I do not know yet, in all the ways that life may find us.

The Bride places the Groom's ring on his finger and says:

Groom, 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, in the name of God.

I pray that you do not expect of each other the perfection that belongs only to God.

May you minimize each other's weaknesses, be swift to praise and magnify each other's strengths, and see each other through a lover's kind and patient eyes.

As you have consented together to be bound to one another in lawful marriage, you have made special promises to each other, which have been symbolized by the joining of hands, taking of vows, and by the giving and receiving of rings. By the authority vested in me by the State of South Carolina and looking to heaven for Devine sanction, I now pronounce you to be husband and wife.

You sir may kiss the bride.

I present to you Mr & Mrs.