

WEDDING ELEMENTS

For the marriage of: _____ & _____

Wedding Date: _____ Time: _____

Rehearsal date & time: _____

Wedding License secured? _____

Location secured:

Where:

Reception?

If Yes, where?

Musicians?

Sound Technician?

Number of people expected _____

Best man _____

Maid/Matron of Honor _____

STANDARD

⇒ Select from the following list to assemble the elements you would like included in your wedding ceremony. (elements in **bold** are usually standard for most weddings)

- ❖ Musical Prelude
- ❖ Seating of Grand Parents
- ❖ Seating of Parents
- ❖ Processional
- ❖ **Welcome or Greeting**
- ❖ **Opening Prayer**
- ❖ Congregational Hymn (one or more songs)
- ❖ **Scripture Reading (one or more readings)**
 - 1 Corinthians 13:4-8a
 - Genesis 2:18,21-24
 - Colossians 3:12 – 17
 - Ephesians 5:21-31
 - Proverbs 31:10-12,25-29
 - Scripture Readers -- Who will read the text?
 - _____
 - _____

❖ **Message** (about 10-15 min. long)

❖ **1) Statement of Intent**

- ❖ “Do you _____, take _____, as your wife? Do you promise to be faithful to her – to love, honor and keep her when she is sick and when she is well, and forsaking all others, to stay with her as long as God gives life to both of you?”
- ❖ “Do you _____, take _____, as your husband? Do you promise to be faithful to him – to love, honor and keep him when he is sick and when he is well, and forsaking all others, to stay with him as long as God gives life to both of you?”

❖ **2) Exchange of Vows**

❖ Traditional

- (The Man) “I, _____, in the presence of God and this congregation, take you, _____, to be my wedded wife. The love I have for you was given to me from God, whose love is eternal. I promise to have and to hold you from this day forward, for better or for worse, for richer or for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death us do part, according to God’s holy law; and therefore, I pledge to you my faithfulness.”
- (The Woman) “I, _____, in the presence of God and this congregation, take you, _____, to be my wedded husband. The love I have for you was given to me from God, whose love is eternal. I promise to have and to hold you from this day forward, for better or for worse, for richer or for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death us do part, according to God’s holy law; and therefore, I pledge to you my faithfulness.”
- or, Original (write your own)

❖ Memorize or repeat after Pastor

❖ **3) Exchange of Rings**

- (Man) “This ring I give to you as a promise of my abiding faith and love.”
- (Woman) “This ring I give to you as a promise of my abiding faith and love.”

❖ **Wedding Prayer**

❖ **Pronouncement**

❖ **Presentation of the Bride & Groom**

❖ **Recessional**

❖ **Postlude**

ADDITIONAL ELEMENTS

⇒ Add these elements also if you wish.

- ◆ 1 or 2 Congregational Hymns
- ◆ 1 or 2 Vocal Solo's
- ◆ Giving of the Bride
- ◆ Lighting of the Unity Candle
- ◆ Giving of the Roses to the Parents

- ◆ Blessing of the Rings
 - "O Lord, may You please bless these rings, symbolizing the marriage of _____ & _____ to each other. As an endless circle of gold, may their love be endless and pure for one another. May they cherish each other, protect each other, and love each other always, even as they wear these rings as reminder of their abiding love and faithfulness to one other.

- ◆ Benediction

"May the Lord bless you and keep you;
 The Lord make His face to shine upon you
 And be gracious to you;
 The Lord turn His face toward you,
 And give you peace,
 Both now and forevermore. AMEN."

MUSICAL CHOICES

⇒ Here are some classic musical choices; choose from these or any others, and include them in the order of service at appropriate points.

- ❖ Prelude
- ❖ Processional
 - *Bridal Chorus*, Richard Wagner ("Here comes the Bride...")
 - *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring*, J.S. Bach
 - *Canon*, Pachelbel
 - Other
- ❖ Congregational Hymns
 - *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*
 - *Be Thou My Vision*
 - *We Will Glorify*
- ❖ Recessional
 - *Wedding March*, Felix Mendelsohn
 - Other
- ❖ Postlude
- ❖ Vocal Solo's

EXPECTATIONS

God has called me to help people make forward progress in their spiritual lives through faith in Jesus Christ. The ministry I perform for your wedding is a part of that calling, for God created marriage and declared it to be a good thing. It is my prayer that your wedding and your marriage together will help you to grow in your faith and commitment to Jesus Christ.

I have two goals for your marriage, as the pastor who will be marrying you:

First, I want you to trust Jesus Christ and place Him at the center of your relationship. Without Jesus at the center, any marriage will have a very difficult time to make it; but with Jesus leading and guiding the husband and wife together, there is the hope and prospect of a joy-filled and happy life together as man and wife.

Second, I want your marriage to be healthy. To that end, I encourage all the preparation and enrichment opportunities possible in order to help you each to be the best husband and wife that God created you to be. Therefore, I recommend the following steps for you:

- ❖ “Growing Together” 6-wk. marriage preparation/enrichment class
- ❖ Reading and using the following books as a couple:
 - Before You Say, “I Do”, Norman Wright (Harvest House)
 - Communication: Key to Your Marriage, Norman Wright (Regal Books)
 - The Act of Marriage, Tim & Beverly LaHaye
- ❖ Joining a couple’s small group Bible study, so that you can get to know other Christian couples, and learn how to bring the spiritual element into your life as a couple.

FEES

The fee for providing the wedding, and its related consultations is \$200. Any premarital or enrichment classes will have additional fees for materials & events attached to them.

MY PRAYER FOR YOU

I wish you the very best for your wedding. I wish you all the happiness and joy that life can provide for you and your new family. May God bless you with His loving presence and joy and love in your hearts as you begin this new step of life together.

Should you need additional help or guidance in any area of your life in the future, I am always available to help and assist you.

Dr. Bill