

The Sacred Wedding Ceremony

For

Full names of man and woman

Date

The Sacred Wedding Ceremony

A Paraphrased Translation of Scriptures

by
Fred R. Coulter

This is a happy and joyous occasion. Marriage is a natural union, but a divine institution, ordained at creation by Almighty God. This intimate love relationship was created by God Himself, because GOD IS LOVE. Physically and spiritually the marriage estate portrays mankind's supreme destiny of ONENESS with God in His family, in His eternal Kingdom forever.

Since Almighty God is the Supreme Sovereign Ruler, and He is our Creator, therefore, it is only fitting and right that we use the laws and principles of God's Word as the fundamental authority which govern this sacred marriage covenant into which you are both now entering.

In the Beginning, after the Lord God had created Adam, He said, "It is not good for man to be alone, I will make a helper, suitable and compatible for him. So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then God took one of the man's ribs...and from it God fashioned a woman, and God brought her to the man.

"And the man said, This is now bone of my bone, and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called woman, because she was taken out of man.

"For this cause a man shall leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave to his wife; and they shall become one flesh" (Gen. 2:18, 21-24).

Then the Lord God blessed them saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and replenish the earth."

Today, in the presence of these witnesses, we are asking the Lord God Almighty, in the name and authority of Jesus Christ, to bless this marriage, with love, understanding, faithfulness and dedication to each other, knowing that marriage is honorable in every thing.

Jesus upheld this honor by teaching, "He who created them in the beginning, made them male and female, and said, 'For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall cleave unto his wife; and the two shall become one flesh. Consequently, they are no more two, but one flesh.' Therefore, what God has joined together, let no man separate" (Mk. 10:6-9).

Also, He said, "Whosoever divorces his wife, except for the cause of sexual infidelity and marries another, commits adultery. And if a woman divorces her husband, and is married to another, she commits adultery" (Mat. 5:32).

So we see that it is God who joins a husband and wife together as one flesh. What God has

bound, man is commanded by that authority not to separate. What God has bound, only God can loose as revealed in His Holy Word.

A marriage so bound and blessed by God is binding for life, for better or for worse, in sickness or in health, in want or in wealth unto death do they part.

Now, let us understand the New Testament instructions concerning the marriage estate:

"Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands, as unto the Lord: because the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the Head of the Church, which is His body: and He is the Saviour, Deliverer, and Provider of the body. In exactly the same manner as the Church is subject to Christ, even so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing in the marriage estate.

"Husbands, LOVE your wives, in exactly the same manner as Christ also loved the Church, and gave up Himself for her; in order that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of the water through the Word of God;

"That He might place her beside Himself as the glorious, untarnished Church, not having a single spot or stain, wrinkle or blemish, or any such thing; but that she might be consecrated, holy and completely blameless.

"In exactly the same manner, the husbands are duty-bound and under obligation to God, to love their wives as their own bodies. The man

who is loving his wife in this manner loves himself, because no one truly hates his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, exactly as the Lord does the Church:

"For we are members of His very own Body, of His very own flesh, (through His crucifixion--and all that it means), and of his bones (that is, the Church is a special spiritual creation. For in the same manner as Adam's wife was created from his own rib; so also, as a counterpart for Christ, the Church is created from His innermost being).

"This mystery is great, immense and supreme: For I am speaking concerning the relationship between Christ and the Church (the bride of Jesus Christ and their eternal destiny).

"However, let everyone of you, also, be loving his own wife as himself, and the wife should see that she reverence her husband" (Eph. 5:22-33).

The apostle Peter continues God's instructions, "In the same way, you wives be submissive to your own husbands...from your heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God.

"Thus, did Sarah obey Abraham, calling him lord, and you have become her daughters if you do what is right..."

"Likewise, you husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with a weaker

vessel, and grant her honor as a fellow-heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered" (I Pet. 3:1-7).

Your Sacred Marriage Covenant

We are here today in the presence of God, coming before His very throne in heaven above and we asking God to join you as husband and wife. Therefore, in accordance with God's Word, each of you should solemnly promise before God and in the presence of these witnesses to accept the sacred marriage covenant according to the conditions set forth and imposed by Almighty God as revealed in His Holy Word.

Do you, **his first name** enter into covenant with God, in the presence of these witnesses to take **Her full name** to be your lawful wedded wife until death and as the Scriptures command, for better or for worse, in sickness or in health, in want or in wealth, to cleave unto her, to love her as Christ loves the Church, to honor her, cherish her and provide for her? **I Do!**

Now then do you, **Her first name**, enter into covenant with God, in the presence of these witnesses to take **His full name** to be your lawful wedded husband, until death as the Scriptures command, for better or for worse, in sickness or in health, in want or in wealth; and to submit yourself to him as unto the Lord, in every thing in the marriage estate, as the Church does to Christ; and to honor and reverence him? **I Do!**

Since we are asking God to join you as husband and wife, and praying for His binding and blessing of this covenant marriage, it is appropriate to follow the Biblical example of laying on of hands to set you apart for this sacred covenant. So then, you will now join your right hands together and with the laying on of my hands, we will ask God to join you as husband and wife.

Let us pray!

*Special Prayer Blessing the Marriage
Presentation of the Rings*

You may kiss the bride!

By the authority vested in me as a minister of Jesus Christ—in the Name of Jesus Christ, I now pronounce you husband and wife.

Officiating Minister: Fred R. Coulter