

CHRISTIAN CEREMONY

INTRODUCTION

[GROOM] and [BRIDE] you have arrived here on Maui in this beautiful setting, so that you could publicly commit yourselves to each other in marriage.

God invented marriage. He created it because He looked into the future and saw what your needs and your desires would be for companionship, love and fulfillment. But God also knew that no marriage would ever be perfect. As you enter this union, it's important to realistically understand that it will take a lot of love and work to make this relationship a success.

Many couples tend to think marriage as a 50/50 proposition. Actually, the best relationships are 90/10. If you both will give 90%, you will have a formula likely to bring both of you happiness for a lifetime.

THE BIBLE AND MARRIAGE

The best manual ever written on the subject of marriage is the Bible. Here are a few of the things that God has to say about marriage:

"Each man should have his own wife, and each woman should have her own husband... A man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one. Since they are no longer two but one, let no one separate them, for God has joined them together.

"Give honor to marriage, and remain faithful to one another in marriage. Husbands ought to love their wives as they love their own bodies... Each man must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband." (1 Cor. 7:2; Matt. 19:5-6; Heb. 13:4; Eph. 5:28, 33)

1 CORINTHIANS 13

Love is a verb. It is not just a state of being but an ACTION verb. It is not just how you feel about each other, but what you DO for each other that will keep your relationship growing and alive.

The Bible has a lot to say about love. Let me read 1 Corinthians 13 from The Living Bible:

"Love is very patient and kind, never jealous or envious, never boastful or proud, never haughty or selfish or rude. Love does not demand its own way. It is not irritable or touchy. It does not hold grudges and will hardly even notice when others do it wrong. It is never glad about injustice, but rejoices whenever truth wins out.

"If you love someone you will be loyal to him no matter what the cost. You will always believe in him, always expect the best of him, and always stand your ground in defending him."

[GROOM] and [BRIDE], in the Hawaiian language there is a term that describes how couples should treat one another: Ho'oponopono, literally means: "to put things right . . . by family discussion." In other words, don't let the sun set when you find that you are angry. Talk things out. Makes things right with each other quickly, before the sun disappears. That's the best way to keep small misunderstandings from growing into problems that break you down.

MARRIAGE POEM

Marriage is more than a contract. Marriage is a commitment to take that joy deep, deeper than happiness, deep into the discovery of who you most truly are. It is a spiritual journey, to a life of becoming—in which joy can comprehend despair, running through rivers into joy again. And thus marriage is even deeper than commitment. It is a covenant—a covenant that says: I love you, I trust you. I will be there for you when you are hurting and when I am hurting, I will not leave. Marriage is intended to provide a sanctuary safe enough to risk fully loving, fully living and completely sharing from the center of oneself. This is worth everything.

HIS VOWS

[GROOM], please take the lei and place it around [BRIDE]'s neck and in the Hawaiian tradition kiss her on both cheeks. Let these pretty & fragrant flowers that you have placed upon her remind you of the beautiful and fragile nature of your relationship with her.

Do you [GROOM]; take [BRIDE], to be your wife, to live together according to the Word of God? Will you love and cherish her, giving her assistance in all of life's labors? Will you be true to her both in sickness and health, when things are going well and when there are problems? And will you be faithful to her as long as you both shall live? If so, you may answer, I WILL.

[GROOM], cherish [BRIDE] always treating her as your princess.

HER VOWS

[BRIDE], take this lei and place it over [GROOM]'s neck and kiss him on both cheeks. Let the beauty & fragrance of these flowers which you are giving to [GROOM] remind you always of this day when you committed yourself to be his bride.

Do you, [BRIDE], take [GROOM], to be your husband, to live together according to God's Word, the Bible? Will you love him and submit to him in the Lord, and be his helper in all that comes your way. Will you be true to him both in sickness and health, both when things are going well and when there are problems? And will you be faithful to him as long as both of you shall live? If so, you may answer, I WILL.

[BRIDE], cherish [GROOM] always, treating him as your prince.

HER RING

[GROOM], May I have the ring that is a lasting symbol of your vows to [BRIDE]?

This gold ring has been subjected to tremendous heat so that the waste could be removed and the metal purified into a fit token of your commitment of love. [GROOM], let this ring symbolize your willingness to build your character through your self-sacrificial love for [BRIDE].

Place the ring on the third finger of [BRIDE]'s left hand and repeat after me as you make these vows to her:

"I [GROOM], from this day forward, take you [BRIDE], to be my lawfully wedded wife. I will love you; I will cherish you; I will be true to you; No matter what comes. Whether we become rich or poor; whether there is sickness or health; as long as we both shall live, and with this ring, as a symbol of this pledge, I now marry you."

HIS RING

[BRIDE], May I have the ring that is the lasting symbol of your vows to [GROOM].

This ring is a circle, which symbolizes eternity—for a circle has no ending. [BRIDE], let this ring remind you of the new relationship that you are entering with [GROOM] which you desire to last for a lifetime. Place the ring on the third finger of [GROOM]'s left hand and repeat after me as you make these vows to him:

"I [BRIDE], from this day forward, take you [GROOM], to be my lawfully wedded husband. I will love you; I will cherish you; I will be true to you; no matter what comes. Whether we become rich or poor. Whether there is sickness or health, as long as we both shall live, and with this ring, as a symbol of this pledge, I now marry you."

PRAYER

PROCLAMATION

Now that you [GROOM] and [BRIDE] have openly declared your wish to be united in the covenant of marriage, and as you have made these promises to each other before God and these witnesses, and have given each other rings to confirm your vows;

I, David Webster, by the power & authority given to me as a minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and according to the laws of the County of Maui and the State of Hawaii, do now pronounce you to be:

Husband and wife, in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

You may kiss your bride.