

SPIRITUAL VOW RENEWAL

INTRODUCTION

Good relationships never stop growing. Like fine wine, they get better with age. [HUSBAND] and [WIFE] you've now been married ____ years; and today you come to renew your vow and commitment of love for each other here in the land of aloha.

God invented marriage because He knew of your need and desire for companionship, love and fulfillment. But we know that there will never be a perfect marriage. As you continue in your relationship, I'm sure you understand that it takes a lot of love AND a lot of work to make your relationship work properly.

Some couples tend to think of marriage as a 50/50 proposition. But the best relationships are usually 90/10. If you both give 90%—you'll have a formula likely to continue to bring a lifetime of happiness.

Love is a verb. Although it can describe a state of being, love really is an ACTION verb. It's not just how you feel about each other, but what you DO for each other that's the key. Over time, feelings can change. But if you keep performing acts of love for each other, your feelings will stay fresh & alive.

1 CORINTHIANS 13

Some of the greatest advice about love ever written is found in 1 Corinthians chapter 13. Let me read it 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.”

Great words for us to live by.

In the Hawaiian language there is a term that describes how couples should treat one another. Ho'oponopono means: “to put things right by family discussion.”

In other words, don't let the sun set when you find that you have become angry. Talk things out. Makes things right with each other quickly, before the sun disappears into the horizon. That's the best way to keep little misunderstandings from growing into relationship killing problems.

SANDBURG POEM

Poet Carl Sandburg captured the essence of a love which can grow and mature over a lifetime when he wrote:

“I love you. I love you for what you are, but I love you yet more for what you are going to be. I love you not so much for your realities as for your ideals. I pray for your desires, that they may be great, rather than for your satisfactions, which may be so hazardously little.

“A satisfied flower is one whose petals are about to fall. But the most beautiful rose is one, hardly more than a bud, wherein the pangs and ecstasies of desire are working for larger and finer growth. Not always shall you be what you are now. You are going forward toward something great. I am on the way with you and . . . I love you.”

HIS VOWS

[HUSBAND], please take the lei and place it around [WIFE]'s neck and in the Hawaiian tradition, give her a kiss on both cheeks.

Do you [HUSBAND]; acknowledge your desire to continue to take [WIFE], to be your wife, to live together according to the Bible? Will you continue to love and cherish her, giving her assistance in all of life's labors? Will you continue to be true to her both in sickness and health, both 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 DO.

[HUSBAND] let the beautiful & fragrant flowers that you have placed on [WIFE] remind you of the fragile nature of your relationship with your wife. Cherish her always as your princess.

HER VOWS

[WIFE], take this lei and place it around [HUSBAND]'s neck and in the Hawaiian tradition, give him a kiss on both cheeks.

Do you, [WIFE], acknowledge your desire today, to continue to take [HUSBAND], to be your husband and to live together according the Bible? Will you continue to love and cherish him, giving him assistance in all of life's labors? Will you continue 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 you both shall live? If so, you may answer, I WILL.

[WIFE], let the beauty & fragrance of these flowers which you have placed around [HUSBAND]'s neck remind you of your commitment to continue to be his bride. Cherish him always as your prince.

HER RING

[HUSBAND], May I see the ring that is the lasting symbol of your vows to [WIFE]?

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. As it has since the day you first gave it to [WIFE], let this ring continue to symbolize your willingness to build your character through your self-sacrificial love for your wife.

Touch that ring on [WIFE]'s finger, symbolic re-giving it to her, and repeat these vows to your wife:

"I [HUSBAND], renew my commitment to you [WIFE], as your 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, until we are parted by death, and with this ring, as a symbol of my pledge, I now renew my vow of love to you -- my wife."

HIS RING

[WIFE], May I see the ring that is the lasting symbol of your vows to [HUSBAND]?

Note that the ring you have given him is a circle, which symbolizes eternity—for a circle has no ending. [WIFE], let that ring remind you of the new lifetime relationship that you are continuing in with [HUSBAND]. Touch the ring on [HUSBAND]'s finger and repeat after me as you remake these vows to your husband:

"I [WIFE], renew my commitment to you [HUSBAND], to be your 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, until we are parted by death, and with this ring, as a symbol of my pledge, I now renew my vow of love to you -- my husband."

PRAYER

PROCLAMATION

Now that you [HUSBAND] and [WIFE] 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, do affirm before God, that the two of you have today expressed your desires to rekindle your love and passion, and renew your vow of marriage.

From this moment on, let all know of your desire to continue for a lifetime: as husband and wife. May God bless you. You may kiss your bride.