



Vow - Making In Christian Weddings

The wedding vows are the centre of a Christian wedding. The words of promise and power are said by man and woman and listened to by the friends, family and minister. But the vow is much more than this — these words are received by God as the essence of the covenant between husband and wife. The words of your vow to each other and to God should be prayed through and understood prior to being said at the wedding ceremony. The vows are not just “part of the program.” They are spiritual realities. As your minister, I take your vows seriously. It is my responsibility to pray them before our God and to lead your family and friends in understanding them.

The following sample of vows is presented to help you decide on the essence of the words of your covenant. I frequently use the vows in sample one, two and three, though you are free to pick from the ones listed or to adapt to suit your precise intention.

The bride and groom may choose to author, with the minister, their own vows. The minister reserves the privilege of working with the couple in determining the vows as representing the Christian community and the sanctity of the covenant.

■ Sample 1 -- Traditional

“I, _____, take you _____, to be my lawfully wedded wife/husband, to have and to hold, to love and to cherish, for better for worse; for richer for poorer; in sickness and in health, until death do us part according to God’s holy ordinance. And hereto I pledge you my faithfulness.”

■ Sample 2 (adaptation of 1)

“I, _____, take you _____, to be my wedded husband / wife, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death do us part, or the Lord comes for His own, and hereto I pledge you my faithfulness.”

■ Sample 3 (adaptation of 1)

“In the name of God, I, _____, take you, _____, to be my wife/husband, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, until we are parted by death. This is my solemn vow.”

■ Sample 4

“Before God and these witnesses, and in reliance upon the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, I, _____ / _____, take you, _____ / _____, to be my wife/husband, to have and to hold, to love and to cherish, to give and to receive, to speak and to listen, to confront and to comfort, to repent and to forgive, to encourage and to respond, to respect and to honor. For where you go, I will go; your people will be my people; and your God will be my God. I promise to support you and be faithful to you in all circumstances of our life together so that we may join to serve God and others as long as we both shall live.”

■ Sample 5

“_____/_____, with joy and in love I take you to be my (wife/husband), to be the (mother/father) of our children, and the companion of our days. I solemnly vow to separate myself from all other family, work and friendships relationships that would interrupt my commitment to you. I dedicate myself to be one with you and you alone. I promise to give myself generously to you in whatever happiness or sadness, abundance or want, adversity or blessing that will be a part of our lives. I promise to you now and forever to make Jesus Christ the vital power of our love and life. Since God has joined us together, I covenant never to destroy the good work that He does.”

■ Sample 6 (adaptation of 4 & 5)

“_____/_____, with joy and in love I take you to be my (wife/husband), to be the (mother/father) of our children, and the companion of our days. I solemnly vow to separate myself from all other family, work and friendships relationships that would interrupt my commitment to you. I dedicate myself to be one with you and you alone. I promise to give myself generously to you in whatever happiness or sadness, abundance or want, adversity or blessing that will be a part of our lives. I promise to bear with you and to be faithful to you in all circumstances of our life together so that we may join to serve God and others as long as we both shall live.”

■ Sample 7

Husband -- “_____, as we stand before both God and man, making public our commitment to one another, I wish to make it known that I recognize first of all God's authority over my life which is exercised from His loving heart. He has chosen me to be one of his own, and He is now my life. I recognize also that He has blessed me and entrusted to me your life as a free gift that I have not earned. In recognition of these things, ____ I purpose to love you with His love, to provide for your needs through His enablement, and to lead you as He leads me, as long as He give us life together, regardless of the circumstances. As Psalm 34:4 expressed my heart when I asked you to marry me, so it expresses my heart now: "O magnify the Lord with me and let us exalt His name together."

Wife -- “On this special day, _____, I am reminded of the verse James 1:17 which says, "Every good thing bestowed and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of Lights with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow." With a gift such as you, I know that many new responsibilities face me. In I Corinthians, it explains "It is required of a steward to be found trustworthy." I cannot do this on my own strength, _____, but by God's grace and power working within me I desire to be trustworthy as your wife by following your leading willingly, even as unto Christ, loving and supporting you in all circumstances as long as He gives me life on this earth.”

■ Sample 8

“_____, I give you this ring, wear it with love and joy. I choose you to be my husband / wife, to have and to hold from this day forward for better or for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish as long as we both shall live. And I pledge you my faithfulness to show to you the same kind of love as Christ showed the Church when He died for her, and to love you as a part of myself because in His sight we shall be one.”

■ Sample 9

I take you as a gift from God to be my lifelong companion through tears and laughter, sickness and health, work and play. I will love you faithfully, constantly and prayerfully now and forever in the power of God's Holy Spirit.

■ Sample 10 (Adaptation of 2 and 4)

"I _____, take you _____, to be my wedded husband/wife, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, to death do us part. For where you go, I will go; your people will be my people; and your God will be my God. I promise to support you and be faithful to you so that we may join to serve God and others as long as we both shall live."

■ **Sample 11 (Adaptation of 2 and 4)**

I, _____, take you, _____, to be my wedded husband/wife, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death do us part, or the Lord comes for His own. For where you go, I will go, your people will be my people, and your God will be my God, and hereto I pledge you my faithfulness.

■ **Sample 12**

I _____ / _____, in the presence of God, our family and friends, take you _____ / _____, to be my wife / husband. All that I am I give to you. All that I have I share with you. Whatever the future holds, I will love you and stand by you; respect comfort and pray for you. I promise to be faithful to you through all circumstances, believing that God, who brought us together, will give me the strength to be a Christ-like husband / wife. Because you are my best friend and because I love you, I give you this solemn vow, for as long as we both shall live.