

The Charge

We are here to observe something that is not just beautiful and joyous, but also profound. _____ and _____ do not stand before one another as perfect individuals. But they are making an unending choice to cover the faults of the other with their own sacrificial love. They pledge to respond to each other as perpetual examples of Christ's sacrifice for them. This choice is not a burden to them, but rather a joy, because of the delight they take in one another. Their delight is meant to be the clearest earthly representation of God's abundant love for us and our joyous response to Him.

_____ and _____ are here today to make their covenant known publicly to family, friends, and the world. This covenant is marked by the physical symbol of a golden ring. Gold because it is the only metal that does not tarnish and is the standard of value for all other commodities. A ring because it, like all true covenants, has no end point.

Once this covenant is established, _____ will take _____'s name in the same way that each person who covenants with God takes His name as "Christian." From that point forward they will live for the joy of the other and take their deepest satisfaction in seeing the dreams of the other fulfilled in the same way God delights in His people and we find our greatest fulfillment in Him.

In this ceremony, let us see not only the beautiful uniting of our dear friends _____ and _____ in marriage; let us also see a picture of what God established as a picture of the relationship He desires with each one of us.

The Pledge

_____, I want to ask you a series of questions that you are not hearing for the first time. As you hear them again today, I want you to respond to them with the words, "I do." _____, do you promise before God and this community to receive _____ as your wife? Do you promise to love her and to care for her? Do you promise to seek with God's help to love and honor _____? Do you promise to listen to her, to respect her, and to care for her for the unique and special woman of God that she is? _____ "I do."

_____, I want to ask you a series of questions that you are not hearing for the first time. As you hear them again today, I want you to respond to them with the words, "I do." _____, do you promise before God and this community to accept _____ as your husband? Do you promise to love and to care for him? Do you promise with God's help to love and honor _____? Do you promise to listen to him, to respect him, and to care for him as the unique and special man of God that he is? _____ "I do."

The Vows

I _____ take you _____ to be my wife / husband.

I promise before God and these witnesses that I will love you and be faithful to you.

I promise to stand with you in sickness and in health,
in good times and in bad times,
and forsaking all others,

I promise to give my life to you fully and faithfully
as long as we both shall live.