

# Wedding Ceremony Components Booklet



*From Pastor Ken L, Birks  
Wedding Officiant*

# **Wedding Ceremony Components**

## **Table of Contents**

[Declaration of Intent Choices](#)

[Wedding Vow Options](#)

[Ring Vow Options](#)

[Wedding Questions for Bride and Groom](#)

[Unity Candle Ceremony](#)

[The Sand Ceremony](#)

[Unity in a Glass Ceremony](#)

[Love Letter and Wine Box Ceremony](#)

[Love Letter And Vow Box Ceremony](#)

[The Rose Ceremony](#)

[The Handfasting Ceremony](#)

[The Lasso Ceremony](#)

[Veil & Cord Ceremonies](#)

[The Coins Ceremony](#)

[Communion Ceremony & Bible Vow](#)

[White Dove Release](#)

[Tree Planting Ceremony](#)

[Special Readings](#)

[Scriptures on Love](#)

[Bible Vow](#)

[Prayers of Blessing](#)

[Prayer & Poems for Deceased Loved Ones](#)

[Acknowledgment of Family and Friends](#)

[Blessing to a Blended Family](#)

[Closing or Final Blessing of the Marriage](#)

# Wedding Components Booklet Sample

## Declaration of Intent Options

*The declaration is one of the key parts of the wedding ceremony and could be considered to be part of the vows or promises. It fulfills the legal aspect of your wedding, where you are informed and asked if you come willingly to be joined in marriage as husband and wife. The declaration of intent precedes and is often similar to the actual vows. You may choose one of these, mix and match, or write your own words.*

### Declaration Option #1

\_\_\_\_, will you take \_\_\_\_\_ to be your wife; will you commit yourself to her happiness and her self-fulfillment as a person, forsaking all others; and will you promise to love, honor, trust, and serve her in sickness and in health, in adversity and prosperity, and to be true and loyal to her, so long as you both shall live.

Groom says: *I Will.*

\_\_\_\_, will you take \_\_\_\_\_ to be your husband; will you commit yourself to his happiness and his self-fulfillment as a person, forsaking all others; and will you promise to love, honor, trust, and serve him in sickness and in health, in adversity and prosperity, and to be true and loyal to him, so long as you both shall live.

Bride says: *I Will.*

There are more than 20 options to choose from

*Your wedding vows are extremely personal. They're the special words that will marry you, and they represent your commitment to one another. This assortment of traditional and non-traditional, religious and secular wedding vows can get you started on finding the right ones for you. Feel free to add your own embellishments, loving words, and inside jokes.*

**The following could go before any of the vow choices listed below:**

## Wedding Vow Openings:

### Vow Opening #1

As you take these vows, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, I would have you remember: To love is to come together from the pathways of our past and then move forward...Hand in hand, along the uncharted roads of your future, ready to risk, to dream, and to dare.... And always believe that all things are possible with faith and love in God, and in each other.

## Wedding Vow Options

### Wedding Vow Option #1

\_\_\_\_\_ *repeat after me:*

\_\_\_\_\_, I promise before God, our family, and friends to be your loving and faithful husband, to share my life with you, in wealth and in poverty, in sickness and in health, in good times and in bad times, for as long as we both shall live or until the return of Jesus Christ.

# Wedding Components Booklet Sample

\_\_\_\_\_ *repeat after me:*

\_\_\_\_\_, I promise before God, our family, and friends to be your loving and faithful wife, to share my life with you, in wealth and in poverty, in sickness and in health, in good times and in bad times, for as long as we both shall live or until the return of Jesus Christ.

## Option #4

I \_\_\_\_\_ in the presence of God and these witnesses, take you \_\_\_\_\_ to be my 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 us do part. I pledge you my faithfulness.

I \_\_\_\_\_ in the presence of God and these witnesses, take you \_\_\_\_\_ to be my 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, till death us do part. I pledge you my faithfulness.

## Option #24

*Groom says:*

\_\_\_\_\_, I vow to help you love life, to always hold you with tenderness and to have the patience that love demands, to speak when words are needed and to share the silence when they are not and to live within the warmth of your heart and always call it home. I vow to fiercely love you, in all your forms, now and forever. I promise to never forget that this is a once in a lifetime love. I vow to love you, and no matter what challenges might carry us apart, we will always find a way back to each other. I give you my hand, my heart, and my love, from this day forward.

*Bride says:*

\_\_\_\_\_, I vow to help you love life, to always hold you with tenderness and to have the patience that love demands, to speak when words are needed and to share the silence when they are not and to live within the warmth of your heart and always call it home. I vow to fiercely love you, in all your forms, now and forever. I promise to never forget that this is a once in a lifetime love. I vow to love you, and no matter what challenges might carry us apart, we will always find a way back to each other. I give you my hand, my heart, and my love, from this day forward.

## Ring Exchange

**The following could be used with any one of the ring vows:**

### Ring Vow Introduction #1

Rings are very large in significance. They are made of precious metal and precious stone. It reminds us that love is neither cheap nor common: but indeed, love is very costly and dear to us. These rings are also made in a circle, and their design tells us that we must keep love continuous throughout our whole lives, even as the circle of the ring is continuous. As you wear these rings, whether you are together or apart for even just a moment, may these rings be a constant reminder of the promises you are making to one another this day.

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## Ring Vow Option #1

**"What tokens do you give of your love for each other?"**

This ring I thee give, in token and pledge of my constant faith and enduring love. With this ring, I thee wed.

This ring I thee give, in token and pledge of my constant faith and enduring love. With this ring, I thee wed.

## Ring Vow Option #8

\_\_\_\_\_ take this ring is a token of my love for you. With this ring I pledge my life and all I have to you, In the name of the father, son and Holy Spirit.

\_\_\_\_\_ take this ring is a token of my love for you. With this ring I pledge my life and all I have to you, In the name of the father, son and Holy Spirit.

\*\*\*\*\*

**PLEASE NOTE:** The following do not contain the whole scripts. These examples are simply to show you what's available.

## QUESTIONS FOR BRIDE & GROOM

*This is a great option that helps to make your ceremony more personal.*

EACH of you does a separate PRIVATE write-up for him answering these 3 Questions.

Please do not let your fiancé(e) see your answers, and please know they will be used in your ceremony, so do search your heart and put thought into your responses.

Please send them to Ken Birks at [klbirks@gmail.com](mailto:klbirks@gmail.com)

- 1) How did you know he/she was the one for you?**
- 2) What are the things about your fiancé that are special, that you love, that capture your heart, that make you smile, that you admire?**
- 3) What is your hope for your marriage?**

# Wedding Components Booklet Sample

The Unity Candle is a very traditional wedding event. A candle ceremony is not recommended to be done outside since the candles will not stay lit. **Since about 99% of my wedding ceremonies are at golf courses, vineyards, or resorts and are outdoors, the Unity Candle Ceremony is no longer recommended.** The least little puff of wind and the candles are either too difficult to light, or they blow out.

**Summer heat:** Often the candles begin to bend in the sun and are not easy to remove from their holders. At indoor ceremonies, the Unity Candle Ceremony works fine! If you decide to do the Unity Candle, you may want to read the following tips to help with keeping the candles from being hard to light and from blowing out.

**Here are some *example wordings* for this lovely, symbolic portion of the ceremony.**

During a Unity Candle wedding ceremony, the mothers of the bride and groom light candles to the side of the unity (center) candle which represents the separate lives, families, and experiences before the wedding day. After the exchange of vows, but before the exchange of rings the bride and groom take each side candle and light the unity candle together, uniting the families and experiences into one.

## **Sample Unity Candle Wedding Vow – 1**

"GROOM AND BRIDE have chosen to affirm their love by the lighting of a unity candle."  
"BRIDE and GROOM, the two separate candles symbolize your separate lives, separate families and separate sets of friends. Please light the candles and that together you light the center candle.

The individual candles represent your lives before today. Lighting the center candle represents that your two lives are now joined to one light and represents the joining together of your two families and sets of friends to one. "

## **Sand Ceremony**

Because most weddings are now at outside venues rather than indoors, many couples are choosing the sand ceremony over the unity candle ceremony because of the wind and heat factors.

**Note:** *It's the Bride & Grooms responsibility to provide all the materials needed for the Sand Ceremony.*

## **Sample Sand Ceremony - 1**

"Today, this relationship is symbolized through the pouring of these two individual containers of sand, one representing you BRIDE and all that you were, all that you are, and all that you will ever be, and the other representing you, GROOM, and all that you were and all that you are, and all that you will ever be.

As these containers of sand are poured into the third container, the individual containers

# Wedding Components Booklet Sample

of sand will no longer exist but will be joined together as one. Just as these grains of sand can never be separated and poured again into the individual containers, so will your marriage be."

**Sample Sand Ceremony – 1a** (*Christian version based on the Lordship of Christ*)

**Sand Ceremony for Family with Children**

**Sample Sand Ceremony – 2**

**Sample Sand Ceremony - 3**

**Sample Sand Ceremony - 4**

**Sample Sand Ceremony for a blended family - 5**

## Love Letter & Wine Box Ceremony

**The Love Letter & Wine Box Ceremony can be done in addition ceremonies such as the Unity Candle or Sand Box Ceremonies, or it can be done alone.**

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ have chosen as a couple to perform a Love Letter & Wine Box ceremony.

This box contains a bottle of wine, two glasses, and a love letter from each to the other. The letters describe the good qualities they find in one another, the reasons they fell in love and their reasons for choosing to marry. The letters are sealed in individual envelopes, and they have not seen what the other has written.

Keep this tradition until the end so that you may always reflect and refresh your love towards one another. I recommend that you keep this box in a place of honor prominently displayed in your home as a constant reminder of your commitment to each other.

## Rose Ceremony

**Rose Ceremony Option #1**

Red Roses are one of the most iconic symbols of love, they have always been a way to show love, affection and say "I love you" without having to say a word. Today you have chosen to share a single red rose with each other as a gift to one another. Please exchange your gifts to one another.

\*exchange roses\*

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, I ask that you choose a very special location together in your home and your future homes that you can place roses for one another, a location that on each anniversary you take a rose to that special spot to show that you are committed to this relationship and this relationship is and will be based on love.



# Wedding Components Booklet Sample

In all relationships, there will be good times and bad times. There will be moments when it's difficult to say, "I'm sorry" or "I forgive you"; "I need you" or "I am hurting." I ask that when you simply can't find the words or strength to say how your feeling, you leave a single rose in the special location to speak the words and feelings for you, because that rose with overpower all other things and all other words, what that rose says is "I still love you." The other should accept the rose as the unspoken words it represents and remember that it is love and hope, commitment and devotion that will keep you together and help you live a strong loving relationship.

## The Handfasting Ceremony #1

\_\_\_\_\_, take \_\_\_\_\_'s hands palms up, so you may see the gift that they are to you:

These are the hands of your best friend, young and strong and vibrant with love, that are holding yours on your wedding day, as he promises to love you all the days of his life.

Now \_\_\_\_\_, please take \_\_\_\_\_'s hands, palms up, so you may see the gift that they are to you:

These are the hands of your best friend, smooth, young, and carefree, the writing the sentence in at are holding yours on your wedding day, as she promises to love you all the days of her life.

*Now, please join hands so that they may be fasted in the ways of old.*

Remember then as your hands are fasted, these are not the ties that bind. *[Cords are held aloft]*

The love already shared by your hearts has been strengthened by the vows you have taken. You will be bound by your love as you are bound by your clasped hands from now until the end of your days.

*[As the following is recited, the couple's hands are wrapped with cords]*

These are the hands that will passionately love you and cherish you through the years, and with the slightest touch will comfort you like no other.

These are the hands that will work alongside yours as you build your future together.

These are the hands that will hold you whenever illness, fear, or grief may find you.

## The Lasso Ceremony

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ have chosen to incorporate the Lasso ritual into their wedding ceremony today.



# Wedding Components Booklet Sample

## Veil and Cord Ceremonies

The veil signifies that they are being dressed to face the world as one. The cord signifies everlasting fidelity as they walk in the world as equals.

Veil Ceremony: *(Bride and Groom kneel)*

## Lasso or Cord Ceremony Option:

GROOM and BRIDE have also chosen to incorporate the Lasso ritual into their wedding ceremony today. The Lasso is a wedding ritual in which the couple is bound together with a ceremonial rosary. Lassoing is a declaration of intent, where the bride and groom clearly state that they are marrying of their own free will.

GROOM and BRIDE, since your lives have crossed in this life, you have formed eternal and sacred bonds. As you enter this state of matrimony you should strive to make real the ideals that to you, give meaning to this ceremony and to the institution of marriage.

## Coin Ceremony

**Background:** *The officiant drops 13 pieces of coins (silver or gold) called arras into the Groom's waiting hands, who in turn drops it into the Bride's hands. The Bride then puts her hand above the Groom's then drops the arras into his hands again. The Groom allows the coins to then be dropped into a plate held by an attendant.*

## Communion Between Bride & Groom

The Bride and Groom has chosen to celebrate communion together as their first act as husband and wife.

To share in communion as husband and wife is to stand vulnerable and humbled together in the acknowledgment of your sins. It is to make right any division between you or sin against you. And it is to join in worship together, redeemed by the blood of the Lamb, for the risen Christ Who is your hope now and to come until He returns in all His glory.

## White Dove Release

**White Dove Releases will enhance any event with their uniqueness; adding the grand finale to your wedding, and always providing a celebrational event.**

### Poem #1

For many centuries, the White Dove has been an emblem of Peace, Love and New Beginnings.

As a symbolic gesture, to seal their marriage vows,

(bride and groom) are now going to release these two pure white birds.

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The Doves will fly upwards and circle above us a few times, then fly home together, as a pair.

This symbolizes our newly-wed couple setting off on their journey in life together, in harmony. (Bride and groom), we wish for you, that your life together will be long, rich and rewarding. May your marriage carry with it all the wonderful qualities that the White Dove represents!

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## Information on where to rent the doves

White Dove Releases will enhance any event with their uniqueness; adding the grand finale to your wedding, and always providing a celebrational event.

Our white doves are actually white homing pigeons, the only birds that, when released, will return to their home from miles away.

They are specially bred for their pure white color and beauty and this natural homing instinct. They are lovingly cared for and carefully conditioned for your special day to return home safely.

MAGICAL - MEMORABLE - AFFORDABLE

**Contact:**

## Special Readings

### I Carry Your Heart With Me

*by E.E. Cummings.*

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### Blessing for a Marriage

*By James Dillet Freeman*

May your marriage bring you all the exquisite excitements a marriage should bring.

### The Elements of Love

May your love be like the earth, rich, natural, and deeply rooted, strong as a rock, yet soft as sand always growing, and always patient.

### The One

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When the one whose hand you're holding, is the one who holds your heart.

## These Hands

*(Note: This usually works very well right before the Ring Vows)*

Please take one another's hands in your own:

These are the hands of your best friend, strong and full of love for you.

## A BLESSING

### LOVE

Love is a friendship that has caught fire.

It is quiet understanding, mutual confidence, sharing and forgiving.

### WHY MARRIAGE?

*Author Unknown*

Because to the depths of me, I long to love one person,  
With all my heart, my soul, my mind, my body...

Because marriages do not fail, people fail  
When they enter into marriage  
Expecting another to make them whole...

Because, knowing this,  
I promise myself to take full responsibility  
For my spiritual, mental and physical wholeness  
I create me, I take half of the responsibility for my marriage  
Together we create our marriage...

Because of this understanding  
The possibilities are limitless

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## LET'S GROW OLD TOGETHER

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*~Denise Braxton Brown & Peggy Wrightsman*

Let's grow old together...beginning with today.

Let's work slowly with each other and build a relationship that we can both enjoy being a part of.

## **GROWTH**

I love you not only for what you have made of yourself -but for what You are making of me.

I love you for the part of me that you bring out; I love you for, putting your hand into my heaped—up heart and passing over all the foolish, weak things that you can't help dimly seeing there and for drawing out into the light all the beautiful belongings that no one else had looked quite far enough to find.

## **The Union**

*Robert Fulghum*

*(Great intro to the marriage vows)*

You have known each other from the first glance of acquaintance to this point of commitment. At some point, you decided to marry. From that moment of yes to this moment of yes, indeed, you have been making commitments in an informal way

## **The One – By Cheryl .J Barclay**

When the one whose hand you're holding,  
Is the one who holds your heart,

## **The Elements of Love – Unknown**

May your Love be like the earth  
Rich, natural, and deeply rooted  
Strong as a rock, yet soft as sand  
Always growing

# Wedding Components Booklet Sample

## Scripture References on Love

As the two of you journey through your life together; the following Scripture will serve as a compass as you strive to keep the vows you are making here today.

1 Corinthians 13:4-8 (NIV) Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, and it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.

## Prayer of Blessing based on Numbers 6:24-26

May the Lord bless and keep you both; <sup>25</sup>May the Lord make His face shine upon the two of you and be gracious to you; <sup>26</sup> May the Lord lift up His countenance upon both your lives and give you peace as you journey **through life together as one.**

## Bible Vow

\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, our God of love has established marriage as the symbol of Christ's perfect relationship to His Body, the Church. We have come to bring you as one before Him. \_\_\_\_\_, God has ordained the man as the spiritual head, as the responsible provider, and as the initiator of love in this human relationship. By His enablement, your strength must be \_\_\_\_\_'s protection, your character her boast and pride, and you must so live that she will find in you the haven for which the heart of a woman truly longs.

## Wedding Prayer

*~ By Robert Louis Stevenson ~*

Lord, behold our family here assembled.

We thank you for this place in which we dwell,

## The Prayer

*~ By St. Francis of Assisi ~*

Lord, make us instruments of your peace.

Where there is hatred, let us sow love;

Where there is injury, pardon;

## Marriage Prayer

# Wedding Components Booklet Sample

Lord, help us to remember when, we first met and the strong love  
That grew between us into practical things, so nothing can divide us.

## Wedding Prayer & Poems for Deceased Loved Ones.

**This could stand alone or go with any of the poems listed below:**

We would like to especially mention \_\_\_\_\_'s (family member) at this time. He/She has been such an inspiration to \_\_\_\_\_ growing up

“Although he/she is not here with us, (Although he/she has departed, or passed on) her legacy of love, nurture, care, and support are here in his life. All the wonderful qualities of that relationship will be passed down from generation to generation, never to be forgotten.

### Option #1

#### Heaven Holds You

*by Tammy L. Magner*

On this Day of marriage  
You are watching from above  
Along with all of us you are  
Witnessing our love

**The following could go after either option below:**

They would like to honor you with a rose, symbolizing their love and gratitude.

### Honoring of Parents

#### Honoring Parents Option #1

Will the parents of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ please stand: Many years ago, though it may feel like only yesterday, two children were born into this world. When you first gazed at them, you marveled at their perfection and you felt truly blessed. In your children, you saw the infinite potential and you placed great hope.

#### Honoring of Parents Combined with Giving Bride & Groom Away

**Will the parents of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ please stand!**

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Today represents not only the joining of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ but also the joining of their families and friends.

Who gives this woman, and their blessing, to be married to this man?  
*Bride's parents say, 'We do.'*

## Honoring Mothers

The Mothers of the Bride and Groom will now come forward as we honor them as mothers and to help us with the next part of the ceremony.

*(Both mothers come forward and stand next to their children)*

These mothers' lips were the first to kiss them and bring them into this world and today a mother's love - together with their blessings - will be the first to send them on their way to their new life together as wife and husband. Mothers – Please kiss the Bride and Groom

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## Family and Community Support:

### Group Declaration of Support – Option #2

Now, I ask that these friends and family stand and that you turn and acknowledge them, as they acknowledge you. *[Audience stands]*

As family and friends, you form a community of support that surrounds \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

Each of you, by your presence here today is being called upon to uphold them in loving each other.

Always stand beside them, never between them. Offer them your love and your support; not your judgment. Encourage them when encouragement is needed and listen to them when they ask for advice.

In these ways, you can honor this marriage, into which they have come to be joined today.

Do you offer your love and support to strengthen their marriage and bless this family created by their union?

Please answer by saying: WE DO  
*[Guests: WE DO]*



# Wedding Components Booklet Sample

## Blessing to a Blended Family

Love is so wonderful because you don't have to take it away from one person to give it to another. There's always more than enough to go around.

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ have expressed to me that they will do their best to continue to love and be there for each member of your now blended family.

Their hope is that each family member will continue to strive to grow in friendship, appreciation, and love for one another.

You, their children, are a truly a gift from God.

## Blessing of the Marriage 2

Before I pronounce you husband and wife, I have just one more thing I want you to do.

Your wedding day is one that seems to fly.

It's a day filled with emotion, friends, rings and dances.

Many people remember how fleeting their own wedding day was.

So, I want you to take a few seconds to look onto each other's eyes.

Think about the happiness that you're feeling in this place, in this moment.

Really let that feeling register in your heart and your mind.

Now, I want you to think about your life together in twenty years.

Where are you?

What are you doing?

We all know that your visions of the future are not identical, but always complementary.

John Lennon once said, "a dream you dream alone is only a dream.

A dream you dream together, that is reality."

And for BRIDE and GROOM, that reality starts now.

## Blessing of the Marriage 8

You have promised your love to each other, formalizing the existence of the bond between the two of you and have exchanged vows and symbols of love before God and this community.

## **Wedding Components Booklet Sample**

From now on each of you will see your own experiences in a new light as your life together unfolds.

May you have courage to love each other and all others on this earth, not only as you are now but as you are yet to be.

Let all others honor your decision.