



## Vow Suggestions

*The promises you make to one another on your wedding day are among the most profound words you will ever share with each other. Great care and thought need to go into what you say as you make public your declaration of love, commitment, and promise. What follows here is a collection of vows and promises, both contemporary and traditional, but is—by no means—a complete collection. You are encouraged to give some thought to writing your own promises to one another. Some have used parts of the following to help them get started. As you plan with your pastor, you will have the opportunity to work out all of these details.*

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1. \_\_\_\_\_ as we have come together in the midst of our families and friends and in the presence of God, I commit myself to you as your husband/wife. I promise to love you and to be supportive of you as we both continue to grow and change. I promise to help you achieve the goals that you set for yourself and for our marriage, and I promise to give you the freedom to be all that you were intended to be. I promise to be faithful to you, to join with you in both sorrow and celebration sharing all that is to come until death parts us.

2. I, \_\_\_\_\_ take you, \_\_\_\_\_, to be my wife/husband and my partner in life. I promise to share with you all that life may have to offer, be it joy or sorrow, and to always be supportive, patient, and compassionate. I will respect, cherish, and protect you, and I will always be faithful to you. I promise to nurture you so that we may grow together to become all that we can be. Most of all, I promise to be your best friend for life and to love you with all my heart forever.

3. 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 care for until we are parted by death. This is my solemn promise.

4. I take you, \_\_\_\_\_, to be my wife/husband, and these things I promise you: I will be faithful to you and honest with you, I will respect, trust, help and care for you, I will share my life with you, I will forgive you as we have been forgiven, and I will try with you to better understand ourselves the world and God, through the best and most challenging of what is to come until death parts us.

5. I take you, \_\_\_\_\_, to be my wife/husband. I promise before God and these witnesses to be your faithful husband/wife, to share with you in plenty and in want, in joy and in sorrow, in sickness and in health, to forgive and strengthen you, and to join with you so that together we may serve God and others as long as we both shall live.

6. \_\_\_\_\_, I take you to be my wife/ husband. I promise from this time onward, to join with you and share all that is to come, to give and to receive, to speak and to listen, to inspire and to respond, and in all circumstances of our life together to be loyal to you with my whole life and with all my being until death parts us.

7. I, \_\_\_\_\_ take you, \_\_\_\_\_, to be my wife/husband and partner in life. I promise to be honest with you, faithful to you, and put my trust in you.

In your times of need, I will be there to support and encourage you, to hold you and comfort you. I will help you reach for your dreams, and I will stand by you through both your failures and your successes.

As we travel through life together, I will share with you the joys and wonders that lie ahead for us and I promise to love you with all my heart and all my soul for as long as we both shall live.

8. I, \_\_\_\_\_ take you \_\_\_\_\_, to be my wife/husband and partner for life. In the presence of our families, friends and God, I promise to respect, protect, and cherish you and to always be faithful and honest with you. I promise to laugh with you in times of joy, and comfort you in times of sorrow. I promise to celebrate with you and always be supportive of you as we both continue to change and grow. I promise to pray for you and for our marriage, to grow in faith with you, and to always serve Christ and others by your side.

Through all things, good and bad, in sickness and in health, for richer or for poorer, I promise to be your best friend and to love you all the days of our life.

## **THE EXCHANGE OF RINGS**

The circle has long been a symbol for marriage. These circles are made of precious metal to represent the enduring and precious nature of your relationship. Being unbroken circles, each represents unending love. As often as either of you look upon these rings, may you be reminded of this moment, the love you have promised, and the commitment—the covenant in which you live.

1. I give you this ring as a sign of my love and faithfulness.
2. I give you this ring as a sign of my promise, and with all that I am, and all that I have, I honor you, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
3. Take this ring, freely given, as a sign of my love and a symbol of my intention to live with you in love and respect. As this ring has no end, neither shall my love for you.

Groom/Bride

I give you this ring as a sign of my promise.

Bride/Groom

I accept this ring as a sign of your promise.