

Religious Elopement

Greeting:

Officiant:

Dearly beloved today you celebrate one of life's greatest moments to give recognition to the worth and beauty of love, as you joins together in vows of marriage.

Officiant:

Let us pray,

God, for the joy of this occasion we thank you. For the meaning of this wedding day we thank you. For this important moment in an ever growing relationship we thank you. For your presence here and now and for your presence at all times, we thank you.

Pledge/Declaration of Intent (this is when you declare your action or intent to marry is a matter of free will):

Officiant:

{Groom} do you take **{Bride}** to be your wife, to live with her, respect her, and love her as God intends with the promise of faithfulness, tenderness, and helpfulness, as long as you both shall live?

{Groom} Responds: I Do

Officiant:

{Bride} do you take **{Groom}** to be your husband, to live with him, respect him, and love him as God intends with the promise of faithfulness, tenderness, and helpfulness as long as you both shall live?

{Bride} Responds: I Do.

Vows:

Officiant:

Now that you have declared your intentions, I invite you to share your vows with one another.

Officiant:

{Groom} repeat to **{Bride}** after me, these words:

{Bride} I have chosen you alone from all the world to be my wedded 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 'til death do us part.

Officiant: **{Bride}** repeat to **{Groom}** after me, these words:

{Groom} I have chosen you alone from all the world to be my wedded 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 'til death do us part.

Exchange of Rings: optional

Officiant:

May I please have the rings

Bless these rings. Grant that **{Groom}** and **{Bride}** may wear them with deep faith in each other. May they always live together in peace, love and abiding joy. Amen

{Groom} will you take this ring and place it upon **{Bride}**'s finger, and as you do, repeat to her, after me, these words:

I give you this ring,

As I give you myself,

With love and affection.

Wear it in peace always

{Bride} will you take this ring and place it upon **{Groom}**'s finger, and as you do, repeat to him, after me, these words:

I give you this ring,

As I give you myself,

With love and affection.

Wear it in peace always.

Blessing

Officiant:

Let us say a prayer of blessing upon this marriage.

Most gracious God, you have kindled in these hearts the fire of a divine love. Wilt you keep it aflame upon the alter of their souls. Will you make the inward aspirations of their hearts the outward reality of their home. Will you make that home a place of light and truth, a place of beauty, a place of joy and happiness all the days of their lives. Amen.

Pronouncement:

Officiant:

Inasmuch as you **{Groom}** and you **{Bride}** have promised your love for each other by these vows, the joining of your hands and the giving of these rings, by virtue of the authority vested in me as an Officiant, and the laws of this state, I now pronounce you husband and wife

You may kiss the bride