

# Wedding Options

## WEDDING OPENING

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### **Contemporary Opening, general**

*Please be seated*

Friends and family, we are gathered here this evening, on this wonderful occasion to celebrate the union of marriage between GROOM and BRIDE and to send them, from this day forward, to create a new home together as husband and wife. Don and Brittany, I hope that you will take a moment to pause and look around you at all the people here who know you well and love you much. They have decided that there is no place in the world they would rather be than right here with you right now.

### **Contemporary Opening, more personal**

*Please be seated*

Friends and family, we are gathered here this evening, to celebrate the union of marriage between GROOM and BRIDE and to send them, from this day forward, to create a new home together as husband and wife.

### **PRAYER**

GROOM and BRIDE, you need to know we are all excited to be here with you. People have come from several different states; Hawaii, California, Colorado, Iowa, Tennessee, North Carolina, and others, just to witness your marriage making this a special occasion. But this is not just an exciting event or even one made special because of the family and friends who are here with you, but this is also a holy moment because God is present.

## **Contemporary Opening, more intimate**

*Please be seated*

Friends and family, we are gathered here this evening, to celebrate the union of marriage between     GROOM     and     BRIDE     and to send them, from this day forward, to create a new home together as husband and wife.

You know, the first time Suzanne and I had the privilege of watching the two of you together was at a Braves baseball game with Greg and Suzy and     BRIDE     and     GROOM     right before they were married. Suzanne and I talked about you on the way home and we both could tell you really have fun together.

And, you know what, there's no way to describe, with words, that dynamic; that kind of heart to heart connection. The best you can do is just simply state, "...We have fun being together."

## DECLARATION OF INTENT

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### Declaration of Intent (Traditional)

GROOM and BRIDE, do you take each other to be husband and wife, to live together in holy matrimony? Will you love each other, comfort each other, honor and keep each other, in sickness and in health, forsaking all others stay faithful to each other as long as you both shall live?

GROOM, do you?

BRIDE, do you?

### Declaration of Intent (Contemporary)

GROOM, is it your intention today to take BRIDE to be your wife? To create a home that is safe and focused on the things of God? Will you clothe your marriage with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience? Will you put on Godly love that binds hearts in perfect unity?

Will you let the peace of Christ rule your heart and give you an attitude of thanksgiving? Will you cover BRIDE so securely in the Lord that you set her free to serve others with all her heart? Will you be kind, sensitive, forgiving, and supportive? And do you commit to being faithful, giving yourself completely to her all the days of your life?

(response)

BRIDE, is it your intention today to take GROOM to be your husband? To submit to him as he submits unto the Lord? Will you clothe your marriage in compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience? Will you model self-control for GROOM and be diligent to protect and preserve your deep, abiding union?

Will you let nothing hurtful come out of your mouth but say only what is helpful; each word a gift from God? Will you encourage him to be “wild at heart” going on whatever adventure God calls him to? Will you be considerate, forgiving, and supportive? And do you commit to being faithful, giving yourself completely to him all the days of your life?

(response)

## **Declaration of Intent (Personalized, Christian)**

BRIDE, today, I want to become your husband. I desire to be a loving, Christian spouse pursuing a perfect love for you. I will protect you, comfort you, provide for you and be a place of peace for you when your world gets too rowdy? I will be organized and trustworthy in important matters yet unpredictable and spontaneous keeping our love fun? I will be your best friend yet not your only friend? I will lead you with a gentle hand and willingly sacrifice for our new family? I will continue to share with you all I am feeling. I will keep an open mind about life and with my words and character make you feel beautiful inside and out? BRIDE, I am completely yours as long as I live? GROOM, do you commit to this love?(respond)

GROOM, today it is my desire to take you as my best friend and husband? I will be available to you and compassionate to your needs. I will live as a Christian woman; putting God, you and our family before anything else in the world. I will be understanding and kind. GROOM, you make me feel alive. You make me feel fun and I want to be the same for you. I will make you laugh. I will encourage you to be adventurous and courageous. I will be giving and selfless. I will support your friendships with others. I will be a good wife, a “cool” mother, and someone you can trust with your secrets. And GROOM, I will love you without end and be completely yours as long as you live? BRIDE, do you commit to this love?(respond)

## GIVING OF THE BRIDE

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### **Giving of the Bride, traditional**

WHO GIVES THIS BRIDE IN MARRIAGE? (Her mother and I) or (I do)

### **Giving of the Bride, personalized**

Father of the Bride name, my friend, I know you well and I know how seriously you have taken the responsibility to raise your girls in the Lord. For that, you are to be honored. So Father of the Bride, WHO GIVES THIS BRIDE IN MARRIAGE?

### **Giving of the Bride, intimate**

But even more Father of the Bride name, as father of the bride, this is a “*Thank You*” for all those Saturday morning breakfasts at Old Hickory House, for getting away from work just to be with your family weather camping or skiing, whatever. For becoming a youth deacon just to spend spiritual time with your children, for organizing service projects because that is what BRIDE wanted to do with her time. She now is asking that you petition God to pass on His blessing to the new home she will create with GROOM.

And Father of the Bride, in all the years I have known you, I cannot recall even one time that you have said something negative about your wife or children. Now it could be that I just have a bad memory or that your family really is that perfect; but I suspect— it’s just who you are.

So Father of the Bride, GROOM asks permission today to marry your daughter. And now I ask you:  
WHO GIVES THIS BRIDE IN MARRIAGE?

## VOWS

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**VOWS**, traditional *Repeat after me*

I, GROOM, take you BRIDE, 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 do us part.  
*(until God calls us home) (as long as we both shall live)*

**VOWS**, contemporary

BRIDE, will you repeat after me:

I BRIDE, take you GROOM,  
To be my husband,  
My partner in life,  
And my one true love.  
I will cherish our friendship,  
And love you today, tomorrow, and forever.  
I will trust you,  
And honor you.  
I will laugh with you  
And cry with you.  
I will love you faithfully.  
Through the best and the worst,  
Through the difficult and the easy,  
Whatever may come,  
I will always be there.  
As I have given you my hand to hold,  
So I give you my life to keep.

You can do a combination of these two

Write your own (research helps here)

## RINGS

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### RINGS, Traditional

With this ring, I thee wed, With all my worldly goods, and my  
heart's most faithful affections, I thee endow, and I pledge to thee,  
my faithfulness, till death do us part.

### RINGS, Contemporary

BOTH I give you this ring, as a symbol of our love, with all that I  
am, and all that I have, I honor you. And I pledge to you, my  
faithfulness.

### RINGS, Contemporary option

GROOM/BRIDE, I give you all I am, and all I am to become.  
Take this ring, and with it, my promise of love, for the rest of my life.

## PERSONAL STATEMENTS

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### Personal Statements, simple

BRIDE , I asked GROOM to describe you to me. He said:

*My whole life I have prayed for my wife. I didn't know where she lived, her name, or the color of her hair, but I felt like I knew her. I knew she would be beautiful, with a wonderful smile. I knew she would be my best friend, someone who would always stand with me. I prayed she would love the lord first and me second.*

*“ BRIDE , I love you. You are beautiful, my best friend and your love for the lord is amazing. From the first day I met you I knew you would be special in my life Today, I have no doubt you are the women I have been praying for my whole life.”*

### Personal Statements, personal

BRIDE loves about GROOM (one work character qualities)

Intelligent	Great father
Patient	Genuine (real)
Analytical	Honest
Sweet	Thoughtful
Hard-Worker	Good friend
Security (you make me feel safe)	Conscientious
Fun	Very giving
Your smile	Courteous
You're laid back	Quiet
Responsible	Of course, you are SO CUTE!

BRIDE loves about GROOM (sentences)

GROOM , you calm me, and I can DEFINITELY be a “drama-queen.” You help me look at things from different angles and you let me know that no matter what it is, it will turn out okay.



I love when you play “Wrestle Mania” in the living room with the kids.

You read me and know me better than anyone ever has. When I’m upset, I can try and trick you into thinking nothing is wrong with me but you always call me on it.

You appreciate the little things I do for you and you do them for me.

You are so perceptive and you give me good advice.

I love that you open the door for me every chance you get..

You are proactive, you watch out for me.

We share the same beliefs, you know right from wrong.

I love that you believe in me. I love that you are my best friend.

BRIDE **loves about** GROOM (direct closing thought)

GROOM, I have dreamed of this day for most of my life. I have imagined what it would be like to love someone with all my heart, eager to share the rest of my life with one person. You are more than I ever dreamed of. You have exceeded all my desires and I am ready to start our new life together. I love you!