

Celebrant to the guests:

All stand for the Bride's entrance

Good afternoon and welcome,
My name is John Hodson and as an authorised celebrant,
I have the honour of leading you
in this marriage ceremony today.

It is one of life's richest surprises
when the chance meeting of two individuals
leads them to proceed together along a common path.

It is indeed one of life's finest experiences
when that chance relationship
grows into a permanent bond of love.
This meeting and growing are what brings us here today.

The uniting of marriage
of these two friends to establish a new family
is an important and memorable event.
It brings together two separate families from different
backgrounds and creates a union that is a sign of hope
in the midst of a sometimes intolerant society.

In their love for each other, which they publicly express in this
ceremony,

James and Sarah demonstrate
not only their joy in the present
but their commitment to share the future together.

This is a time of celebration for all of us who know and love
them.

Celebrant to the couple:

James and Sarah, as you know,
no minister, no rabbi, no public official
can do more than bless or solemnise your marriage.

Only you, can make your marriage lasting and meaningful.

With a mutual commitment to creating an atmosphere of care,
consideration and respect,
by a willingness to face the tensions and anxieties that
underlie human life,
you can make your wedded life a source of great strength and
joy.

Your love for one another
and your willingness to accept each other's strong points and
weaknesses with understanding and respect
will provide a foundation for continued growth and intimacy.

Respect and celebrate with each other,
not only all that you have in common
but also your individual perspectives on life,
and the different traditions you bring with you.

Cherish every opportunity that allows you to share your
beliefs and grow closer to each other.

Continued

Today,
there is a vast unknown future stretching out before you.
That future, with its hopes and disappointments,
its joys and its sorrows, is hidden from your eyes,
but it is a great tribute to your faith in each other
that you are willing to share it together.

May the love with which you join heart and hand today never
fail, but grow deeper and surer with every year you spend
together.

May you dare to dream dreams not yet dreamt.

May you find constant reward and challenge as you pursue the
ongoing adventure of learning who you are,
and where you want to go.

May you always have a special sense of your mission in life
together,
and may you never tire of the endless possibilities of
exploring your shared existence.

Celebrant:

James and Sarah, this reading you have chosen is titled
“Marriage Is Love” and it will be read
by your friend **Pam Stewart**

Readers Name: **Pam Stewart**

Marriage Is Love:

If two are caring,
as they're sharing life's hopes and fears,
If the music of laughter outweighs the sadness of tears,
Marriage is togetherness.

If both derive pleasure from the mere presence of each other,
Yet no jealousies restrict, worry or smother,
Marriage is freedom.

If achievements mean more when they benefit two,
And consideration is shown with each point of view.
Marriage is respect.

And if togetherness, freedom and respect are combined
With a joy that words can never fully define
Then marriage is love.

MONITUM FROM THE MARRIAGE ACT

As a civil celebrant,
Am duly authorised by the law
To solemnise this, your marriage,
According to the laws of Australia.

Before you, **James** and you **Sarah**,
are joined together in marriage
in my presence, and in the presence
of your family and friends,
I am bound, as you know, to remind you publicly of
the solemn, the serious,
and the binding nature of the relationship
into which you are now about to enter.

Marriage, as most of us understand it,
is the voluntary and full commitment
of a man to a woman, and a woman to a man.
It is made in the deepest sense
to the exclusion of all others,
and is entered into with the desire,
the hope and the firm intention
that it will last for life.

Celebrant to the guests:

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today **James** marries **Sarah's**.

But we all know

this isn't the only relationship established today.

There is a whole new network of relationships set up by this marriage, as there is in any marriage.

Perhaps the most important relationship that is now established is that between

James and Steven and Ashleigh, Sarah's children.

Step relationships are often difficult for all sorts of reasons, but with the right attitude, as we all know, they can be very helpful and productive.

Celebrant:

So I ask you, **James,**

will you do your best to assist **Steven & Ashleigh** in whatever way you can during these important years of growth?

Will you respect their relationship with their parents, yet be aware of the important role you play in their lives ?

Treat them with interest, care, concern, fairness and respect?

James:

I will

Celebrant:

Steven & Ashleigh,

now that your family will include **James** as a parent, and as a friend to you, will you treat him with respect and fairness, and try your hardest to have the best and fairest relationship possible?

Steven & Ashleigh:

We will

THE ASKING:

James:

Will you take **Sarah's** to be your lawful wife?
Will you love her, comfort her,
respect, honour and keep her,
in sickness and in health, and, forsaking all others,
keep only unto her, so long as you both shall live

James:

I will

Sarah's:

Will you take **James** to be your lawful husband?
Will you love him, comfort him,
respect, honour and keep him,
in sickness and in health, and, forsaking all others,
keep only unto him, so long as you both shall live

Sarah's:

I will

VOWS:

*The couple face and look at each other,
hold both hands, and repeat the vows.*

Celebrant:

James and Sarah have written their own vows
and will read them to each other today.

James:

Sarah's, today, I stand by you, proud and happy,
of the special love we have found.

Today we celebrate all that lies ahead. I promise to love,
cherish, and honour you all the days of my life.

When you need me, I will be there, and when your strength
fails you, may mine always be there for you.

I pledge to you faithfulness and friendship in good times and
bad, in sickness and in health, from this day forward.

Sarah:

James, today, I stand by you, proud and happy,
of the special love we have found.

Today we celebrate all that lies ahead. I promise to love,
cherish, and honour you all the days of my life.

When you need me, I will be there, and when your strength
fails you, may mine always be there for you.

I pledge to you faithfulness and friendship in good times and
bad, in sickness and in health, from this day forward.

RING CEREMONY:

James:

I take you, my beloved and my best friend, my chosen one, through all of our lives together. I give you this ring, which is bound to my heart. Wear it always as it is my personal gift and promise of my love and trust in you and us.

Sarah's:

I take you, my beloved and my best friend, my chosen one, through all of our lives together. I give you this ring, which is bound to my heart. Wear it always as it is my personal gift and promise of my love and trust in you and us.

READING *By Celebrant: Sharing*

There is no greater happiness
than that of sharing life,
With all its joys, and all its cares,
as a loving husband and wife.

For love gives life new meaning,
and has a special way
of growing stronger, and deeper,
with every passing day.

Yes, life is so much happier and brighter
when you're sharing the very special joys
that come with loving and giving and caring.

Celebrant:

This final reading is being read by a dear friend of **Sarah's**. **Leanne** has been one of **Sarah's** closest friends & confidants for many years.

READING: read by **Leanne Howard**

Our Marriage:

Our marriage is not about what you can give me,
But what you bring to my life.

I know that more than anything,
You want the best for us.

You want to be able to give me everything you think I need,
But believe me when I say that all I need is you.

When I look into your eyes, I can see how much you love me.
Do you know how deeply that touches my heart?
Or how content and fulfilled I am
because I have married my best friend and soul mate?

The things you desire for our future are important to me,
if only because they are important to you.

Don't ever feel that you have to prove anything to me, because
in my heart I know you are capable of fulfilling all our
dreams.

I chose you as the person with whom I want to spend the rest
of my life, because I fell in love with the qualities you possess.

It's never been about what you can give me, but rather what
you bring to my life...

Happiness, laughter, friendship,
and a reason to look to tomorrow.

DECLARATION OF MARRIAGE:

Celebrant:

Ladies & Gentlemen, **James and Sarah** have declared before all of us that they will live together in marriage. They have made special promises to each other. They have also symbolised it by joining hands, taking vows and by exchanging rings.

So, therefore, on your behalf, I now declare them to be husband and wife.

James, you may now kiss your bride.

Celebrant:

Ladies & Gentlemen we will be signing the register for the next few minutes. Please remain seated and enjoy the music selection that **James and Sarah** have chosen.

THE SIGNING:

The register and marriage certificate are signed.

Photographs are taken.

Music stops

Celebrant presents the certificate to the bride & groom

Celebrant:

Ladies & Gentlemen, I have pleasure in presenting to you,

Mr & Mrs James Stables

Could you please be upstanding as they walk out together as man and wife.

The Recession:

Music starts and bridal party walk out