

The below ceremony was requested to be non-denominational and to mostly focus on the couple while including mention of God at certain points. It was a combination of one of my ceremony templates plus their Personality Questionnaire, which I used to write a personal section about them as well as to personalize the other segments of the ceremony. The review left by the couple after the ceremony was:

“I would like to say THANK YOU so much for your services. It was exactly what we envisioned. I am so thankful I found you. Thank you Aaron for making our wedding beautiful.”

Ceremony Script

Herlinda & Rafael

February 7, 2015 @ 8:00 pm

Opening

Officiant: “Dear friends and family, we are gathered here today to witness and celebrate the union of Rafael and Herlinda in marriage. In the years they have been together, their love and understanding of each other has grown and matured, and now they have decided to live their lives together as husband and wife.”

Personal Words

Officiant: “To begin the ceremony, I would like to first speak a few words about the two of them -

Ralph and Lynda both believe that the most important component of life and relationships is love. For them, with love anything is possible and without love, nothing is possible. Throughout the years, they have faced many difficulties with strength, courage, trust and respect. In the end, however, they would say that it is their love for one another that gets them through anything and everything.

In their relationship, they experience a wonderful friendship and hold each other in high regard. They are for one another a real confidant, someone to whom they can entrust their lives, and that one special person in life with whom they can truly be themselves.

Within five minutes of their first meeting, Ralph and Lynda felt inseparable. In Lynda’s own words, ‘There will be that guy or girl that will even lovingly help you to put your shoes on when you can’t bend down to do it; that person who just wants to come home to you so that you can hug them; that person who has seen you at your worst and still loves you, kisses you and holds you until you’re all cried out.’ They see each other as that special person – the answer to each other’s prayers.

Of course, they also recognize that there are moments when they would rather throw shoes at one another than help to tie one another's shoes; but these are only moments that are easily overcome with a bashful 'hello' and a charming smile.

Having been together for ten years their relationship of commitment is certainly not beginning today, but they are taking this occasion to publicly signify that their union is as strong as ever and will continue that way. After the ceremony, it will be to each of them an honor and a blessing to be known as each other's husband or wife. And, although Ralph isn't usually much into dancing, Lynda looks forward to the beautiful dance that he has promised her for their wedding day!

So, thank you Rafael and Lynda for sharing with us the joy that you have found with one another. It will be our honor to witness and recognize the special commitment that you make today."

Readings

Officiant: "Now, a few words about marriage itself:

As you both know, true marriage is more than joining the bonds of marriage of two persons; it is the union of two hearts. It lives on the love you give each other and never grows old, but thrives on the joy of each new day. Marriage is love.

May you continue with the wonderful ability to talk things over, confide in each other, laugh with each other, enjoy life together, and share moments of quiet and peace when the day is done. May you be blessed with a lifetime of happiness and a home of warmth and understanding.

This is a poem titled, "THE ART OF A GOOD MARRIAGE," written by Wilferd Arlan Peterson.

'The little things are the big things. It is never being too old to hold hands. It is remembering to say "I love you" at least once a day. It is never going to sleep angry.

It is never taking the other for granted; the courtship should not end with the honeymoon, it should continue through all the years.

It is having a mutual sense of values and common objectives. It is standing together facing the world. It is forming a circle of love that gathers in the whole family.

It is doing things for each other, not in the attitude of duty or sacrifice but in the spirit of joy. It is speaking words of appreciation and demonstrating gratitude in thoughtful ways.

It is not expecting one partner to wear a halo or the other to have wings of an angel. It is not looking for perfection in each other. It is cultivating flexibility, patience, understanding and a sense of humor.

It is having the capacity to forgive and forget. It is giving each other an atmosphere in which each can grow.

It is finding room for the things of the spirit. It is a common search for the good and the beautiful.

It is establishing a relationship in which the independence is equal, dependence is mutual and the obligation is reciprocal.

It is not only marrying the right partner, it is being the right partner.'

Vows

Officiant: "Rafael, please repeat after me -

I, Rafael take you Herlinda, to be my wife, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better or for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish until death do us part."

Officiant: "Herlinda, please repeat after me -

I, Herlinda take you Rafael, to be my husband, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better or for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish until death do us part."

Exchange of rings

Officiant: "Please bring the rings forward."

(The rings are handed to the couple)

Officiant: "Rafael, as you place the ring upon Herlinda's finger please repeat after me -

As I place this ring onto your finger, you become my lifetime companion, my soul mate, and my forever friend. My love for you is like this ring - it has a start, has a middle but has no end."

(Rafael places the ring on Herlinda's left hand)

Officiant: "Herlinda, as you place the ring upon Rafael's finger please repeat after me -

As I place this ring onto your finger, you become my lifetime companion, my soul mate, and my forever friend. My love for you is like this ring - it has a start, has a middle but has no end.”

(Herlinda places the ring on Rafael’s left hand)

Officiant: “Wedding rings are made precious by our wearing them. Your rings say that even in your uniqueness you have chosen to be bound together.

Let these rings as material gifts between you be signs that love has substance as well as spirit. In their shape, let them be reminders that love has a present as well as a past and that despite its occasional sorrows, love is a circle of happiness, wonder and delight. May these rings remind you always of the vows you have taken here today.”

Closing Prayer

Officiant: “In closing this ceremony, I am sure that I echo the sentiments of all of your family and friends when I say that I wish you many years of happiness. May God’s blessings rest upon you, and may God’s peace abide with you and illuminate your hearts forevermore. Amen.”

Declaration of Marriage

Officiant: “And now, by the vows that you have taken here today, I hereby pronounce you husband and wife. Rafael you may kiss your bride Lynda.”

(After the First Kiss)

Officiant: “I present to you for the first time: Mr. & Mrs. Rafael and Lynda (name deleted for privacy).”