Sample Vows (1)

This occasion has the distinction of being both festive and solemn at the same time.

This is a ceremony and a festival in which we all have a part. Carl and Monique are here today to publicly give their marriage vows to each other. We are here both as witness to these vows and to celebrate their partnership.

In the final accounting, love is what life is all about. Love is many things. Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. Love is not rude, nor self-seeking. Love is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil, but rejoices with the truth. Love always protects, always trusts, always hopes and always perseveres. The fulfillment of love in marriage symbolizes one of life's highest experiences.

Carl and Monique understand that the sharing of their lives is not at the expense of each person's individuality, but rather that each of these partners is all the stronger for having two people, two wills, and two bodies to rely on.

We give ourselves in love, but we do not give our individuality away. A good and balanced relationship is one in which neither person is overpowered by the other. The strength of the marriage comes not from a melting into one, but rather from a forging of two unique and valuable individuals.

Today we witness the vows that Carl and Monique make, but the true union between these two is a private union in their hearts. Into this estate these two people come to give their vows in mutual love, concern, trust and respect.

Carl, as you place the ring on Monique’s finger please repeat these words to her after me. I Carl, take you Monique to be my wife, my love and my best friend. These things I promise to you. I will be faithful to you and honest with you. I respect, trust and cherish you. I will share my life with you. I give you this ring is a sign of my love and commitment to you.

Monique, as you place the ring on Carl’s finger, please repeat these words to him after me. I Monique, take you Carl to be my husband, my love and best friend. These things I promise to you. I will be faithful to you and honest with you. I respect, trust and cherish you. I will share my life with you. I give you this ring is a sign of my love and commitment to you.

In as much as Carl and Monique have this day consented together in the state of matrimony and have pledged their faith to each other, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the State of Florida, I now pronounce you husband and wife.

Version 2

It is one of life's richest surprises when the unexpected meeting of two life paths lead them to proceed together along the common path as husband and wife. It is one of life's finest experiences when a casual relationship grows into a permanent bond of love. This meeting and this growth bring us together today.

Marriage demands courage. The courage to be honest, the courage to grow and change, the courage to say “I’m sorry”, and the courage to sort out together the tasks of everyday living. Marriage is a proud confirmation of the love, trust, respect and true friendship that you have for each other. It is the voluntary union of one man and one women, entered into for life to the exclusion of all others.

Carl and Monique, will you take vows here today which symbolize the manifested vows you have already made and will continue to make to each other throughout your lives?

Carl and Monique together:

We will.

Carl, if it is your desire to become the husband of Monique, will you take her hands in yours and repeat these words to her after me:

I, Carl, take you, Monique, as my friend and love, beside me and apart from me, in laughter and in tears, in conflict and tranquility, asking that you be no other than yourself, loving what I know of you, trusting what I do not yet know, in all the ways that life may find us.

Monique, if it is your desire to become the wife of Carl, continue to hold his hands in yours and you repeat these words to him after me:

I, Monique, take you, Carl, as my friend and love, beside me and apart from me, in laughter and in tears, in conflict and tranquility, asking that you be no other than yourself, loving what I know of you, trusting what I do not yet know, in all the ways that life may find us.

The circle is the symbol of the sun, earth, and universe. It is the symbol of peace. Let these rings be the symbol of unity and peace in which your two lives are joined in one unbroken circle. Wherever you go, return unto one another and to your togetherness.

Carl, please place the ring on Monique’s left hand ring finger and repeat these words to her after me.

“Monique, I give you this ring as a token of my affection. Wear it with happiness and pride, now and forever. From this day forward, you shall not walk this earth alone. My heart will be your shelter and my arms will be your home.”Monique, please place the ring on Carl’s left hand ring finger and repeat these words to him after me.

“Carl, I give you this ring as a token of my love and affection. Wear it with happiness and pride, now and forever. From this day forward, you shall not walk this earth alone. My heart will be your shelter and my arms will be your home.

Carl and Monique, having made these promises to each other today, you have both made the declarations required by law to seal the marriage ceremony. This day will form a special memory in your lives, to look back upon with love and happiness. As you start your wedded lives together, it is my sincere hope that the feelings of love that you both have for each other today will only deepen and grow ever stronger.

Carl and Monique, it now gives me great pleasure, according to the laws of the State of Florida, to now greet you as husband and wife. Carl, you may now kiss your bride.