Ceremony Readings

**Hands Ceremony**   
These are the hands of your best friend, young and strong and full of love for you,   
that are holding yours on your wedding day, as you promise to love each other   
today, tomorrow, and forever. 

These are the hands that will work alongside yours, as together you build your   
future. These are the hands that will passionately love you and cherish you through   
the years, and with the slightest touch, will comfort you like no other. 

These are the hands that will hold you when fear or grief fills your mind. These are   
the hands that will countless times wipe the tears from your eyes; tears of sorrow,   
and tears of joy. These are the hands that will tenderly hold your children. 

These are the hands that will help you to hold your family as one.    
These are the hands that will give you strength when you need it.    
And lastly, these are the hands that even when wrinkled and aged, will still be   
reaching for yours, still giving you the same unspoken tenderness with just a touch.

***How to make a beautiful life together:***

***Reflections on marriage for the Bride and Groom***

Let love be your shelter. The world is noisy and confusing at times, so make a home that is a haven, a peaceful place you can listen to your hearts and savor the comfortable closeness you share.

No matter how busy your days may be, make time for yourselves. Hold hands. Unwind. Surprise each other. Find little chances every day to show you’re grateful to be partners, to be friends to be married.

Life is not perfect. You will make mistakes, but each time you meet life’s challenges together, you will grow wiser, stronger and surer of your love.

Cherish your yesterdays. They are irreplaceable souvenirs of your journey through life. Make memories that will bring smiles and signs whenever you look back. (Look Back Often!)

Look forward, too. Dream together. Plan together. Make promises to keep. Believe in your tomorrows, because tomorrows are what forever is made of.

To make love last, put each other first. That is the way to make a beautiful life together, the kind of life you both deserve so much.

**“The Art Of Marriage”**

Happiness in marriage is not something that just happens.  
A good marriage must be created.  
In the art of marriage 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 at no time 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 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.

It is discovering what marriage can be, at its best.

**MY PROMISE OF LOVE TO YOU**

I PROMISE TO GIVE YOU

THE BEST OF MYSELF,

AND TO ASK YOU NO MORE

THAN YOU CAN GIVE…

I PROMISE TO RESPECTR YOU

AS YOUR OWN PERSON,

AND TO REALIZE THAT YOUR

INTERESTS, DESIRES AND NEEDS

ARE NO LESS IMPORTANT

THAN MY OWN…

I PROMISE TO SHARE WITH YOU

MY TIME AND MY ATTENTION,

AND TO BRING JOY,

STRENGTH AND IMAGINATION

TO OUR RELATIONSHIP…

I PROMISE TO KEEP MYSELF

OPEN TO YOU,

TO LET YOU SEE THROUGH

THE WINDOW OF MY WORLD

INTO MY INNERMOST

FEARS AND FEELINGS,

SECRETS AND DREAMS…

I PROMISE TO GROW ALONG WITH YOU

TO BE WILLING OT FACE CHANGES

AS WE BOTH CHANGE

IN ORDER TO KEEP OUR RELATIONSHIP

ALIVE AND EXCITING…

I PROMISE TO LOVE YOU

IN GOOD TIMES AND IN BAD,

WITHALL I HAVE TO GIVE

AND ALL I FEEL INSIDE

IN THE ONLY WAY I KNOW HOW

COMPLETELY AND FOREVER.

**TREASURE THIS DAY**

TREASURE THIS DAY ALWAYS, FOR ON YOUR WEDDING DAY YOU WILL NOT ONLY BE EXCHANGING VOWS IN CELEBRATION OF YOUR LOVE…YOU WILL BE BUILDING BEAUTIFUL MEMORIES FOR A LIFETIME. MEMORIES AS PRECIOUS AS THE GOLD OF YOUR WEDDING RINGS. AS BEAUTIFUL AS THE LOVE THAT DRAWS YOU CLOSE.

MEMORIES AS WARM AS THE SMILES OF THOSE WHO SHARE YOUR HAPPINESS TODAY…AS BRIGHT AS THE PROMISE THE FUTURE HOLDS FOR YOU Both. MEMORIES THAT YOU WILL CHERISH MORE AND MORE WITH EACH YEAR, OF LOVE YOU SHARE.

TREAUSE THIS DAY ALWAYS, REMEMBER IT’S BEAUTY, IT’S JOY, IT’S PROMISE…BUT MOST OF ALL, REMMEBER HOW YOU FEEL WHEN YOU LOOK AT EACH OTHER TODAY.

FOR IF YOU CARRY THAT WITH YOU EACH DAY OF YOUR LIFE TOGETHER, YOUR MARRIAGE WILL BE RICH, EVEN ON A LESS PERFECT DAY, AND A LIFETIME OF LOVE WILL BE YOURS TO TREASURE.

**What Love is**

Sooner or later we begin to understand that love is more than verses on valentines and romance in the movies.   
We begin to know that love is here and now, real and true, the most important thing in our lives.

For love is the creator of our favorite memories and the foundation of our fondest dreams.   
Love is a promise that is always kept, a fortune that can never be spent, a seed that can flourish in even the most unlikely of places.   
And this radiance that never fades, this mysterious and magical joy, is the greatest treasure of all - one known only by those who love.

Author Unknown

**Marriage Means Being In Love for the Rest of Your Life**

Written by Chris Ardis

Marriage is love walking hand in hand together. It's laughing with each other about silly little things, and learning to discuss big things with care and tenderness. In marriage, love is trusting each other when you're apart. It's getting over disappointments and hurts, knowing that these are present in all relationships. It's the realization that there is no one else in this world that you’d rather be with than the one you're married to. It's thinking of new things to do together; It's growing old together. Marriage is being in love for the rest of your life.

**Wisdom by Bob Marley**

He’s not perfect. You aren’t either, and the two of you will never be perfect. But if he can make you laugh at least once, causes you to think twice, and if he admits to being human and making mistakes, hold onto him and give him the most you can.

He isn’t going to quote poetry, he’s not thinking about you every moment, but he will give you a part of him that he knows you could break. Don’t hurt him, don’t change him, and don’t expect for more than he can give. Don’t analyze.

Smile when he makes you happy, yell when he makes you mad, and miss him when he’s not there. Love hard when there is love to be had. Because perfect guys don’t exist, but there’s always one guy that is perfect for you.