

Sample Promises of Commitment for Weddings

Introduction

Many couples today who are planning a wedding or service of blessing choose to write their own vows or statements of commitment. Others prefer traditional, time-tested language.

A “good” vow or statement of commitment is one which allows your inner heart and integrity to come through to the one you love. Although we often call them “vows”, they are not contracts. But they are emblematic of your growing love and commitment.

There are no right or wrong statements of commitment. But couples wishing to customize their promises should use simple, straightforward language, phrased in brief lines which are easy to repeat or to memorize. They need not be long to be eloquent and meaningful.

On the following pages are several sample promises or vows. They are given as examples of thought, sentiment, style and wording. You may select one of these as it is, “edit” it to suit your tastes and your hearts, or write something completely different. Although it is less typical, some couples choose different promises — there is no rule that each partner must repeat the same words.

If possible, discuss your selection or customized wording in advance with the pastor or officiant for your wedding, who may be helpful, not in changing your thoughts and sentiments, but in improving the language so that it communicates most clearly.

Sample Statements

Form 1¹

I take you, (name) ,
to be my *husband/wife* from this day forward,
to join with you
and share all that is to come
and I promise to be faithful to you
until death parts us.

¹ LBW.

Form 2²

In the presence of God and this community of friends,
I (name), take you, (name), to be my *husband/wife*;
to have and to hold from this day forward,
in joy and in sorrow,
in plenty and in want,
in sickness and in health,
to love and to cherish,
as long as we both shall live.
This is my solemn *vow/promise*.

Form 3³

(name), my beloved one, the great joy of my life,
I promise before God and before these witnesses
that I will be faithful to you
and honest with you,
I will love you and care for you,
and I will forgive you as we have been forgiven.
I join my life to yours,
and will share with you all that is to come,
until death parts us.

Form 4⁴

(name), I take you to be my partner in life and in love.
When we are together, life is warm, safe, satisfying and passionate.
When we are apart, I carry you in my heart.
On this day, I affirm the relationship that we have enjoyed,
looking to the future to deepen and strengthen it.
I promise to love you wholly and completely,
without restraint, in sickness and in health,
in plenty and in poverty,
in this life and beyond.
I do not seek to change you in any way,
but I respect you as God has given you to me.
This is my solemn promise.

² ELW.

³ M/J wedding 043008.

⁴ Also M/J wedding 043008.

Form 5⁵

I take you, (name)
to be my companion and mate
from this day forward
to join with you and share all that is to come,
and with the help of God
I promise to be faithful to you
as long as we are given life together.

Form 6⁶

In the name of God, I (name),
take you, (name), to be my companion;
and I solemnly promise
here with our witnesses and before God:
 to stand beside you and with you always;
 in times of celebration and times of sadness;
 in times of pleasure and times of anger;
 in times of pain and times of health.
I will live with you and love you
as long as we both shall live.

Form 7⁷

(name),
You are my family,
you are my home
I am alive with you
You help me face fears and
I am encouraged with you;
I experience forgiveness with you and
I grow with you.
I am faithful to my highest self with you
and that allows me to be faithful to you.
I love you with all my being,
and my dream is to grow old with you.

⁵ Adapted from the provisional Lutheran rite (Inter Lutheran Commission on Worship, *The Marriage Service*, 1972).

⁶ Adapted from Form 2 of the Celebration and Blessing of a Covenant in Love, Episcopal Diocese of Rochester, New York, ca. 1990.

⁷ Lutherans Concerned/North America publication.

Form 8⁸

(name), my beloved and my friend,
I solemnly promise before God
and our dearest friends as my witness,
that I will be faithful to you and honest with you;
I will love you and care for you,
I will share my life with you;
I will forgive you as we have been forgiven;
and with you I will try to fully understand
our lives, our selves, and God
until death parts us.



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⁸ From N/VS service, 08131988.