



Simple Choices - Readings

There are hundreds of web sites, books, friends and relatives that can provide helpful advice and unlimited choices for the structure and wording of your ceremony. For those of you who find this a little daunting I've put together some of my favourites for you to choose from.

Always love each other

If you can always be as close and happy as today
Yet be secure enough to grow and change along the way
If you can keep for you alone your love as man wife
Yet find the time to share your joy with others in your life
If you can be as one and walk through marriage hand in hand
Yet still support the goals and dreams that each of you have planned
If you can dare to always go your separate ways together
Then all the wonder of today will stay with you forever



From Budha

Like the energy from within the sun, a great marriage is the sum more than its parts; it shines like rays of goodness from the fusion of souls in harmony. And like the sun, its brilliance knows the relationship to time, a brilliance that will light your path, and warm your hearts, and guide you safely forward into the journey of your life. Let this marriage be that fusion of inspiration for those to follow



If You're Lucky

If you're lucky in life
The hand you are holding
Is the one that also holds your heart.

If you're lucky in life
The eyes you gaze into
Will reflect your own hopes for the future

If you're lucky in life
The heart you trust
Will cherish the gift of your love



Time does not stand still
But one moment in time can stretch till eternity.
One moment when eyes meet and sparkle
In a place known only to two,
Where warm sands and salt in the air are perfect,
but would not be so without the presence of the other,
hands entwined and ocean air breathed as one.
This moment is your love.

It is in this moment that you commit
In this moment that you trust
In this moment that you will spend your lives,
As lovers, partners and friends.
The nights when the breath of ones
Lulls the other into shared dreams has just begun.
A lifetime stretches before you
But you are not daunted.
For you will live each day together.
Together in the moment,
Together in love

-Melissa Bell-

I love you

You are my best friend.
Today I give myself to you in marriage.
I promise to encourage and inspire you,
To laugh with you, and to comfort you in times of sorrow and struggle.
I promise to love you in good times and in bad,
When life seems easy and when it seems hard,
When our love is simple and when it is an effort.
I promise to cherish you, and to always hold you in highest regard.
These things I give to you today, and in all the days of our life.



Native American Affirmation

(may also be used in vows)

My feet run because of you.
My feet dance because of you.
My heart beats because of you.
My eyes see because of you.
My mind thinks because of you.
And I shall love because of you.



Arabic Blessing

You are my friend. And a friend is one to whom one may pour out all the contents of one's heart, chaff and grain together, knowing that the gentlest of hands will take and sift it, keep what is worth keeping and, with the breath of kindness, blow the rest away.



True Love

True love is a sacred flame
That burns eternally,
And none can dim its special glow
Or change its destiny
True love speaks in tender tones
And hears with gentle ear,
True love gives with open heart
And true love conquers fear,
True love makes no harsh demands,
It neither rules nor binds,
And true love holds with gentle hands
The hearts that it entwines.



-From September -

But of deep love is the desire to give
More than the living touch of warmth and fire,
More than the shy comfort of the little flesh and hands;
It is the need to give
Down to the last dark kernel of the heart,
Down to the final gift of mind;
It is the need to give you that release which comes
Only of understanding, and to know
Trust without whimpering doubt and fear.

-Josephine Johnson-





When you first came into my life.....

I had no idea how easy you would be to talk to. And I never imagined that our early conversations would grow into such a strong friendship. I never suspected that we'd discover so many common interests and values or that I could ever enjoy simple pleasures as much as when they are shared with you. I never thought we'd have so many warm happy times together, or that your compassion would help so much to ease me through the rougher times. I didn't expect to feel so soon as though I'd known you forever.

Or to trust you so easily with my secrets and deepest feelings. I never thought your support could make my successes sweeter and my losses easier to accept. I never imagined that I would grow to want, to need and to love you so much. When you first came into my life I never dreamed you'd soon be someone I couldn't live without....



What greater thing is there for two human souls
than to feel that they are joined together
to strengthen each other in all labor,
to minister to each other in all sorrow,
to share with each other in all gladness,
to be one with each other in the silent unspoken memories?

- George Eliot -





Not from pride, but from humility
As mortals, with human weaknesses
And strengths
You stand alone today
And promise faith.
Your faith you find as you live,
Each moment consecrated to
A search for Truth
And for that Good
Whose presence you have deeply felt.

NOW:

From this time, until
The time you must rejoin the
Earth from which you came,
Love and love in you that underlies
Your actions.
And with each other,
Share your wonder at the beauty
That you find
As Man and Wife.

– James Lawson –



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". It is at no time taking the other for granted. It is having a mutual sense of values and common objectives; it is standing together facing the world. It is doing things for each other, not in the attitude of duty or sacrifice, but in the spirit of joy. It is not expecting perfection in each other. It is cultivating flexibility, patience, understanding, and a sense of humor. It is having a capacity to forgive and forget. It is establishing a relationship in which the independence is equal, the dependence is mutual, and the obligation is reciprocal. It is a common search for the good and the beautiful. It is not marrying the right



partner; it is being the right partner. It is discovering that your love for one another at its best will never lose sight of or be blotted out by the commonplace experiences of life.

Marriage is love

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

Marriage is togetherness.

If both derive pleasure from the mere presence of each other,
yet when parted 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.

Gloria Matthew



We Will Not Wish you Joy

We will not wish you joy on this great day,
For Joy is in your hearts and goes with you along the fragrant,
mystic, sunlit way;

We will not wish you joy whilst love is new.

But this is our wish----May you be strong enough

To shelter love, and keep it safe from harm,

When winds blow high, and roads are steep and rough,

May you protect your love, preserve its charm.

When days are dark, may love be your sure light.

When days are cold, may love be your right fire,

Your guiding star when hope is out of sight,

The essence and sun of your desire.

May love be with you through the flight of years,

Then after storms, there will always be calm.

Though you have cause for heartache and for tears,



Despair lasts not, when love is there for balm.
This be the prayer we breathe for you today:
When you have reached the summit of life's hill,
May it be possible for you to say:
"Married long years, but we are lovers still."

Love

Love is friendship that has caught fire.
It is quiet understanding, mutual confidence, sharing and forgiving.
It is loyalty through good and bad times.
It settles for less than perfection and makes allowances for human weaknesses.

Love is content with the present, it hopes for the future,
and it doesn't brood over the past.
It's the day-in and day-out chronicle of irritations,
problems, compromises,
small disappointments, big victories and working toward common goals.
If you have love in your life, it can make up,
for a great many things that are missing.
If you don't have love in your life, no matter what else there is,
It's not enough.