

# VOWS:

## SOME ALTERNATIVE WAYS OF COMMITTING YOURSELF TO YOUR PARTNER

### WHAT THIS HANDOUT IS ABOUT

The following offers several forms of vows that you might like to use, or which might inspire you to create your own. You can substitute any word or words you like for "God" in these, whatever is meaningful for both of you. Several example words that you might like to use when exchanging rings (or for a similar marking of your coming together) are also included.

#### 1. EXAMPLE VOWS

I VOW to be your other half, the part of you that makes you whole. I vow to stand by you, to protect you, and to nurture you. I will care for you like for no other. You are my life's companion, my helper and my joy. In all these things and more, I vow to be for you likewise. This day, I vow to honour the love that we share. Together we will go forward, side-by-side, adventurers into the unknown.



MY LOVE, what promises can I make that are adequate for how I feel? You are my precious friend, my soul mate, my beautiful aide and companion. I vow not to be found lacking in the love I give to you, To be your support and your rock, your shoulder to cry on and your morning star. I vow to hold your wishes close to my heart, To be your mirror and your most intimate wonder. I vow to stand by you when you face times of trouble, To share your tears of laughter when joy fills your world, To be your defender and your counsellor when you face times of questioning. I vow to be yours, as you vow to be mine. Let our souls be united, my precious love.



I VOW to be your companion and your support, to walk step-by-step with you at your side. We are soul mates, brought together in love for a union that's meant to be. I will not wittingly hinder you nor stand in your way, but I give you my promise to be faithful to the special contract that we make together. I am wedded to you, your loyal friend, and I promise to give you all of my self that will best serve you. With my vow made today, I promise to help you grow into the [man/woman] that you are meant to be, as you promise to help me. I will be your mirror, your soul's complement, your lover. I honour you and accept you as you are, imperfect like me, but beautiful and precious beyond measure.



I VOW to do my honourable best to love you every day, in every breath, for the rest of my life. I vow to respect you, protect you, care for you, and honour you, to the very best of my ability. I vow to do all I can to let you live in the freedom of being who you truly are. I vow to always have the courage to learn from you what it means to love you.



Bride: GOD has given me a second chance at happiness. You have helped me let go of the past, and to embrace the future with trust and an open heart. With strength from the Divine, I promise to wipe away your tears with my laughter, and your pain with my caring and my compassion. Let us wipe out the old canvases of our lives, and fill them with new colour, harmony and beauty. I come today to give you my love, to give you my heart in the light of the Divine for our future together. I promise to bring you joy, to be at home with your spirit and to learn to love you more each day, Bless you for taking my hand as we begin anew.

Groom: You have been my friend since my heart began to beat. I have loved you since you entered into my conscious thought. I wish to be your guiding light that reflects the love in your heart to be near you this day until I draw my last breath. I choose you, my beautiful bride, to be my wife. To lift you up above all others and to be the ember that burns brightly in your heart. With strength from the Divine, I promise to love you, care for you, to share laughter with you and to sleep in your warm embrace. I promise to keep myself open to you, to let you see through the window of my world into my innermost fears and feelings. To be at home with your spirit and to learn to love you more each day, bless you for taking my hand as we begin anew.



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 put you in highest regard.  
These things I give to you today, and all the days of our life.



WE pledge to each other to be loving friends and partners in marriage.  
To talk and listen, to trust and appreciate one another;  
to respect and cherish each other's uniqueness;  
and to support, comfort and strengthen each other through life's joys and sorrows.  
We promise to share hopes, thoughts and dreams as we build our lives together.  
May our lives be ever intertwined, our love keeping us together.  
We will build a home that is compassionate to all, full of respect  
and honour for others and each other.  
May our home be forever filled with peace, happiness and love.



TODAY I will marry my friend,  
The one I will live with, dream with and love.  
I take you to be my husband/wife.  
From this day forward I will cherish you,  
I will look with joy down the path about tomorrows,  
knowing we were walking together side-by-side, hand-in-hand and heart-to-heart.

I promise to love you above all others and to value your friendship as a precious gift.  
I look forward to raising our family and building our relationship under the care  
guidance of God.  
I promise to stand beside you in sickness or health, in times of  
Prosper and decline, peace and informal, as long as we both  
shall live.



I (name) TAKE YOU (name), to be my beloved wife/husband, to happen to hold you, to  
honour you, to treasure you, to be at your side in sorrow and enjoy, to laugh with you  
in the good times, to comfort and solace you in the difficult, and to love and cherish  
you always.  
I promise you this from my heart, with my soul, for all the days of my life, eternal.



I (name) TAKE YOU (name), to be my beloved wife/husband, to have you and hold  
you, to honour you, to treasure you, to be at your side in sorrow and in joy, to grow  
with you and to be transformed, to love and cherish you always.  
I promise you this from my heart, with my soul, for all the days of my life, and, if God  
wills, beyond the walls of life, beyond the bounds of time.



I (name) TAKE YOU (name), to be my lawful wedded wife/husband, to have and to  
hold, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and  
in health, to love and cherish, until death do us part. This is my solemn vow.  
(Traditional)



I (name) TAKE YOU (name), to be my husband/wife, and these things I promise you:  
I will be faithful to you and honest with you. I will respect, trust, help and care for you.  
I will share my life with you. I will try with you to better understand ourselves, the world,  
and God, through the best and worst of what is to come, as long as we live.



I (name) TAKE YOU to be my husband/wife, to laugh with you in joy, to grieve with you  
in sorrow, to grow with you in love, serving humankind in peace and hope, as long as  
we both shall live.



I (name) TAKE YOU (name), to be my wedded wife/husband. With deepest joy I receive you into my life that together we may be one.



We WILL keep faith until the sky falls upon us and until the seas rise and overwhelm us.  
(a Celtic Vow)



I (name) TAKE YOU (name), in marriage;  
To be my life partner;  
To walk, run, and dance this new path together;  
to love, care and share;  
to let the winds dance between us;  
let the fires burn within us;  
and the waters flow through us;  
on our sacred journey together.

I (name) ASK YOU (name),  
To be my partner, my lover, my friend and my wife/husband.  
I declare my intention to give you my deepest friendship and love  
In the ups and downs

not only when you remember who you are  
but when you forget  
not only when you are acting with love  
but when you are not.  
It is my intention to be with you for life  
in a partnership of body and Soul  
showing all that is good within us  
with all those whose lives we touch.



I VOW to support you in reaching your own goals and to aid you in reaching our joint goals. In this way I will be your partner in all undertakings.



I VOW to foster your growth and help you reach your highest potential.



I VOW to always treat you with kindness and respect and take on an equal share of our burdens.



I VOW to strive to be aware of all your needs and to act well upon that awareness.



I VOW to always be open and honest with you.



I VOW to have no other lover while you live.



I VOW to put your above all others and to hold your interests above those of all others.



We HEREBY make these vows known to all, that anyone may reproach as for failing to live up to them in any way.



I PROMISE to make our love and friendship last. I trust that our union will remain strong always. May we look to our future together with hope, happiness and joy, and never allow anything to destroy the feelings we share for each other.



I PROMISE to give you the best of myself  
and to ask of you no more than you give.  
I promise to respect you as your own person  
And to realise 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 my world into my innermost  
fears and feelings, secrets and dreams.  
I promise to grow along with you,  
to be willing to face changes in order to keep our relationship  
alive and exciting.  
I promise to love you in good times and bad,  
with all I have to give and all I feel inside in the only way I know how.  
Completely and forever. (Dorothy Colgan)



I VOW to always treat you with respect, and remind myself often of what brought us together.  
I will give the highest priority to the tenderness, gentleness and kindness that your connection to me deserves.  
When frustrations and difficulty and fear assail our relationship, as they threaten all relationships at one time or another, I will focus on what is right between us.  
I will remember that even if I lose sight of it for a moment, the sun in our relationship is still there so that the quality of our life together will always be marked by abundance and delight. (Personal, Kevin)

## 2. EXAMPLE RING BLESSINGS

MAY these rings join you one another in happiness, joy and fulfilment.  
May these rings join you one another in honesty, trust and commitment.  
May these rings join you one another in encircling and never-ending love.  
As you wear them, may they always remind you of this precious moment.



AS YOU exchange these rings, may you remember that they represent your commitment and promise to one another.

Bride, then Groom:

Let this ring be a symbol that my love has no end  
all that I am, I get to you  
all that I have, I share with you.



A CIRCLE is the symbol of the sun, the moon, the Earth, the Universe. It is an ancient, and universal, symbol of wholeness, eternity and peace.

As you exchange these rings today, may they serve as a reminder of your vows.  
May they join you, always, in love.



THESE RINGS represent circles of love and circles of life. We wish for you love never ending, and may your life together be as strong and radiant as the precious metal from which these rings are made.



I GIVE YOU this ring, and with it, all that I have and all that I am.



WITH these rings we unite our hearts and tenderness and devotion.

We will honour each other's cultures as we join customs to form a trusting relationship.

We will protect, support, and encourage each other through life's joys and sorrow as we create a loving future.

We promise to establish a home for ourselves and our children shaped by our respective heritages;

a loving environment dedicated to peace, hope, and respect for all people.

From this day forward our lives will be intertwined forever,

Blessed in faith, filled with compassion, understanding and love.