

WEDDING VOW RENEWAL SERVICE

Genesis 2:20-24; Ephesians 5:22-33; 1 Corinthians 13

Some time ago you two decided to get married. You exchanged vows expressing your love for one another and the desire to spend the rest of your lives together. You also placed a ring on each other's finger as a visible sign of your vows. Now, years later you are once again standing beside each other to verbally and visibly express your desire to continue your lives together in marriage.

Through your years together you have SHARED many things: children, joys, sorrows, excitements, uncertainties, difficulties, questions and countless other things.

You have also LEARNED one another - what your partner likes or dislikes. You have learned how your mate thinks and reacts. You have shared the innermost secrets of each other's heart. You know each other to the tiniest detail. You even know what your sweetheart is thinking and what the action/reaction is going to be.

You have found out that it took WORK to keep your marriage going. It took FORGIVENESS. It took UNDERSTANDING. It took a lot of LOVE. It took PATIENCE. It took GIVING without receiving. It took ACCEPTING without question. It took GENTLENESS. It took COOPERATION. It took a thousand other things that you learned how to do. That's why you are still married.

Vows have an important place with God. He warns us to be very careful how we make our vows for He expects us to be truthful, honest and faithful to what we vow to do or not do. Let me ask you now, "are you ready to renew your wedding vows, understanding that God expects you to keep your vows to one another and that they may be broken only by death or adultery?"

Their ANSWER

TO THE HUSBAND: (call him by name)

"Will you give honor to your wife, love her, take care of her, whether she is sick or well; will you continue to be her constant companion, having no interest in any other woman but her; will you accept her as God's gift to you and treat her accordingly?"

His ANSWER

"Then repeat after me: 'I (his name).....promise before God that I will honor you as my wife, I will love you, take care of you, no matter what. I will be your constant companion and will have interest in no other woman. I accept you as God's gift and I will treat you with all due respect as God's precious gift to me as long as I shall live.'"

TO THE WIFE: (call her by name)

"Will you give honor to your husband, love him, take care of him, whether he is sick or well; Will you continue to be his constant companion, having no interest in any other man but him; Will you accept him as God's gift to you and treat him accordingly?"

Her ANSWER

"Then repeat after me: **"I.....(her name)....promise before God that I will honor you as my husband, I will love you, take care of you, no matter what. I will be your constant companion and will have interest in no other man. I accept you as God's gift and I will treat you with all due respect as God's precious gift to me as long as I shall live."**

Do you remember the wedding ring? The purity of the metal is a symbol of the purity of your marriage and the unending circle is a symbol of the unending vows you took years ago.

TO THE HUSBAND:

Take her hand in yours and place your fingers around the ring you gave her expressing your unending love and repeat after me:

"....(her name).....I once again pledge my life and love to you and this ring is an expression of my unending love for you. I love you with all my heart and life."

TO THE WIFE:

Take his hand in yours and place your fingers around the ring you gave him expressing your unending love and repeat after me:

".....(his name).....I once again pledge my life and my love to you and this ring is an expression of my unending love for you. I love you with all my heart and life."

This day you have, before God and one another, renewed the vows you once took years ago. God has given each of you to the other and in His eyes you are ONE. Each of you has a way of life God established to live as husband and wife and if you follow His prescribed ways, your remaining years together can be more enjoyable than you could have ever imagined. I therefore encourage you to live your lives together following God's plans for you lives.

In as much as you have renewed your vows to one another and have been reminded of the ring's significance, there is but one thing left to do to complete the renewal of your vows -

YOUR VOWS MUST BE SEALED WITH A KISS - Therefore, seal your vows.....