

Readings

The author has put this collection together as a result of many requests from couples to provide suggestions for something different for ceremonies. This book is the accumulated experience of over fourteen years of being a civil celebrant. The author has selected sections of ceremonies that have appealed to her.

She hopes that couples find it a useful, workable model from which to build their own ceremony. There are also included suggestions for music. The final section is on special ceremonies that can be worked into the order of ceremony.

There are nine readings which can be mixed and matched that are contained in this document.

The Readings section further expresses the couple's beliefs.

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Janet

www.CivilWeddings.com.au



Option One

To my special partner;
I sit and wonder as I shift through all the things
that I want to say to you, I've never been one
to have a lot to say, so here goes.

I promise to love you
through the good times and the bad.

I promise to support you
through the endeavour of career and home.

In times of need,
I'll be there to comfort.

In times of sickness,
I'll be there to offer help.

In times of strife,
I'll lend an open ear to words of wisdom.

In whole, the one thing I can give you,
Is all my love.

I love you

Option Two

Summum Bonum (Robert Browning)

All the breath and the bloom of the year
In the bag of one bee:
All the wonder and wealth of the mine
In the heart of one gem:
In the core of one pearl all the shade and
The shine of the sea:
Breath, and bloom, shade and shine,-
Wonder, wealth, and – how far above them –
Truth, that's brighter than gem,
Trust that's purer than pearl, -
Brightest truth, purest trust in the universe –
All were for me,
In the kiss of one girl.

Option Three

I always will

I will always promise to give you the best of myself, and to ask you no more than you can give.

I will always respect you as a person with your own interests, desires and needs, and to realise that those are sometimes different, but no less important than my own.

I will always share with you my time, my close attention, and to bring joy and strength and imagination to our relationship.

I will always pledge to keep myself open to you, to let you see through the window of my personal world, into my innermost fears and feelings, secrets and dreams.

I will always promise to grow along with you, to be willing to face change as we both change, in order to keep our relationship alive and exciting.

I will always love you in good times and in bad, with all I have to give and with all I feel inside, in the only way I know how, completely and forever.

Option Four

What greater thing is there
for two human souls
than to feel that they are joined for life –
to strengthen each other in all sorrow,
to minister to each other in all pain,
to be one with each other in silent unspeakable memories.

Option Five

I want
to share my secrets with you
and be honest with you;
to understand and respect you,
accepting you as you are;
to find shelter in you
when I am afraid
and hold you when I need warmth;
to be with you through all seasons;
walking with you in the sunshine
and cuddling you in the cold...

Option Six

I want
to live and love with you and be one forever;
to be near you so I can reach out and touch you;
to make love with you,
talk with you, and be silent with you;
to hold you close every night
and wake up with you each morning...

I want
to share my secrets with you and be honest with you;
to understand and respect you, accepting you as you are;
to find shelter in you when I am afraid and hold you when I need
warmth;
to be with you through all seasons, walking with you in the sunshine
and cuddling you in the cold...

I want
to care for you when you are ill
and be joyful with you when you are happy;
to grow old with you and be with you until the end of time...

I want
all of these things with you only.
I would do all of these things for you only.
To you only, I give all of my love.

Option Seven

In marriage we make promises to each other. We promise to exercise our love, to stretch it large enough to embrace the unforeseen realities of the future. We promise to learn, to love beyond the level of our instincts and inclinations, to love in foul weather and in good.

And we change because of these promises. We shape ourselves according to them. We live in their midst and feel secure. The vows of marriage make us feel free: free to see, to be, to love. Because we have been promised a future, we can take extraordinary chances; because we have been chosen, we can transcend our insecurities. We can make mistakes, knowing that we will not be cast out; take missteps, knowing someone will be there to catch us. And mistakes and missteps are the stuff of change, in marriage we can expand to our fullest capacity. In marriage our souls are protected; our hearts have come home.

To make this relationship work, therefore, takes more than love. It takes trust, to know in your hearts that you want only the best for each other. It takes dedication, to stay open to one another, to learn and grow, even when it is difficult to do so. And it takes faith, to go forward together without knowing what the future holds for you both. While love is our natural state of being, these other qualities are not so easy to come by.

They are not a destination, but a journey

Option Eight

One Hand One Heart

Make of our hands, one hand
Make of our hearts, one heart
Make of our vows, one last vow
Only death can part us now

Make of our lives, one life
Day after day, one life
Now we being, now it starts
One hand, one heart

Even death can't part us now.

Option Nine

Softly, A Story (Harri Garnett)

When your eyes first looked to mine
The world stood still as if it lost time,
Neither of us knowing why,
Just knowing love was ours to try

we held each other into the night
Our hearts were soaring as if in flight,
Whispered words upon the air
we told each other we would always care.

Even though we are worlds apart,
One cannot deny feelings of the heart.
We have loved in rain and snow
We have made a place for our love to grow.

As time goes by the world will understand
Why I put my heart into your hands
Some day, with spoken glory,
We, together, will tell the world softly, a story