

RENEWAL OF VOWS

We are gathered here in the sight of God to give testimony of His work of grace and love as He has brought your two lives together to become one. Your marriage is an honorable estate, instituted and blessed by God through His love, counsel and strength. God, in the very creation of man and woman established the covenant of marriage, based on His power to make two one.

Genesis 2:24 reveals His heart:

"For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh."

As you come today to once again affirm this covenant in your lives, you give testimony and public commitment of your desire to continue the covenant of marriage as you have entered into it.

Based on the truth of I Corinthians 13:1-8a:

"And now I will show you the most excellent way. If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing. Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails."

Will you continue to walk with each other before the Lord and His strength:

For better or for worse; for richer or for poorer; in sickness and in health; to love and to cherish until death do you part?

(Answer: "I will.")

SERMON

VOWS

Your words of promise are the bond of your heart stated first before the Lord now to each other. As you have walked in the good times and bad; times of plenty and want; seasons of sickness and health; feeling of love and value.

Share this covenant with the blessing of God's wisdom based on Ephesians 5:22:

"Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord."

Men

I _____ love you _____ as Christ loves the church. I do promise by His help to give myself up for you to make you holy, cleansed and washed with the water of salvation and His Word. By God's help and in His strength I will do all I can to present you to God as radiant, without stain or wrinkle, but holy and blameless. I will love you as I do my own self in the oneness God has given us as husband and wife. I renew this promise to you today by the help of God.

Women

I _____ love you _____ as Christ loves me. With God's continued help, I will submit my will to the Lord daily so that He can mold it to be used in support and strength to you. For as Christ is head of the church, I desire you to be the avenue to God's blessing and ministry into my life. In good times and bad; in the tears and laughter; in the silence and the sharing; in times of health and sickness; in blessing and trial. I will come along side you in the oneness God has given us as husband and wife. I renew this promise to you today by the help of God.

PRAYER

Since your hearts are open to God's touch, your desires are for each other. Your promises are founded on the covenant of marriage.

I pronounce God's continual blessing of His covenant of marriage with God and you and your lives as one in Him.

You may now kiss each other.