

Mary & John Wedding Ceremony
Parkway Bible Church
April 10, 2017

WELCOME COMMENTS

Pastor Jeff: Good afternoon, everybody. On behalf of the Mary and John, I want to welcome you today to Mary and John's celebration of love and commitment to one another. The Bible says that God is love, and those who abide in love, abide in God, and God abides in them. We are gathered here today in the sight of God, and the presence of friends and loved ones, to celebrate one of life's greatest moments and to add our best wishes and blessings to the words which shall unite Mary and John in holy matrimony.

Pastor Jeff to Audience: You may be seated.

PRESENTATION OF THE Mary

Pastor Jeff: Who is it that brings this woman to be married to this man?

Mary's father says "I do."

Pastor Jeff: Mary and John, to this moment, in the presence of God's Holy Spirit, you bring the fullness of your hearts as a treasure to share with one another. You bring dreams which bind you together. You bring your particular personalities and spirits out of which will flow the reality of your lives together. We rejoice with you now as you express the outward symbol of the inward union of your hearts. It is a union that has already been created by friendship, by respect, and by love.

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---Move to stage.---

AFFIRMATION OF LOVE

Pastor Jeff to Mary and John: Mary and John, as the two of you come into this marriage uniting you as husband and wife, and as you this day affirm your faith and love to God and for one another, I would ask that you always remember to lead this marriage by walking in the Spirit, honoring each other as special and unique individuals, that you respect the thoughts, ideas, and suggestions of one another. Be able to forgive, do not hold grudges, and live each day that you may share it together - because from this day forward you shall be each other's home, comfort, and refuge. Your marriage will be strengthened by your keeping Jesus Christ at the center of it, walking by the Spirit, and standing on God's Word.

Just as two threads woven in opposite directions will form a most beautiful tapestry, so too can your two lives, merged together, make a beautiful marriage. But love doesn't come easy. God's Word says that:

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.

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Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.

*It always protects, always trusts, always hopes,
always perseveres.*

And most importantly, love never dies. Love never fails.

THE CHALLENGE

Pastor Jeff to John: John, God's word asks you to love your wife the same way that Christ loved the church. My prayer for you is that today as you take these vows, that you do so with the same kind of commitment Jesus had in His heart for the church when he died for her. Let your love for Mary be a sacrificial love.

Pastor Jeff to Mary: Mary, God's word says you are to respect your husband; that the best way for you to tell John you love him is to respect him. My prayer for you today as you take these vows is that you do so with a firm commitment in your heart to respect John as a man of God, as the leader and priest of your household, and as the one who has committed to love you sacrificially the way Christ loves the church.

Pastor Jeff to Mary and John: The challenge set before you in this marriage is that you both give the highest priority to loving each other the way that God's Word tells us to do so. When frustration and difficulties arise - as they do to every relationship at one time or another – press into God and focus on what still seems right between

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you, *not only the part that seems wrong*. If each of you do your part in this way, your marriage will be marked by abundance and delight.

Pastor Jeff to John: John, will you, by God's help through His Holy Spirit, provide Mary the care, understanding, respect, devotion, validation, and reassurance that her heart longs for? If you're ready to accept this charge will you acknowledge by answering "I Will"?

I Will

Pastor Jeff to Mary: Mary, will you, by God's help through His Holy Spirit provide John the trust, acceptance, appreciation, admiration, approval, and encouragement that his heart longs for? If you're ready to accept this charge will you so acknowledge by answering "I Will"?

I Will

Pastor Jeff to Mary and John: The Christian marriage is not just two people living for each other and raising a family. Marriage is a Christian institution designed by God serve His Kingdom and to serve the world through love and spiritual gifts and through the power of Spirit baptism. If you believe this to be true, will you so acknowledge by answering "We Do"?

We Do

Pastor Jeff to Mary and John: Mary and John, is it your purpose to establish a home that is Christ-centered, where His word is read and obeyed; a home that is united in prayer, in which you seek the

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direction of God's Spirit to meet the challenges of your marriage? If this is your purpose will you so acknowledge by answering "It Is"?

It Is

EXCHANGE OF VOWS AND RINGS

Pastor Jeff to Mary and John: As you exchange your vows and rings with one another, will you please turn and join hands?

Pastor Jeff to John: John, after much prayer and counsel, this woman, whom you hold by the hand, is to be your wife. She is prepared to give you her heart. She is prepared to trust you. As your helpmate, she will make you a better man by bringing to you strengths that you don't have. You have the power to bring her great joy or cause her great sorrow. Is it your desire to provide for Mary a home where there is love and acceptance, in sickness and in health, in prosperity or in times of need? Is it your desire to comfort Mary in times of sorrow and afflictions? Will you, forever forsaking all others, will you keep yourself only unto her as long as you both shall live? If so, will you acknowledge by saying, "This is my desire and pledge"?

This is my desire and pledge.

Pastor Jeff to Mary: Mary, after much prayer and counsel, this man, whom you hold by the hand, is to be your husband. It is his belief that God has brought you into his life for strength, inspiration, and encouragement. He is ready to trust you with the innermost parts of who he is. You have the power to bring him great joy or cause him

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great sorrow. Is it your desire to provide for John a home where there is love and acceptance, in sickness and in health, in prosperity or in times of need? Is it your desire to comfort John in times of sorrow and afflictions? Will you, forever forsaking all others, will you keep yourself only unto him as long as you both shall live? If so, will you acknowledge by saying, “This is my desire and pledge”?

This is my desire and pledge.

Pastor Jeff to Mary and John: The wedding ring is a symbol of holiness, of perfection, and of peace...that which has no beginning and no end. It is a silent message to those around us that our hearts and affections have been pledged to another. It's made of the most precious metals and coveted stones to convey the value we place on our union.

Pastor Jeff to John: John, will you take the ring and place it on Mary's finger and repeat after me?

John to Mary (to be repeated): I, John, / take you, Mary, / to be my wife, / my constant friend / and my one true love. / I promise to love you / without reservation, / in sickness and in health, / in plenty and in want. / I promise to never leave you / in times of sorrow, / to always to be open and honest / with you, / for as long as we both shall live. / With this ring / I thee wed.

Pastor Jeff to Mary: Mary, will you take the ring and place it on John's finger and repeat after me?

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Mary to John (to be repeated): I, Mary, / take you, John, / to be my husband, / my constant friend / and my one true love. / I promise to love and respect you / without reservation, / in sickness and in health, / in plenty and in want. / I promise to never leave you / in times of sorrow, / to always to be open and honest / with you, / for as long as we both shall live. / With this ring / I thee wed.

COMMUNION

Pastor Jeff to Audience: In just a moment, Mary and John will partake in communion as a foundation of their marriage being centered on Christ.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 says:

9 Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor

10 If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up.

11 Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone?

12 Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.

Mute mics

Move to side table and perform communion.

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Unmute mics

PRAYER OF BLESSING

Pastor Jeff prays

RECOGNITION OF MARRIAGE/KISSING THE MARY

Pastor Jeff to Mary and John: And so now, inasmuch as you, Mary, and you, John, have proclaimed the truths that are already written in your hearts, and have witnessed the same in the presence of these, your family and friends, and before God, I pronounce that you are husband and wife in the name of the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit. Congratulations, **John**, you may kiss your Bride!

PRESENTATION OF Mary AND John / DISMISSAL

Pastor Jeff to Audience: Ladies, and Gentlemen, I present to you for the very first time Mr. and Mrs. John Smith.

Pastor Jeff to Audience: Would everyone please stand as the couple departs! Please remain in your places until the parents have left the room.

Wedding party and parents leave the room.

Mary and John will receive you as you leave the room. And they would like to invite you all to a reception immediately following this ceremony this afternoon.