

# A DOUBLE AND SINGLE RING MARRIAGE CEREMONY

BY D. T. WILLIAMS

My dear friends, we have assembled here for the solemn yet delightful purpose of uniting in the holy bonds of matrimony two souls who have determined to walk the avenue of life hand in hand. Not as Lord or Mistress do they anticipate this sublime experience, but rather as comrades in a sweet and lovable companionship. Not for self alone will each selfishly claim the joys and prerogatives attending this sacred relationship; but with the thought of each other's good at heart will each consecrate self to the service of the other. Thus will be sanctified the sweet dignity of wedded companionship to a high and holy purpose.

It is the legitimate privilege of you who have gathered here upon this happy occasion to hold in holy memory or joyous anticipation the divine union of yourselves in like bonds, that in this experience you may sanctify yourselves to the supreme achievements such an accomplishment makes possible.

Unto this service commended of Christ come these parties, ——— and ———, of their own volition to be joined in a union of love and hope. If there are any present acquainted with sufficient reasons why these should not be set apart to this sacred purpose, let them now declare themselves or for ever hold their peace.

## *To the Contracting Parties:*

To you who have come to this sacred altar: I charge you both, before the tribunal of God's justice, before the face of him who reads the secrets written upon the fleshly tablets of human hearts, if there is known to you any lawful reason why you should not be joined in this holy union, you here and now reveal the facts and make full confession of the hindering cause.

## *Prayer of Consecration*

### *Minister to Bridegroom:*

———, will you accept this woman to be your lawfully wedded wife, to love and to cherish in this holy estate? Will you keep her, as your own soul in honor, and comfort her in either affliction or health as long as you shall live?

Answer: I will.

### *Minister to Bride:*

———, will you accept this man to be your lawfully wedded husband, to love and to cherish in this holy estate? Will you keep him, as your own soul in honor, and comfort him in either affliction or in health as long as you shall live?

Answer: I will.

### *The Bride's Ring*

The minister receives the ring from the ring bearer, and while proffering it to the bridegroom says: This ring bespeaks the eternity of the bond you now voluntarily assume, and as you place it upon the finger of your bride you testify thereby that you give of the strength of your manhood and the affection of your soul in cooperative endeavor with the purity of her life and the love of her heart.

The bridegroom receiving the ring places it upon the finger of the bride saying: This ring is emblematical of the love I this day vow thee.

### *The Bridegroom's Ring*

The minister receives the ring from the ring bearer and proffering it to the bride says: This ring indicates the purity of the love you offer and the devotion you bind yourself to observe. May there go with it as you now bestow it, that which is infinitely greater than any legal recognition, a warm heart of affection and devoted love.

The bride receiving the ring places it upon the finger of the bridegroom saying: This ring is an emblem of the love and devotion I this day vow thee.

### *Minister Administering Joint Vow*

You both mutually agree to be each other's companion, husband and wife, observing the legal and moral rights belonging to that condition; that is, keeping yourselves wholly from all others and for each other during your lives?

Both answer: I do.

### *Declaration of Wedded State*

Thus, having mutually covenanted of your own volition, I, by virtue of the authority vested in me by Jesus Christ and the government of the State, do here and now solemnly pronounce you husband and wife, with all the rights and prerogatives belonging to this condition. May God seal in heaven what has thus been sealed upon earth to your everlasting good and his eternal glory.

Salutation of bride and groom.

Prayer of blessing.

Conclusion.

[NOTE.—This may be made a single ring ceremony simply by eliminating the paragraph entitled, "The Bridegroom's Ring."]