



Most important

Least important

Learning Objective:

To explore **what** happens in a Christian wedding ceremony **and why**



Opening Prayer

Our Father, love has been Your richest and greatest gift to the world. Love between a man and woman which matures into marriage is one of Your most beautiful types of loves. Today we celebrate that love. May your blessing be on this wedding service. Protect, guide, and bless ____ and ____ in their marriage. Surround them and us with Your love now and always. Amen.

Priest:

We are gathered today in the sight of God to witness the marriage of _____ and _____, but before we begin, if anyone knows any reason in law why these two people should not be married, speak now or forever hold your peace.



Giving away of the Bride

Priest: "Who gives this woman to be married to this man?"

Father: "I do"



Time of worship:

**Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind but now I see.**

Amazing Grace

John Newton, 1779 arr. Edward G. Small (1833-1923), arr.

1. I once was a wretch like you, but now I see the grace of God.
2. 'Twas grace that saved my soul, that brought me from the fall.
3. 'Twas grace that brought me here, that saved my wretched soul.
4. 'Twas grace that saved my soul, that brought me from the fall.

small a wretch like me I once was lost but now I see
grace my soul from the fall that brought me here
grace that saved my soul that brought me here
grace that saved my soul that brought me here

now I see the grace of God
grace that saved my soul that brought me from the fall
grace that saved my soul that brought me from the fall
grace that saved my soul that brought me from the fall

Take from the Public Domain. The Public Domain.

The Pledge

Priest: _____, do you take _____ to be your wedded wife/husband, and in the presence of these witnesses do you vow that you will do everything in your power to make your love for her/him a growing part of your life? Will you continue to strengthen it from day to day and week to week with your best resources? Will you stand by her/him in sickness or in health, in poverty or in wealth, and will you shun all others and keep yourself to her/him alone as long as you both shall live?

Bride/Groom: I do

The Pledge cont.

Priest: Those of you gathered here today. Do you promise to uphold _____ and _____ in their marriage? Do you promise to love them and nurture them as they grow together?

Bride/Groom: We do

Vows

Groom: I love you, _____, and I know that God has ordained this love. Because of this I desire to be your husband. Through the pressures of the present and the uncertainties of the future, I promise to be faithful to you. I promise to love, guide, and protect you as Christ does His Church, and as long as we both are alive. I promise to endeavor to show to you the same kind of love as Christ showed the Church when He died for her, and to love you as a part of myself because in His sight we shall be one.



Bride: I love you, _____ and I know that you love me. Because of this I desire to be your wife. Through the pressures of the present and the uncertainties of the future I promise to be faithful to you. I will love, serve, and obey you as long as we both are alive. Christ told us that the wife must submit herself unto her own husband as unto the Lord. For as Christ is Head of His Church so is the husband head of his wife. _____, I submit myself to you.



The giving of Rings:

Priest: "The wedding ring is a symbol of eternity. It is an outward sign of an inward and spiritual bond which unites two hearts in endless love. And now as a token of your love and of your deep desire to be forever united in heart and soul, you ____, may place a ring on the finger of your bride."

Groom: "____, I give you this ring as a symbol of my love and faithfulness to you."

Priest: "By the same token ____, you may place a ring on the finger of your groom."

Bride: "____, I give you this ring as a symbol of my love and faithfulness to you."



The Pronouncement

Priest: Because ____ and ____ have desired each other in marriage, and have witnessed this before God and our gathering, affirming their acceptance of the responsibilities of such a union, and have pledged their love and faith to each other, sealing their vows in the giving and receiving of rings, I do proclaim that they are husband and wife in the sight of God and man. Let all people here and everywhere recognize and respect this holy union, now and forever.

Homework:

Choose a religion from:

- Islam
- Judaism
- Hinduism



The find out and write down **five** things that religion does in a wedding ceremony and bring them to the next lesson.

Remember there will be more information on the blog:
www.mdbigg.me.uk/ivo/7w1