

VARIOUS VERSIONS OF FORMAL VOWS

Revised 230614

What follows are many versions of vows—some very traditional, others more contemporary. You don't have to memorize anything! For each, the pastor reads the vow phrase by phrase, marked off by the slash marks / .

Usually the groom goes first, then the bride.

Thought: *You DON'T have to say the same things to each other, you can each choose your own selection—just tell me “the groom wants to say #3 and the bride wants to say #27.” And you can edit them or combine bits from various selections if you like. Choose something, edit a little, let's talk!*

Selection #1

I _____, take you _____, / to be my wife/husband. /
I promise to be true to you / in good times and in bad, /
in sickness and in health. /
I will love you / and honor you / all the days of my life. /

Selection #2

In the Name of God, / I, _____, take you, _____, / to be my wife/husband, /
to have and to hold / from this day forward, /
for better or for worse, / for richer or for poorer, /
in sickness and in health, / to love and to cherish, /
as long as we both shall live.
This is my solemn vow.

Selection #3

_____, you are God's blessing to me. /
Today, / in the presence of God, our family and friends, /
I commit myself to you /
to be your husband-wife, /
and I take you / to be my husband-wife, /
from this day forward, /
to love and to cherish, / to have and to hold, /
for richer or for poorer, / for better or for worse, /
in sickness and in health, / in sadness and in joy, /
to share together / as long as we both shall live. /

Selection #4

I, _____, choose you, _____ / above all others / to share my life. /
I pledge to share my life / openly with you /
to speak the truth in love / and to accept your truth /
as you share with me. /
I will be your companion / and friend in life. /
I will give you respect and understanding / and the freedom to grow /
in your learning and fulfillment. /
I promise to offer you / freely from my heart, /
my trust, my devotion, / my tenderness and my love /
as long as we both shall live.

Selection #5

I _____ take you _____, / treasure of my heart and dearest companion, /
to be my wife/husband, / lover and friend, /
to journey through life with / beyond the road's end. /
I will love, comfort and honor you, /
through good times and bad, / all of my days.

Selection #6

I _____ take you _____ / to have and to hold /
from this day forward, /
for better or for worse, / for richer or for poorer, /
in sickness and in health, / to love and cherish; /
and I promise to be faithful to you / for as long as we both shall live. /

Selection #7

I take you _____ this day as my husband/wife, /
and I promise / to walk by your side forever, /
as your best friend, / your lover, / and your soul mate.

Selection #8

I, _____, take you, _____, / to be my wife/husband. /
I choose to marry you this day / and I want to grow old with you. /
I promise to be true to you / in good times and in bad, /
in sickness and in health. /
I will love you and honor you / all the days of my life. /
This is my solemn vow.

Selection #9

I, _____ take you _____ /to be my wife/husband./

I will cherish our friendship/

and love you today, tomorrow and forever./

I will trust you and honor you,/

I will love you faithfully/

through the best and the worst./

What may come/ I will always be there for you./

I come into this union,/

letting go of my deepest fears/

and embracing all my faith./

And if I doubt/

I will remember this time/

and why we came together this day./

_____, as I have given you my hands to hold,/

so I give you my life to keep/as long as we both shall live./

Selection #10

_____, as I have come/ of my own free will,/

I promise / to love and respect you,/ laugh with you,/

share my life openly/ and honestly with you,/

support you in times of sadness,/ and share your joy/

in times of triumph./

I also promise/ to honor and cherish you/ all the days of our lives./

Selection #11

I, _____, take you, _____, to be my wedded husband/wife./

I will love you today, tomorrow, and forever./

I promise to trust you,/ laugh with you,/

and share my life/ openly and honestly with you./

I will support you in times of sadness,/

and share your joy/ in times of triumph./

I promise to love, comfort, and honor you/ all the days of my life.

Selection #12

_____, I promise/ to always love you,/ treasure you,/ and adore you./

I will celebrate the joys of life with you/

and I will offer you/ courage and strength through all endeavors./

I promise to do everything in my power/

to keep our love/ as vibrant as it is today./

For as long as I shall live,/ I will be honored/ to be your wife/husband.

Selection #13

_____, you are my companion in life/ and my one true love./

I will treasure our friendship/

and love you today, tomorrow, and forever./

I will trust and honor you,/ I will laugh and cry with you./

With unfailing love/ I will stand by you/

through the best and the worst,/ through the difficult and the easy./

As I have given you my hand to hold,/ so I give you my life to keep.

Selection #14

I, _____, take you, _____, to be my wife/husband,/

to love and to cherish you,/ to honor and to comfort you,/

to stand by you/ in sorrow or in joy,/ in hardship or in ease,/

to be both your lover/ and your closest friend.

Selection #15

I, _____, take you, _____, to be my beloved wife/husband,

to love and to cherish all my days.

(Optional addition for Spanish speakers)

Vida, si tuviera cuatro vidas, cuatro vidas serian para ti.

(My love, if I had four lives to live, I'd live them all with you.)

Selection #16

_____, these vows come from my heart./

I pledge to love you forever;/ to be open, honest, and faithful to you./

I promise to be your best friend/ –

to laugh, cry,/ sing and dance with you;/

to nurture your spiritual growth/ and to support your dreams;/

to allow you freedom and room/ for personal growth/

to become the person you are yet to be./

I promise to help create a home/ filled with reverence for learning,/

loving, generosity, and serenity;/

and to bring gentleness to the relationship./

I promise to listen/ – and honor your words and feelings;/

to work through the conflicts/ and to resolve our problems./

I promise to share myself completely with you,/

body and mind,/ heart and soul,/ for as long as we both shall live.

Selection #17

_____, I love you./ You are my best friend./
Today I give myself to you in marriage./
I promise to encourage and inspire you,/
to laugh with you,/ and to comfort you/
in times of sorrow and struggle./
I promise to love you/ in good times and in bad,/
when life seems easy/ and when it seems hard./
when our love is simple,/ and when it is an effort./
I promise to cherish you,/ and to always hold you/ in highest regard./
These things I give to you today,/ and all the days of our life.

Selection #18

__Name____,
I promise/
to give you the best of myself/
and to ask of you/ no more than you can give./
I promise/ to respect you as your own person/
and to realize/ that your interests, desires and needs/
are as important as my own./
I promise/
to share with you my time and my attention/
and to bring joy, strength and imagination/ to our relationship./
I promise/
to keep myself open to you,/
to let you see/ through the window of my world/
into my innermost fears and feelings,/ secrets and dreams./
I promise/
to grow along with you,/
to be willing to face changes/
in order to keep our relationship/ alive and exciting./
I promise/
to love you in good times and bad,/
with all I have to give/ and all I feel,/
as long as we both shall live./

Selection #19

I _____, take you _____,/ to be my husband-wife/
from this day forward,/ to join with you/
and share all that is to come,/ and with the help of God/
I promise to be faithful to you/ as he gives us life together.

Selection #20

I _____, choose you, _____,/ to be my lifelong partner,/ lover, and best friend./
I will always be faithful to you,/ and be at your side/
to laugh with you in times of joy/
and comfort you in times of sorrow./
Wherever our path leads us,/ it takes us together./
I will encourage and support you,/ honor and love you./
I will respect our differences/ and do my part/
to work through all our challenges./
_____, I'll be your safe haven/ and your home./
With purity of heart/ and love in my soul,/ I stand before (*God and*) our loved ones/
as your lifelong husband-wife.

Selection #21

I _____, take you, _____,/ to be my husband/wife from this day forward./
To join with you/
and share all that is to come./
And I promise to be faithful to you/
for as long as we both shall live.

Selection #22

In the presence of God/ and this community of friends,/ I, _____, take you, _____,/ to be my husband/wife;/
to have and to hold/ from this day forward,/ in joy and in sorrow,/ in plenty and in want,/ in sickness and in health,/ to love and to cherish,/ as long as we both shall live./
This is my solemn vow.

Selection #23

_____, I take you to be my partner in life and in love.
When we are together, life is warm, safe, satisfying and passionate.
When we are apart, I carry you in my heart.
On this day, I affirm the relationship that we have enjoyed,
Looking to the future to deepen and strengthen it.
I promise to love you wholly and completely,
Without restraint, in sickness and in health,
In plenty and in poverty,
In this life and beyond.
I do not seek to change you in any way,
But I respect you as God has given you to me.
This is my solemn promise.

Selection #24

I take you, _____, / To be my companion and mate/
from this day forward/ to join with you/ and share all that is to come./
And with the help of God/ I promise to be faithful to you/
as long as we are given life together.

Selection #25

In the name of God,/ I _____, take you, _____, /to be my companion;/
And I solemnly promise/
Here with our witnesses and before God:/
To stand beside you/ and with you always;/
In times of celebration and times of sadness;/
In times of pleasure and times of anger;/
In times of pain and times of health./
I will live with you and love you/
As long as we both shall live.

Selection #26

__Name__, you are my family,/ you are my home./
I am alive with you./
You help me face fears/
and I am encouraged by you;/
I experience forgiveness with you/
and I grow with you./
I am faithful to my highest self with you/
and that allows me to be faithful to you./
I love you with all my being,/
and my dream/ is to grow old with you/
sharing our love/ as long as we both shall live.

Selection #27

_____, my beloved and my friend,/ I solemnly promise/ before God our family and friends/
that I will be faithful to you/ and honest with you;/
that I will love you/ and care for you,/ that I will share my life with you;/
that I will forgive you/ as we have been forgiven;/
And with you/ I will seek to be a blessing/
to the families from which we come,/ the family God helps us make/
to our friends/ and to the world/ for as long as we both have life.

Selection #28

In the presence of God, our family and friends,/ I _____, take you, _____, / to be my husband/wife,/ promising with God's help/ to be to you,/ a loving and faithful husband-wife/ as long as we both shall live.

Selection #29

I _____, take you, _____, / with all my heart and soul/ to be my husband-wife, my friend, my love/ and my lifelong companion./
I promise to respect/ that our ideas and opinions may differ,/ and to remember/ that yours hold as much truth and value for you/ as mine do for me./
I promise to support you/ in times of trouble,/ and celebrate with you/ in times of happiness;/
to care more about your feelings/ than about being right,/ and to listen without judging./
This is my lifetime vow.

Selection #30

I, _____, choose you, _____, as my husband-wife for life.
I am so glad / I waited for my dreams to come true/ by finding you./
I am so blessed/ I get to be your husband-wife/
and am comforted to know/ that I have chosen wisely./
Whatever life has in store for us,/ I will honor and respect our marriage/ and be by your side,/ loving you through it all./
I will always strive/ to be the wife/husband of your dreams.
_____, I will love you forever.

Selection #31

I, _____, take you, _____, / to be my wife-husband, /
and I do promise and covenant, / before God and these witnesses, /
to be your loving and faithful husband-wife: /
in plenty and in want, / in joy and in sorrow, /
in sickness and in health, / as long as we both shall live.

Selection #32

I, _____, take you, _____, / to be my husband-wife,
and I pledge my faithfulness to you /
in all love and honor, / in all duty and service, /
in all faith and tenderness, / to live with you and cherish you /
according to the commands of God, / in the holy bonds of marriage.

Selection #33

I, _____, take you, _____, to be my wife/husband. /
I will accept you / and allow you to differ with me. /
I will give you / the freedom to be creative / to be yourself.
I will love you when life is peaceful / and when it is in disorder, /
when mutual appreciation is easy / and when it is a challenge.
I will cultivate my love for you / by looking for the good in you /
and by forgiving your flaws.
I promise to keep my love for you alive / come what may /
my whole life long.

Selection #34

I, _____, take you, / _____, to be my wife/husband. /
I will love and respect you / as an equal. /
I will not only be a husband/wife, /
but a helper, friend, and guide / so that you will be able /
to meet life's joys and tribulations, /
knowing I stand by your side / as long as we both shall live.

Selection #35

I, _____, / commit in heart and mind / to live with you, _____, /
in keeping with God's design for marriage. /
I promise to love you, / honor you, / and be faithful to you /
in times of personal need / and personal blessing. /
I do pledge, with God's help / and to the best of my ability, /
to seek to establish / and maintain / honest and loving communication /
between you and myself. /
Forsaking all others, / I promise to remain faithful to you /
as long as we both shall live.

Selection #36

I, _____, covenant with the Lord and with you, _____, to
walk together in all God's ways, as God is revealed to us; to give
myself to you freely and without reserve; to celebrate our gifts of unity
and diversity; in times of discord, to reconcile myself to you in love.
For the earth is charged with the grandeur of God. Knowing this grace
in our lives, may we take up God's mission in the world, hearing the
cry of all people, striving for justice and peace. I now take you to be
my wedded wife/husband, to cherish and to hold from this day
forward, always and everywhere, till death do us part, according to
God's holy ordinance.

Selection #37

Dearest _____, / I choose you to be my wife/husband, /
to be by each other's side / through our life's journey together.
You are my best friend. /
You are my precious love. /
You are the one / I choose to spend my life with. /
I promise /
to cherish and honor you, / to love and respect you. /
I promise /
to comfort and encourage you, /
when we are healthy / and when we must endure sickness; /
when we are filled with the joys of success /
and when we are burdened with sorrows. /
_____, I promise to love you / without condition /
for all the days of my life.

Selection #38

I _____ take you, _____, to be my wife-husband. /
I promise before God and these witnesses /
to be your faithful husband-wife, /
to share with you in plenty and in want, /
in joy and in sorrow, / in sickness and in health, /
to forgive and strengthen you / and to join with you /
so that together / we may serve God and others /
as long as we both shall live.