

WEDDING CEREMONY

(The Wedding Rehearsal)

- (1) Ushers seat everyone.
- (2) Mothers are seated:
 - a. Groom's mother ushered to seat.
 - b. Bride's mother ushered to seat.
- (3) Lighting of candles with a song.
(Mother's light each side of unity candle)
- (4) Minister, groom, and groomsmen come out on the platform.
- (5) Procession starts:
 - a. Music plays.
 - b. Bridesmaids come in. Flower girl and ring bearer come in.
 - c. Wedding march is played.
 - d. Bride and father walk down aisle and stop at front row of chairs.
 - e. Minister ask, "Who gives this woman in marriage?"
 - f. Father answers, "Her mother and I do."
 - g. Groom comes down and takes the bride's hand.
- (6) Minister starts the ceremony (speaks 10-15 minutes on a subject).
- (7) Family is called up to pray over the couple.
- (8) The father is called on to talk about communion and the unity candle.
 - a. The father serves communion to the couple.

b. Couple lights unity candle.
(Song is being sung during communion and unity candle).

(9) Minister:

a. vows.

b. rings.

c. kiss the bride.

d. Minister presents Mr. & Mrs. _____ .

(10) Recession.

WEDDING CEREMONY

(Stephen & Stacey Krow's wedding ceremony)

After the Groom and Bride come to the front:

To the Father: "Who gives this bride in Marriage" "**I do.**"

To Groom and Bride: "Join hands please."

Congregation: "You may be seated."

Sermon by the minister: "I would like to read an excerpt from Erich Fromm's book, The Art of Loving."

Is love an art? Then it requires knowledge and effort. Or is love a pleasant sensation, which to experience is a matter of chance, something one falls into if one is lucky? Undoubtedly the majority of people today believe just that.

People are starved for love; they watch endless numbers of films about happy and unhappy love stories, they listen to hundreds of trashy songs about love – yet hardly anyone thinks that there is anything that needs to be learned about love.

This attitude is based on several premises. Most people see the problem of love primarily as that of being loved, rather than that of loving.

*In the Victorian age, marriages were arranged by families, and love was suppose to develop once the marriage had been concluded. In the Western world, we have romantic love, which then should lead to marriage. This is the experience of **falling in love** rather than the permanent state of **standing in love**. If two people who have been strangers, as all us are, suddenly let the wall between them break down, they feel close, feel one, this moment of oneness is exhilarating, exciting, its sexual attraction. However, this type of love is by it very nature not lasting. Their intimacy loses more and more of its miraculous character, then there is disappoints, mutual boredom that kills whatever is left of the initial excitement. Yet in the beginning they do not know this: they take the intensity of the infatuation, (this being **crazy** about each other, as the proof of their love).*

The first step to take is to become aware that love is an art. If we want to learn how to love we must proceed in the same way we have to proceed if we want to learn any other art, say music, painting, or the art of medicine. There must be nothing else more important. In spite of the deep-seated craving for love, almost everything else is considered to be

more important than love: business, success, prestige, money, power – almost all our energy is used for the learning of how to achieve these aims, and almost none to learn the art of loving.

The process of learning to love can be divided into two parts. (1) We must master the theory of love. (2) We must put it into practice.

“Ultimately there is only one place I know we can go for this information, and that is to the Scriptures.

We must realize:

- (1) Sin did not come into the first church, sin came into the first marriage. We must look to God’s grace and into the manual of God’s Word for the answers to these problems.
- (2) All that sin is, is a violation of the principles of love.
- (3) God’s commandment (not legalism) shows man what it means to love. (what to do and what not to do). (see *Romans 13:8-10*)
- (4) It’s easy to get married, it’s not so easy to stay married. To continue in marriage, and to continue to love, one must forgive. Forgiveness is the foundation of marriage, for we marry imperfect people. (Even God, to continue to love must base His love on His forgiveness, for He has called us into a personal relationship with Himself, and those people are not perfect).

So I said all of that, to say this, ‘Stephen and Stacey, be quick to forgive each other. Love is kind, so be kind. Remembering that love is not a matter of your emotions but of your will. Love is something you do,

not just something you say. Be loving in actions and your emotions will always follow.”

Family is called up to pray over the couple.

- a. The father is called on to talk about communion and the unity candle.**
- b. The father serves communion to the couple.**
- c. The couple lights the unity candle. (a song is being sung during communion and the unity candle).**

Vows:

Man: “Stephen, the Word says, ‘Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favor of the Lord.’ Stephen love your wife, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it. You are to love Stacey as your own body. Be not bitter against her at any time. Dwell with her according to knowledge, giving her honor, as unto the weaker vessel and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers be not hindered. The Scripture says, ‘A virtuous woman is a crown to her husband and her worth is far above jewels.’ Stephen will you agree to leave your father and mother and cleave unto Stacey as your wife?” “**I will.**”

Woman: “Stacey, reverence and honor your husband. Look well to the ways of your household and do good and not evil to your husband all the days of your life. As you wear strength and honor and open your mouth with kindness and wisdom, your husband shall arise and call you blessed and praise you. Stacey, will you agree to leave your

father and mother and cleave unto Stephen as your husband?" "I will."

"May I have the brides ring please?" (Give the ring to the groom).

"Stephen, take this ring and place it on her finger and say this after me:"

"Ask me not/ to leave you/ or to return from following after you/ for where you go/ I will go/ and where you lodge/ I will lodge/ your people shall be my people/ and your God my God/ Where you die/ will I die/ and there will I be buried/ the Lord do so to me/ and more also/ if anything but death/ part you and me." (Ruth 1:16-17)

"May I have the groom's ring?" (Give ring to the bride).

"Stacey, take this ring and place it on his finger and repeat this after me."

"Ask me not/ to leave you/ or to return from following after you/ for where you go/ I will go/ and where you lodge/ I will lodge/ your people shall be my people/ and your God my God/ Where you die/ will I die/ and there will I be buried/ the Lord do so to me/ and more also/ if anything but death/ part you and me." (Ruth 1:16-17)

"As you have both agreed to leave your father and mother and cleave to one another, you are no longer two but one. What God hath therefore joined together, let no man put asunder. In the Name of

the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, I now pronounce you husband and wife.”

“You may kiss the bride.”

“Ladies and gentlemen - Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Krow.”

The couple marches out.

Announce reception: “We invite you to the couples reception that will begin in just a few moments.”

This work is for the building of a happy marriage and the celebration of God's love.

May be copied and used for
Bible study and marriage classes.
Not to be sold.

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