

Sample Commitment Ceremony One:

Love is the greatest thing that we can give to one another...for love is a wondrous gift; no other can take its place, but it can take the place of all the rest. When two people entrust one another with their innermost feelings, their hearts, their lives, the bond between them strengthens and surrounds them until each becomes a part of the other. This closeness cannot be measured by time, words or circumstance. It is a wholeness of the soul, a silence, and the highest form of intimacy.

We are gathered here today, because love gathers us and especially because love has found Leanne and Robert, and woven them together, into the great web of life. We are gathered to remember and rejoice, to recount with one another, that it is love, always love, that leads us to our true destination and to celebrate that Lorraine and Robert have finally arrived.

This is the Partners in Life union of Leanne and Robert. We are here to listen, with love in our hearts, and to share with them, their celebration of love.

FRIEND

To love is to remember and keep alive forever all those unique qualities that drew you to one another in the beginning.... Those first halting phrases...the thrill of discovery.... That wonderful feeling of oneness when your eyes met.

To love is to constantly search for new ways to bring each other to happiness, to make the most of every moment you share together, and marvel at how your feelings for one another keep rising to new dimensions.

To love is to create an oasis of tranquility for one another and a quiet place, apart from others, where you need not pretend...where you can be yourselves.... And know within your hearts, you will be accepted by one another.

To love is to greet each day with anticipation...Always eager for another opportunity to share new adventures...And gather up new memories TOGETHER!

To love is to follow the rainbow through the rain, to be able to laugh at yourselves and be willing to say...."I was wrong, I'm sorry"...To forgive, and more importantly, to FORGET, and to always believe and trust in one another.

To love is to watch with wonder all the miracles of creation, to find beauty in all the simple things of life, and to find, within ourselves, a deeper appreciation and a new awareness of how wonderful it is to be alive...To be happy...To be...TOGETHER.

To love is to come together from the pathways of our past and then move forward...Hand in hand, along the uncharted roads of our future, ready to risk, to dream, and to dare.... And always believe that all things are possible with faith and love.

ROBERT'S VOWS

Today I give you my hand so that you will never be alone. I give you my laughter so that your happiness may always be my happiness. I give you my friendship to support and encourage you. I give you my heart for it belongs to you.

LEANNE'S VOWS

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 no less important than my own. I promise to share with you my time and my attention and to bring joy, strength and imagination to our relationship.

EXCHANGING RINGS

Celebrant:

These rings are seamless circles of joy, symbolizing the love that lives deep within this couple's heart and soul. A sign of their willingness to share life's journey with each other; and of the seamless circle of joy that surrounds them both.

Robert, you will give this ring to Leanne, as a symbol that love lives deep within your heart and soul, that you are bound to her always, with your love, soul and heart.

ROBERT

Leanne, accept this ring as a symbol of the promises we have made to each other today. It is a token of my love, that lives deep within my heart. As I choose to share my life's journey with you, I pledge to you the joy of all my days.

With this ring I commit to you my love, soul and heart.

CELEBRANT

Leanne, you will give this ring to Robert as a symbol that love lives deep with your heart and soul, that you are bound to him always with your love, soul and heart.

LEANNE

Robert, accept this ring as a symbol of the promises we have made to each other today. It is a token of my love that lives deep within my heart. As I choose to share my life's journey with you, I pledge to you the joy of all my days.

With this ring I commit to you my love, soul and hearts.

Robert and Leanne, may God bless and keep you, may the sun of many days and years shine upon you, may the love you have for one another grow and hold you close.

May the good true light within you guide your way together. May your dreams come true and when they don't may new dreams arise.

And long, long years from now, may you look at one another and be able to say, 'Because of you I have become the person I longed to be'.

Sample Commitment Ceremony Two

Celebrant: Love is the greatest thing that we can give to one another...for love is a wondrous gift. When two people entrust one another with their innermost feelings, their hearts, their lives, the bond between them strengthens and surrounds them until each becomes a part of the other. This closeness cannot be measured by time, words or circumstance. It is a wholeness of the soul, a silence, and the highest form of intimacy.

We are gathered here today because love has found James and Steven and woven them together into the great web of life. We are gathered to remember and rejoice, to recount with one another, that it is love, always love, that leads us to our true destination and to celebrate that Steven and Robert have finally arrived.

This is the Partners in Life union of Steven and Robert. We are here to listen, with love in our hearts, and to share with them, their celebration of love.

Steven and Robert would like to invite their dear friend Angela to give the reading today.

FRIEND

To love is to remember and keep alive forever all those unique qualities that drew you to one another in the beginning.... Those first halting phrases...the thrill of discovery.... That wonderful feeling of oneness when your eyes met.

To love is to constantly search for new ways to bring each other to happiness, to make the most of every moment you share together, and marvel at how your feelings for one another keep rising to new heights.

To love is to create an oasis of tranquility for one another and a quiet place, apart from others, where you need not pretend...where you can be yourselves.... And know within your hearts, you will be accepted by one another.

To love is to greet each day with anticipation...Always eager for another opportunity to share new adventures...And gather up new memories TOGETHER!

To love is to follow the rainbow through the rain, to be able to laugh at yourselves and be willing to say...."I was wrong, I'm sorry"...To forgive, and more importantly, to FORGET, and to always believe and trust in one another.

To love is to watch with wonder all the miracles of creation, to find beauty in all the simple things of life, and to find, within ourselves, a deeper appreciation and a new awareness of how wonderful it is to be alive...To be happy...To be...TOGETHER.

To love is to come together from the pathways of our past and then move forward...Hand in hand, along the uncharted roads of our future, ready to risk, to dream, and to dare.... And always believe that all things are possible with faith and love.

Celebrant: Robert, please look at Steven and deliver your vow of commitment

ROBERT'S VOWS

Today I give you my hand so that you will never be alone.
I give you my laughter so that your happiness may always be my happiness.
I give you my friendship to support and encourage you.
I give you my heart for it belongs to you.

Celebrant: Steven, please look at Robert and deliver your vow of commitment.

Steven's VOWS

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 no less important than my own.
I promise to share with you my time and my attention
and to bring joy, strength and imagination to our relationship.

EXCHANGING RINGS

Celebrant:

Robert will you place the ring on Steven's finger and repeat these words:

I give you this ring as a reminder of the promises we exchanged today

Steven, will you place the ring on Robert's finger and repeat these words:

I give you this ring as a reminder of the promises we exchanged today.

Celebrant:

Robert and Steven, may the sun of many days and years shine upon you, may the love you have for one another grow and hold you close.

May the good true light within you guide your way together. May your dreams come true and when they don't may new dreams arise.

And long, long years from now, may you look at one another and be able to say, 'Because of you I have become the person I longed to be'.

Sample Commitment Ceremony Three

Introduction

To begin, on behalf of the Kenneth and Jacks Families, I would like to welcome you all here this afternoon. My name is Adrian Downey, I am a civil celebrant and I'm here today to solemnise at this Commitment Ceremony.

Kenneth and Jack are delighted that so many of you are here today, many having travelled great distances, to share this very important moment with them.

Family and friends are important to Kenneth and Jack, which is why it is so important for them to have you here today, as they make their vows - promises of commitment, made in the hearts of two people in love, which lasts a lifetime.

Today we celebrate Jack and Ken's commitment to each other and also their commitment to life - to the best that two people can find and bring out in each other and encourage new experiences that that you may not dare try on your own.

In a few minutes, after Kenneth and Jack have made their Vows I will ask them to formalise this ceremony by signing a Certificate. But, by the time I ask them to sign this piece of paper in their hearts and in ours they will have already made their commitment to each other. Because it is not the signature, the scribe on a piece of paper that matters, it is the courage and commitment it takes to stand up in front of people they love and respect and make a promise that will last the rest of your life. It's a pretty big call.

So, don't think you are here today as innocent bystanders, because you have all been asked here, today, to participate. You are here to perform a role far more important than any piece of paper can. You are here today to witness Kenneth and Jack make a promise of love, a potential that will take a life time to fulfil.

Reading by John Bell

Sonnet CXVI (William Shakespeare)

Let me not to the marriage of true minds

Admit impediments. Love is not love

Which alters when it alteration finds,

Or bends with the remover to remove:

O, no! it is an ever-fixed mark

That looks on tempests and is never shaken:

It is the star to every wandering bark:

Whose worth's unknown, although his height be taken.

Love's not Time's fool, though rosy lips and cheeks

Within his bending sickle's compass come:

Love alters not with his brief hours and weeks,

But bears it out even to the edge of doom.

If this be error and upon me proved,

I never writ, nor no man ever loved.

William, Shakespear (1564-1616)

Asking

At this point, before you make your vows I remind you of the solemn nature of the commitment you are about to enter. With this in mind I now like to ask each of you

Will you Kenneth take Jack to be your life long partner, to share your life with him, and do you pledge that you will love, honour and care for him, with tenderness and affection, through all the varying experiences of your life?

Ken: I will.

Will you Jack take Kenneth to be your life long partner, to share your life with him, and do you pledge that you will love, honour and care for him, with tenderness and affection, through all the varying experiences of your life?

Jack: I will.

Vows

Kenneth please repeat after me.

I, Kenneth, take you, Jack to be my life partner, to have and to hold from this day forward through good times as well as bad and I promise to be true to you as long as we both shall live.

Jack please repeat after me.

I, Jack, take you, Kenneth to be my life partner, to have and to hold from this day forward through good times as well as bad and I promise to be true to you as long as we both shall live.

Ring Ceremony

Traditionally, a commitment like this made here today is marked by the exchange of rings. These rings are a symbol of the unbroken circle of love. Love freely given has no beginning and no end. Love freely given has no giver and no receiver - for each is the giver and each is the receiver of love. May these rings remind you always of the vows you have taken here today and the .

Kenneth please take Jack's hand and repeat after me.

I place this ring on your finger, wear it as our symbol of our continuing and on going relationship.

Jack please take Ken's hand and repeat after me.

I place this ring on your finger, wear it as our symbol of our continuing and on going relationship.

Reading by Paullina

I carry your heart with me - by e.e Cummings

I carry your heart with me

I carry it in my heart

I am never without it

anywhere you go, my dear;

and whatever is done by only me

is your doing, my darling.

I fear no fate

for you are my fate, my sweet

I want no world

for beautiful you are my world,

my true

and it's you are whatever a moon has always meant

and whatever a sun will always sing is you.

Here is the deepest secret nobody knows

here is the root of the root

and the bud of the bud

and the sky of the sky,

of a tree called life;

which grows higher than the soul can hope

or mind can hide

and this is the wonder

that's keeping the stars apart

i carry your heart, i carry it in my heart.

The Certificate

I would now like to ask Kenneth and Jack to join me as we sign the certificate.

(Signing of the certificate)

Declaration

Kenneth and Jack, in front of these witnesses here today, you have made your promises to share your lives together in accordance with your vows. So, it is with great pleasure, I now pronounce you Life Partners.

Sample Commitment Ceremony Four

Introduction

Good afternoon my name is Adrian Downey and I am a civil celebrant and very pleased to have been asked to conduct this ceremony today.

I welcome you here today to bear witness with me to the life long partnership of Rachel and Samantha.

We are here not only to witness their commitment to each other, but also to wish them well and every happiness in their life together.

Rachel and Samantha acknowledge the special relationship that they share. They have found it easy to be honest and open with each other, and comfortable with their family and friends; and for that they would like to thank you. It is their wish today to declare their love and partnership before you all. It is a statement of a mutual relationship and commitment to each other. Rachel and Samantha want to honour their relationship with the significance of a ritual and today we will dedicate an afternoon not only to Rachel and Samantha but to the family they have created who are with us today.

Statement

Whilst this ceremony does not represent a legal marriage, but however it does represent a moral one. A commitment such as yours involves the voluntary and full commitment of the two of you. It is made in the deepest sense to the exclusion of all others, and, it is entered into with the desire, the hope, and the firm intention that it will last for life.

Reading by Adrian

When two people join together
and bond their lives forever
because they are certain they have something special that will make their commitment last...
this is the first act of faith.

Upon this act of faith these two people will build a life.

and as long as their determination stays with them

this life will always be their hope, their dreams, their truth, their being, their inspiration,
and their source of strength.

Through their life together, they will hurt and laugh.

Together they will feel all of life's up and downs.

They will learn and grow through trial and error.

The lessons will show them the meaning of true love

And the difference between a love that lasts

and one that just gives up.

These two people will face each failure together and

discover the strength to go on.

They will encourage each other's dreams and forgive each other's faults.

Through a labour of love.

these two will become as one,

fighting against the odds and ultimately creating

a commitment that will grow into an infinite love.

Regina Hill

The asking

Samantha

Samantha, will you take Rachel to be your life long partner.

Will you love and respect her, be honest with her and stand by her, through whatever life may hold so you can genuinely share your life together?

(I will)

Rachel

Rachel, will you take Samantha to be your life long partner. Will you love and respect her, be

honest with her and stand by her, through whatever life may hold so you can genuinely share your life together?

(I will)

Vows

Rachel

Samantha, I want to be with you always just as you are.

I choose you above all others to share my life with me.

I love you for yourself and I want you to become all that you can be.

Samantha

Rachel, I want to be with you always just as you are.

I choose you above all others to share my life with me.

I love you for yourself and I want you to become all that you can be.

RINGS

Samantha

Rachel accept this ring with my love.

Take it and wear it as a symbol of all we share today and always.

I love you without exception or reward.

I love you because you are you and not in spite of it.

Rachel

Samantha accept this ring with my love.

Take it and wear it as a symbol of all we share today and always.

I love you without exception or reward.

I love you because you are you and not in spite of it.

Adrian

From the words of Richard Bach I'd like to quote a few lines from his book titled One.

An easy life doesn't teach us anything. In the end it's the learning that matters: what we've learned and how we've grown.

We can have excuses, or we can have health, love, longevity, understanding, adventure, money, happiness.

We design our lives through the power of our choices.

We are each given a block of marble when we begin a lifetime, and the tools to shape it into sculpture...

We can drag it behind us untouched, we can pound it into gravel, or we can shape it into glory.

We generate our own environment.

And from Illusions

...The bond that links your true family is not one of blood, but of respect and joy in each other's life. These are profound words and in the case of Rachel and Samantha who are both people who choose not always to take the easy option, but together they are sculpturing a relationship that they are both proud of, they are both committed to the growth of their family unit and committed to the relationship.

DECLARATION

I think generally wanting a relationship to stay strong you must be committed to staying true to yourself, committed to accepting yourself as is, committed to standing up for what you believe in. Committed to expressing your essential nature so that with your partner all of you comes shining through.

Commitment is not a blind vow, it is an act of faith made with your eyes wide open. You make a commitment like this only with someone who sees and loves you for who you are, someone whom you desire to know better than any other being on the planet, whom you want to love unconditionally.

Commitment stretches us, it often pushes us past our comfort zone. They invite us to have more faith and find love in unexpected places. They dare us to surrender to something grander than we ever imagined, something beyond a passing feeling or infatuation, beyond fear and insecurities.

Commitments lead us to the place where we can stop, look around, and say I'm home

Today is a celebration of your relationship. Everyone here wishes you continued happiness and we all hope that life will continue to hold the very best of everything for you.

By having this ceremony here today I hope it will in some way increase your capacity to live your life to the fullest. Congratulations to you both.

Signing of certificate

Presentation of certificate

Adrian Downey

NSW Celebrant