

Wedding Vows
Julie Smith and John Stevens
Date _____

You have all been invited here for a holy purpose, not just to witness, but to participate fully with your thoughts and prayers, asking God to bless this couple and their married life together. Those of you present, represent symbolically... all the people in the world who will be touched in any way by the life of this couple. You represent their family and friends, now and forever. They have chosen this act of marriage and this public, holy ceremony in which to proclaim it. Together we all thank God who brought them together... and ask Him to always to guide their way.

I ask that you all join with me in prayer:

Heavenly Father,

Please bless this couple. May their love be nurtured by You... always and forever. May this marriage be held in Your hands and ministered unto by Your angels. We dedicate this love to You. May it serve Your purpose. May it increase Your dominion. May this man grow even stronger in the arms of this woman. May this woman grow even more glorious in the love of this man. May the earth be brought closer to heaven through their love. May all the world be blessed by their relationship. Thy will be done. Amen.

A Holy Relationship is defined as a relationship without fear.... where two people come together... fully aware of the beauty and innocence of each other.

Comments Groom wrote and shared with Minister

John shared with me that one of the things he most treasures about Julie... is her willingness to love and help others... regardless of her own personal situation. He mentioned that just two days ago, they were sitting in a restaurant and Julie could sense that a man sitting near them was in need. Julie asked him if he needed some money and handed him \$20 without giving it another thought. John said that Julie so easily loves and forgives other people... She sees their innocence, regardless of how they are behaving... and readily accepts them into her heart.

Julie... John is aware of your abundant love and your desire to share it with the world. This is just one of the things that he loves about you. He is pleased that his children, Jacob and Sarah, and his grandchild, Emily ... and his future grandchildren.... will experience the love... beauty, grace, and generosity that he sees in you.

Julie shared with me... that when she first met John... she didn't feel very good about herself. John would frequently tell her how beautiful she is... and when she would tell him she didn't feel beautiful.. He would say, "Then I'm just going to keep telling you until you can feel it yourself!"

Comments Bride wrote and shared with Minister

John... Julie is aware of your deep love for her... and she feels even more beautiful and empowered in your presence. Your love lifts her high above her own thoughts... and helps her to shine her light even more brightly into the world. She is grateful for your love for her son, Michael, and how you guide him and openly offer your love to him.

Address the Bride and Groom

Julie and John have come here to make public their love for each other, to declare their choice to live and partner and grow. What symbols do you bring as a reminder of the promises given and received today?

Bride and Groom hand over the rings

Minister holds the rings up in the air in one hand for all to see

A circle is the symbol of the Sun, and the Earth, and the Universe. It is a symbol of holiness, and of perfection and peace. It is also the symbol of the eternity of spiritual truth, love and life... that which has no beginning and no end.

Minister addresses at Groom

John, please repeat after me... Julie, I ask you to be my wife. I announce and declare my love for you... not only when your moments are high... but when they are low... not only when you are acting with love... but when you forget. I further announce before God and those here present... that I will seek always to see the greatness within you... and seek always to share the greatness within me. It is my intention...

to be with you forever... in a Holy Partnership of the Soul... sharing all that is good within us... with all those whose lives we touch.

Minister addresses the Bride

**Julie, do you choose to grant John's request that you be his wife?
(I do.)**

Julie, please repeat after me... John, I ask you to be my husband. I announce and declare my love for you... not only when your moments are high... but when they are low... not only when you are acting with love... but when you forget. I further announce before God and those here present... that I will seek always to see the greatness within you... and seek always to share the greatness within me. It is my intention... to be with you forever... in a Holy Partnership of the Soul... sharing all that is good within us... with all those whose lives we touch.

Minister addresses the Groom

**John, do you choose to grant Julie's request that you be her husband?
(I do.)**

I'd like to share a reading from A Course in Miracles. The reading is from the chapter titled "The Happy Dream":

"When you feel the holiness of your relationship is threatened by anything... stop instantly and offer the Holy Spirit your willingness, in spite of fear, to let Him exchange this instant for the holy one that you would rather have. He will never fail in this. But forget not that your relationship is one, and so it must be that whatever threatens

the peace of one is an equal threat to the other. The power of joining its blessing lies in the fact that it is now impossible for either of you to experience fear alone, or to attempt to deal with it alone.”

If you ever feel challenged, worried or afraid, you can say something like this ...

Please look into each other’s eyes... and repeat after me

**“I desire this holy instant for myself,
that I may share it with you whom I love.**

**It is not possible... that I can have it without you,
or you without me.**

Yet it is wholly possible... for us to share it now.

**And so I choose this instant
as the one to offer to the Holy Spirit,
that His blessing may descend on us,
and keep us both in peace. Amen”**

**Julie and John will join together now in a symbolic ceremony.
They will combine the sand of two separate containers... into one
unified expression... symbolizing a lifetime of love, friendship and
ONEness with each other.**

Pause for the ceremony of the sand

Minister to pick up and hold container of sand for a blessing

Minister addresses the audience

Let us join together in prayer.

Dear God,

Thank you for your blessing on this couple... as they join together in love and unity for each other.... now and forever. I'd now like to ask the congregation of those here present to join with me in prayer, by repeating these words after me.

Julie and John, *(Audience repeats)*

**We join together.,... as witnesses of your love for each other. We acknowledge the truth of who you are. We offer our love to you... our acceptance... and our blessing... on your marriage and your life together. May our voices remind you... that only love is real. In the presence of love... there is no fear. In the presence of light... there is no darkness. We join with you in celebration... of your Divine union.
Amen**

Let us join in prayer:

Spirit of Love and Life, out of this whole world, two souls have found each other. Their destinies shall now be woven into one design, and life experiences shall not be known apart. John and Julie, may your home be a place of happiness for all who enter it, a place for your children and your extended families to come together... a place for prayer... and a place for love... a place where the old and young are renewed in each other's company... a place for growing... and a place for sharing...

a place of joy, and music and laughter. May those who are nearest to you... be enriched... by the beauty and bounty of your love for one another, and may your union be a joyful expression... that serves all the world. Amen

I now pronounce you as Husband and Wife. You may kiss the bride!

I am pleased to present to you, John and Julie Stevens.

*Bride and Groom pause for applause and then head down the aisle,
followed by the wedding party.*

And they lived happily ever after!