

**Greg and Rachelle
August 20th, 2011
Stonehurst Manor
11:00 am**

Welcome:

On behalf of Greg and Rachelle, I would like to welcome you all here and thank you for joining us on this magnificent day in the White Mountains.

For many of you, it was not easy to get here – we realize that traveling to New Hampshire is quite a trip – and the bride and groom would like to thank all of their family and friends that could make it.

Your presence here today shows Greg and Rachelle how much you care and support them, and it means a great deal to them.

We also remember those loved ones that cannot join us here today. Though not here in body, we know they are here in spirit to celebrate this day.

Description of marriage:

Marriage symbolizes the intimate bonding of two lives, but does not diminish their individuality.

Marriage symbolizes life and learning, rising to meet new challenges and continuing to grow.

Marriage is celebration of joy and happiness, where one should always remember the following things:

The little things are the big things.

You're never too old to hold hands.

It is remembering to say 'I love you' at least once a day.

It is never going to sleep angry.

It is at no time taking the other person for granted

It is standing together facing the world.

It is forming a circle of love that gathers in the whole family.

It is doing things for each other, not in the attitude of duty or sacrifice, but in the spirit of joy.

It is speaking words of appreciation and demonstrating gratitude in thoughtful ways.

It is not looking for perfection in each other.

It is cultivating a sense of humor.

It is having the capacity to forgive and forget.

It is establishing a relationship in which the independence is equal, dependence is mutual and the obligation is reciprocal.

Marriage is the union of two souls, bound in love that requires faith and devotion; patience and understanding.

Intentions:

Rachelle, will you have Greg as your husband, in times of good fortune as well as adversity, forsaking all others to be a kind and faithful wife?

Do you promise to base your life with Greg on love, caring, and understanding? Do you pledge to speak and to listen, to give and receive, and to be considerate of his wishes and desires?

Rachelle: I will

Greg, will you have Rachelle as your wife, in times of good fortune as well as adversity, forsaking all others to be a kind and faithful husband?

Do you promise to base your life with Rachelle on love, caring, and understanding? Do you pledge to speak and to listen, to give and receive, and to be considerate of her wishes and desires?

Greg: I will

Vows:

Rachelle, please repeat after me.

I Rachelle, take you Greg
to be my husband, my partner in life
and my one true love.
I will cherish our union
and love you more each day than I did the day before.
I will trust you and respect you,
laugh with you and cry with you,
loving you faithfully through good times and bad,
regardless of the obstacles we may face together.
I give you my hand, my heart, and my love,
from this day forward for as long as we both shall live.

Greg, please repeat after me.

I Greg, take you Rachelle
to be my wife, my partner in life
and my one true love.
I will cherish our union
and love you more each day than I did the day before.
I will trust you and respect you,
laugh with you and cry with you,
loving you faithfully through good times and bad,
regardless of the obstacles we may face together.
I give you my hand, my heart, and my love,
from this day forward for as long as we both shall live.

Ring Ceremony:

From the earliest times, the circle has been a symbol of completeness, a symbol of committed love. An unbroken and never ending circle symbolizes a commitment of love that is also never ending. The rings you give and receive this day are the symbols of the endless love into which you enter as husband and wife. Such a love has no beginning and no ending, no giver and no receiver. You are each the beginning and the ending, each the giver and the receiver.

Rachelle, as you place the ring on Greg's finger, please repeat after me:

I Rachelle, give you Greg, this ring,
as a symbol of my commitment
to love, honor, and respect you.

Greg, as you place the ring on Rachelle's finger, please repeat after me:

I Greg, give you Rachelle, this ring,
As a symbol of my commitment
To love, honor and respect you.

The Rose Ceremony:

Your gift to each other for your wedding today has been your wedding rings - which shall always be an outward demonstration of your vows of love and respect; and a public showing of your commitment to each other.

You now have what remains the most honorable title which may exist between a man and a woman - the title of "husband" and "wife." For your first gift as husband and wife, that gift will be a single rose.

In the past, the rose was considered a symbol of love and a single rose always meant only one thing - it meant the words "I love you." So it is appropriate that for your first gift - as husband and wife - that gift would be a single rose.

Please exchange your first gift as husband and wife.

~pause while they exchange roses

In some ways it seems like you have not done anything at all. Just a moment ago you were holding one small rose - and now you are holding one small rose. In some ways, a marriage ceremony is like this.

In some ways, tomorrow is going to seem no different than yesterday. But in fact today, just now, you both have given and received one of the most valuable and precious gifts of life - one I hope you always remember - the gift of true and abiding love within the devotion of marriage.

Rachelle and Greg, I would ask that where ever you make your home in the future - whether it be a large and elegant home - or a small and graceful one - that you both pick one very special location for roses; so that on each anniversary of this truly wonderful occasion you both may take a rose to that spot both as a recommitment to your marriage - and a recommitment that THIS will be a marriage based upon love.

In every marriage there are times where it is difficult to find the right words. It is easiest to hurt whom we most love. It is easiest to be most hurt by whom we most love. It might be difficult some time to words to say "I am sorry" or "I forgive you"; "I need you" or "I am hurting". If this should happen, if you simply cannot find these words, leave a rose at that spot which both of you have selected - for that rose then says what matters most of all and should overpower all other things and all other words.

That rose says the words: "I still love you." The other should accept this rose for the words which cannot be found, and remember the love and hope that you both share today.

Rachelle and Greg, if there is anything you remember of this marriage ceremony, it is that it was love that brought you here today, it is only love which can make it a glorious union, and it is by love which your marriage shall endure."

The Blessing of the Apaches:

Now you will feel no rain, for each of you will be shelter for the other. Now you will feel no cold, for each of you will be warmth to the other. Now there will be no loneliness, for each of you will be companion to the other. Now you are two persons, but there is only one life before you. May beauty surround you both in the journey ahead and through all the years. May happiness be your companion and your days together be good and long upon the earth.

Pronouncement:

And now, it gives me great pleasure to say, by the power vested in me by the State of New Hampshire, I now pronounce you husband and wife. You may kiss your bride!