

It is a wonderful scene in this garden. Beautiful flowers and plants almost like the Garden of Eden. It was in the Garden of Eden that God made the first man and woman. It was in the Garden of Eden that God saw that it was good for a man to have a wife. So here we are today doing the same thing: bringing a woman to a man to be married.

Chuck are you willing to enter into marriage with Kristina, to love and respect her and support her physically, emotionally, and spiritually for the rest of your life, no matter what circumstances lay ahead of you?

Kristina are you willing to enter into marriage with Chuck, to love and respect him and support him physically, emotionally, and spiritually for the rest of your life, no matter what circumstances lay ahead of you?

Who gives this woman to this man?

[Kristina's dad should say, "Her mother and I do." And then place Kristina's hand into Chuck's hand and then be seated.]

In the beginning, in Genesis 2, God finished the creation of the world with the creation of man. God had even stated that everything he created was good, yet one thing was not good. Not anything that was made, but something was not yet created. Something was lacking. While the animals were produced either in swarms or pairs, the man was created as an individual and was alone.

It was not good, God said, that man should be alone and it still isn't. God knew then, as he knows now that we need companionship and friendship. We need others in our lives, in particular; we need someone special in our lives. We need someone that we can trust no matter what happens. We need someone on whom we can depend in any situation. We need someone with whom we can share our ideas, our feelings, and most importantly our love.

I like the way others before me have described this event. "God did not take the woman from Adam's head so that she would rule him. God did not take the woman from his feet so that he could trample her. God took the woman from his side to make them companions. She was taken from under his arm to be protected and from near his heart to be loved."

Marriage is not simply a ceremony to attend. Marriage is not just a contract that last for a little while and then must be renewed. Marriage is a two people being bonded together into one flesh, melted together into one mind and heart and blended together into one spirit. Marriage is a union that must not be separated by anyone including even those as close as family. It is a union that supercedes every relationship in this world. God alone should be more important.

With these thoughts in mind,

Chuck, do you have a ring for Kristina?

Place the ring on Kristina's finger and repeat after me. I Chuck take you Kristina to be my wife, to love and to cherish, from this day forward, for better or for worse, for richer or for poorer, in sickness and in health, so long as we both shall live.

Kristina, do you have a ring for Chuck?

Place the ring on Chuck's finger and repeat after me. I Kristina, take you Chuck to be my husband, to love and to cherish, from this day forward, for better or for worse, for richer or for poorer, in sickness and in health, so long as we both shall live.

Because you have both promised to stay together for the rest of your lives, before God and these people, I pronounce you to be husband and wife. Chuck, you may kiss your bride.

I present to you Mr. and Mrs. Chuck Harris. What God has joined together let no one take apart.