

## Marriage

We have come together today to share in the promises that Adam and Lil plan to give to each other. It wasn't long ago that we could watch them play in the sand, or climb trees, or ride tricycles. It won't be long and they will retire and have grandchildren. The promises made today must last through all of that time, from the love of your youth until you sit down with gray hair. It will be quite a journey. So, I want to ask you at this time if you are ready to take the first step of that journey:

Adam are you willing to enter into marriage with Lil, 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?

Lil are you willing to enter into marriage with Adam, 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?

### **Let us begin at the beginning:**

In the Beginning God Created the heavens and the earth! In Genesis 1:31 the Bible records that "God saw everything that He had made, and indeed *it was very good*" Yet in Chapter 2 something was not good: [Genes 2:18-24](#)

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.

Therefore it is important that is based upon real love, not superficial or conditional. It must be unconditional love! The Apostle Paul wrote about *a love that never fails*: In fact, this is the only kind of love that will never fail.

[1 Corinthians 13:4-8](#) Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails.

### **With these thoughts in mind,**

**Adam** do you have a token of your love for Lil

I Adam, take you Lil to be my wife, to love and to cherish, in wealth or poverty, in good times or bad, in sickness and in health, giving up all others to be with you as long as we both shall live.

**Lil** do you have a token of your love for Adam?

I Lil take you Adam to be my husband, to love and to cherish, in wealth or poverty, in good times or bad, in sickness and in health, giving up all others to be with you as long as we both shall live.

### **Unity Candle:**

Referring back to the first marriage, the story describes that they were no longer two, but one flesh. I can say further, that when a man and woman are married, they become more than one flesh, they become one mind and one spirit as well. They may have children, they may acquire friends along the way, and they may obtain jobs and do many things. In all this, they must have one goal: To stay together, to depend on each other and support each other as though they have only one heart and soul and mind. Without both they are incomplete.

Behind me are three candles. They represent the end of your individual lives and the beginning of one new unit involving both of you as husband and wife.

Because you have both made these promises before God and these witnesses, I pronounce you to be husband and wife. What God has joined together, let no one separate. You may kiss your bride.

I introduce to you Mr. and Mrs. Adam Warren!