

The following Christian-based ceremony was created using the couple's responses on my Personality Questionnaire as well as portions of my Build-It-Yourself Template – Roman Catholic Ceremony. The couple wanted a simple ceremony and also to please their families as they were being married outside of church. The review left by the couple was:

“Just wanted to THANK YOU for putting together my perfect ceremony! I received so many compliments on how personal and wonderful it was! Steve was amazing so please pass on my gratitude!”

Ceremony Script

Katie & Cole
October 3, 2014

Processional

TBD in the rehearsal.

Greeting

Officiant: "On behalf of Katie and Cole, welcome. We are gathered here, not to witness the beginning of what will be but rather what already is! We are here to celebrate with them the relationship that they have found with one another and to be witnesses to the formal commitment that they make today.

All of you are here because you hold some special place in the lives of these two individuals. You may be family members from whom they have learned what makes them who they are today. You may be friends who help them to make it through their daily lives. Whatever role you may play, we ask that you enter into this ceremony in a spirit of prayer, mindful that your support, friendship and love will be vital to the strength and success of their relationship. Thank you all for being here."

Old Testament Reading

Officiant: "I would like to set the tone for the ceremony today with two readings – one from scripture and the other from an anonymous source.

From the Old Testament, this is ECCLESIASTES 4:9-12

“Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow; but woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not

another to lift him up. Again, if two lie together, they are warm; but how can one be warm alone? And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him.'

And from an anonymous writer, this is a text that was shared by the couple:

'I realize that real love isn't easy or simple, it is made up of laughing so hard that you cry, embarrassing dance moves, nit-picking, arguments over who started the argument, kisses on the forehead, forgiveness, fights, make ups, home cooked meals (or lack there of), vacations, anniversaries, pain, ups and downs, and everything in between. It's that look that only the two of you share that says nothing and means everything that can make you weak in the knees and vulnerable beyond what you though imaginable, that's real love.'

Katie and Cole, your marriage, which begins officially today is a journey that you will make together. One of the many gifts that you will give to one another throughout the years will be your support in difficulties of all types. You will accomplish this not only by being a partner when trouble arises, but by being a partner in all of your endeavors, and by sharing in everything - joys, fears, hopes and concerns.

In this way you will know each other in ways that few others in your lives can, and your ability to support and relate to one another through all of the ups and downs of life will be unique."

Personal Reading

Officiant: "I would like to share with the family and friends here today what Katie and Cole had to say about their relationship.

Interestingly, they have known one another since junior high, and how many couples can say that they remember dating one another in 8th grade too? Katie expressed that she feels they were right for one another all along. They both feel that there was some kind of love underneath that was just waiting for the right time.

Finally, in their last semesters at Purdue they began the relationship that has led up to today.

Katie says, "Cole makes me laugh when I don't even want to smile. When he walks in a room it gets brighter. In him, I've found something I can't live without."

Cole says, "Katie is the most thoughtful and caring woman I've ever met. Her smile and passion for life are contagious, and when I'm around her, life is just truly better. I'm so lucky to be able to spend the rest of my life with the girl of my dreams."

Vows

Officiant: “Katie and Cole, so many loving sentiments have been expressed in your ceremony today. As you take your wedding vows please also be aware of accepting this simple truth of relationships:

When you love someone, you do not love them all the time, in exactly the same way, from moment to moment. We often insist on permanency, on duration, on continuity; when the only continuity possible, in life as in love, is in growth, in fluidity – in allowing space and providing support for the other person to grow while remaining a faithful partner in the dance of life.

Your vows today are certainly a solemn promise, a commitment that binds. But know that you are also promising to be best friends, to laugh with each other, to be each other’s confidant and to enjoy life together.

Officiant: "Do you Cole, take Katie to be your lawfully wedded wife, promising to love and cherish, through joy and sorrow, sickness and health, and whatever challenges you may face, for as long as you both shall live?"

Cole: “I do.”

Officiant: "Do you Katie, take Cole to be your lawfully wedded husband, promising to love and cherish, through joy and sorrow, sickness and health, and whatever challenges you may face, for as long as you both shall live?"

Katie: “I do.”

Exchange of Rings

Officiant: "Please bring the rings forward.”

The rings are handed directly to the couple.

Officiant: "As you place these rings upon each other’s finger, please speak to one another the words – ‘With this ring, I thee wed.’”

Nuptial Blessing

Officiant: “Katie and Cole, as you go forward from today may God be with you and bless you. May you see your children's children. May you be poor in misfortunes and rich in blessings. May you know nothing but happiness from this day forward.

To quote an Irish wedding blessing, ‘May the road rise up to meet you. May the wind always be at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your face, and rains fall soft upon your fields. And, until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of His hand.’”

The Lord’s Prayer

Officiant: “To conclude today’s ceremony, would all of those who would like to join please recite with me The Lord’s Prayer.”

The Officiant recites The Lord’s Prayer.

Declaration of Marriage

Officiant: “And now, by the vows that you have taken here today, as well as by the power vested in me, I hereby declare you officially married.

Cole, you may kiss your bride.”

Then, if the couple would like to be introduced:

Officiant: “Family and friends, I present to you for the first time Mr. and Mrs. (name removed for privacy).”