

Keith: It is with great pleasure that we gather today to witness the joining of two hands, and two hearts in holy matrimony. These two people, Chris and Tonya, have fallen in love so deeply, so completely, that today, they make a bond, whereby their hearts, their bodies and their souls shall be united as one in marriage for the rest of their days.

Keith: Who gives this woman to be wedded to this man?

Tony: Her mother and I do.

Keith: Chris and Tonya's respective families, together with their friends, each represent a circle of love. A circle of love where members care for, and nurture each other, in times of joy and in times of sorrow. Today, Chris and Tonya join their lives together to make a new circle of love, one that overlaps with, and is made stronger by those from which it has emerged. You have been invited here because of their special relationship with you, to witness the creation of this sacred bond.

Shelba: "Marriage Joins Two People in the Circle of its Love" by Edmund O'Neill

Marriage is a commitment to life, the best that two people can find and bring out in each other. It offers opportunities for sharing and growth that no other relationship can equal. It is a physical and an emotional joining that is promised for a lifetime.

Within the circle of its love, marriage encompasses all of life's most important relationships. A wife and a husband are each other's best friend, confidant, teacher, listener, and critic.

Marriage deepens and enriches every facet of life. Happiness is fuller, memories are fresher, and commitment is stronger.

Marriage understands and forgives the mistakes life is unable to avoid. It encourages and nurtures new life, new experiences, and new ways of expressing a love that is deeper than life. When two people pledge their love and care for each other in marriage, they create a spirit unique unto themselves, which binds them, closer than any spoken or written words. Marriage is a promise made in the hearts of two people who love each other and takes a lifetime to fulfill.

Keith: Chris and Tonya, seek love and never take it for granted. Love is believing, sharing, caring, and dreaming together. It is honesty, friendship, companionship, and selflessness. Love is the desire and commitment to be intimate physically, psychologically, and emotionally. It is devotion, celebration, understanding, forgiveness, and sacrifice. Love is strong, yet it can be fragile. Love is gentleness, kindness, and patience. It is trusting, protecting, inspiring, and supporting. Remember these words as you pledge your love.

Keith gets rings from Doug and Kerry

Keith: Chris and Tonya, please face each other and join hands. Please repeat after me.

Keith/Chris:

I, Chris, choose you, Tonya, to be my wife,
to respect you in your successes and in your failures,
to care for you in sickness and in health,
to nurture you, and to grow with you all the days of my life.

With this ring, you have my life.

Keith/Tonya:

I, Tonya, choose you, Chris, to be my husband,
to respect you in your successes and in your failures,
to care for you in sickness and in health,
to nurture you, and to grow with you all the days of my life.

With this ring, you have my life.

Keith: May these rings always remind you of the vows you have taken as well as the circle of love you have created here today.

Keith: Not only are Chris and Tonya creating a marriage here today, they are also forming a family with Samantha. Just as it is appropriate for Chris and Tonya to begin their marriage by affirming their love for each other by exchanging vows, they also wish to exchange vows with Samantha. Tonya, please repeat after me.

Keith/Tonya:

Samantha, I promise to accept and love you as my own child

and to protect and love you all of my life.

I promise to do my best to guide and support you,

and to respect you enough

to allow you to see the world through your own eyes.

Keith: Chris and Tonya have a special gift for Samantha.

Keith: (Benediction) May the meaning of these moments be fulfilled in the years to come in the lives of Chris and Tonya. May their unity of spirit grow deeper and stronger in the chances and changes of the life they will share. May they be strength to each other and comfort and the cause of great happiness. Loving each other, may they reach out to love others in their circle.

Keith: (Pronouncement) Because, Chris and Tonya, you have expressed your love and commitment, and promised each other the joy of all your days, before this company, it gives me great honor and pleasure to pronounce you husband and wife. You may now kiss the bride!

Keith: Ladies and gentlemen, I would like to introduce Mr. and Mrs. Chris Manley!