



*Rev. Ann Fuller*

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## **Blessing of the Marriage**

**A blessing is a beautiful way to close a wedding ceremony just prior to the declaration of marriage. It transfers the emotional energy between the couple to those gathered to witness the public affirmation of their bond. It allows for their friends and family to bestow the gift of love and support for the pledges they have just exchanged to one another. The couple may wish to invoke the blessings of the divine, the human family or both. Religious or secular blessings are entirely appropriate depending upon the beliefs of the couple. And of course, this selection of samples is by no means exhaustive.**

### **Religious**

- 1. (Non-denominational Theist)** Let us pray. Lord, help \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to always remember when they first met and the strong love that grew between them. To work that love into practical things so nothing can divide them. May they always speak words both kind and loving, and may their hearts be always ready to ask forgiveness as well as to forgive. Dear Lord, we place their marriage into your hands. Amen.
- 2. (Non-denominational Theist)** May your mornings bring joy and your evenings bring peace. May your troubles grow few as your blessings increase. May the saddest day of your future Be no worse than the happiest day of your past. May your hands be forever clasped in friendship And your hearts joined forever in love. Your lives are very special, God has touched you in many ways. May his blessings rest upon you And fill all your coming days.
- 3. (Non-denominational Theist)** We thank you, O God, for the Love You have implanted in the hearts of (Bride and Groom). May it always inspire them to be kind in their words, considerate of feeling, and concerned for each other's needs and wishes. Help them to be understanding and forgiving of human weaknesses and failings. Increase their faith and trust in You and may Your Prudence guide their lives and love. Bless their Marriage O Lord, with Peace and Happiness, and make their love fruitful for Your glory and their Joy both here and in eternity.
- 4. (Non-denominational Christian)** May the love of God be above you to overshadow you, beneath you to uphold you, before you to guide you, behind you to protect you, close beside you and within you to make you able for all things, and to reward your faithfulness with the joy and peace which the world cannot give -- neither can it take away. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, to whom be glory now and evermore. Amen



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**5. (Non-denominational Christian)** Dear heavenly Father (or "Oh Lord"), our hearts are filled with great happiness on \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_'s wedding day, as they come before You pledging their hearts and lives to one another. Grant that they may be ever true and loving, living together in such a way as to never bring shame or heartbreak into their marriage. Temper their hearts with kindness and understanding, rid them of all pretense of jealousy. Help them to remember to be each other's sweetheart, helpmate, friend and guide, so that together they may meet the cares and problems of life more bravely. And with the passage of time, may the home they are creating today, truly be a place of love and harmony, where your spirit is ever present. Bless this union we pray, and walk beside \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ throughout all their lives together. We ask these things in Jesus name; Amen.

**6. (Book of Common Prayer)** Most gracious God, we give you thanks for your tender love in sending Jesus Christ to come among us, to be born of a human mother, and to make the way of the cross to be the way of life. We thank you, also, for consecrating the union of man and woman in his Name. By the power of your Holy Spirit, your out the abundance of your blessing upon this man and this woman. Defend them from every enemy. Lead them into all peace. Let their love for each other be a seal upon their hearts, a mantle about their shoulders, and a crown upon their foreheads. Bless them in their work and in their companionship; in their sleeping and in their waking; in their joys and in their sorrows; in their life and in their death. Finally, in your mercy, bring them to that table where your saints feast for ever in your heavenly home; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

**7. (Book of Common Prayer)** O God, you have so consecrated the covenant of marriage that in it is represented the spiritual unity between Christ and his Church: Send therefore your blessing upon these your servants, that they may so love, honor, and cherish each other in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness, that their home may be a haven of blessing and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit, bless, preserve, and keep you; the Lord mercifully with his favor look upon you, and fill you with all spiritual benediction and grace; that you may faithfully live together in this life, and in the age to come have life everlasting. *Amen.*

**8. (Jewish) The Seven Blessings**

1. Blessed are you, Adonai, our God, ruler of the universe, who creates the fruit of the vine.
2. Blessed are you, Adonai, our God, ruler of the universe, who creates all things in your glory.
3. Blessed are you, Adonai, our God, ruler of the universe, who created mankind.
4. Blessed are you, Adonai, our God, ruler of the universe, who formed humanity in his image, in the image of his likeness, and fashioned for him out of his very self a mate for all eternity.
5. May the barren land rejoice and be glad when her children are gathered back to her in joy. Blessed are you, Adonai, our God, who makes Zion rejoice in her children.
6. Grant abundant joy to these beloved companions, as you gladdened your creation long ago in the Garden of Eden. Blessed are you, Adonai, our God, who gladdens groom and bride.



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7. Blessed are you, Adonai, our god, ruler of the universe, who created joy and gladness, groom and bride, songs of joy, delight and pleasure, love and harmony, peace and friendship. Soon, Adonai, our God, may we hear in the cities of Judaea and in the streets of Jerusalem the voice of joy and the voice of gladness, the voice of the groom and the voice of the bride, the jubilant voices of lovers from their chuppot, and of youths from their feats of song. Blessed are you, Adonai, who gladdens the groom and bride.

### **9. (Hindu) Seven Blessings**

1. May this couple be blessed with an abundance of resources and comforts, and be helpful to one another in all ways
2. May this couple be strong and complement one another.
3. May this couple be blessed with prosperity and riches on all levels.
4. May this couple be eternally happy.
5. May this couple be blessed with a happy family life.
6. May this couple live in perfect harmony... true to their personal values and their joint promises.
7. May this couple always be the best of friends.

### **Secular**

10. Bless this marriage, as \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ begin their journey through life together. May your home be filled with laughter and warm embraces. May you find peacefulness and beauty, challenge, and satisfaction, humor and insight, healing and renewal, love and wisdom, within your union. Cleave to one another that you may always feel what you have is more than enough.

11. May the glory which rests on all who love, rest upon you, and bless you and keep you, and fill you with happiness and a gracious spirit. Despite all changes of time and fortune, may all that is noble and lovely and true abound in your hearts and abide with you, and give you strength in all your days together.

12. May \_\_\_ and \_\_\_'s marriage be truly blessed with all that is good and noble and true. May they be helpful to one another in all ways. May they be strong and complement one another. May they be blessed with a happy life surrounded by the love of family and friends. May they live in harmony, true to their personal values and their joint promises. May they always be the best of friends and their love for one another deepen over the years.

13. Life and love are the greatest gifts bestowed upon humanity.  
May your union grant you patience, tolerance, and understanding as well as the passion and excitement every marriage should possess.  
May you need one another, as a sign of strength.  
May you hunger for one another, as a sign of fulfillment.  
May you enchant one another, as a sign of harmony.  
May you embrace one another, as a sign of unity.  
May you support one another, as a sign of mutual independence.  
May you continually rediscover your love in one another, as the greatest gift of all.



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14. May that wonder residing in all who love, reside in you and bless you and keep you. May it fill you with joy and a compassionate spirit. May all that is good and right and true, abound in your lives and abide in your hearts through the changes of time and fortune. May your union be granted harmony and strength forever.

15. Behold our family here assembled. We thank you for this place in which we dwell, for the love that unites us, for the peace accorded us this day, for the hope with which we expect the morrow, for the health, the work, the food, and the bright skies that make our lives delightful; for our friends in all parts of the earth. Bless this marriage with all the gifts for which we give thanks this day. - Robert Louis Stevenson

16. As spring unfolds the dream of the earth,  
May you bring each other's hearts to birth.  
As the ocean finds calm in view of land.  
May you love the gaze of each other's mind.  
As the wind arises free and wild,  
May nothing negative control your lives.  
As kindly as moonlight might search the dark,  
So gentle may you be when light grows scarce.  
As surprised as the silence that music opens,  
May your words for each other be touched with reverence.  
As warmly as the air draws in the light,  
May you welcome each other's every gift.  
As elegant as dream absorbing the night,  
May sleep find you clear of anger and hurt.  
As twilight harvests all the day's colour,  
May love bring you home to each other.  
~John O'Donohue

## **Ethnic**

### **17. (Irish)**

May the raindrops fall lightly on your brow  
May the soft winds freshen your spirit  
May the sunshine brighten your heart  
May the burdens of the day rest lightly upon you  
And may God enfold you in the mantle of His love.  
May the road rise to meet you  
May the wind be always at your back  
May the sun shine warm upon your face  
and the rain fall soft upon your fields



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And until we meet again my friend  
May God hold you in the hollow (palm) of his hand  
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  
But rich or poor, quick or slow,  
May you know nothing but happiness  
From this day forward.  
May the joys of today  
Be those of tomorrow.

**18. (Irish)**

I wish healing upon you  
The healing of Mary with me,  
Mary, Michael and Brigid  
Be with me all three.  
Fly with the birds of the air  
Fly with the wasps of the hill  
Swim with the sea-going whale  
For they are swiftest  
Be upon the clouds of the sky  
For they are the rainiest  
Be upon the river's current  
Cascading to the sea

**19. (German)** With faith there is love, With love there is peace, With peace there is blessing, With blessing, there is God, With God there is no need.

**20. (Native American)**

O Great Spirit, whose breath gives life to the world, and whose voice is heard in the soft breeze: We need your strength and wisdom.  
Cause us to walk in beauty. Give us eyes ever to behold the red and purple sunset. Make us wise so that we may understand what you have taught us.  
Help us learn the lessons you have hidden in every leaf and rock. Make us always ready to come to you with clean hands and steady eyes, so when life fades, like the fading sunset, our spirits may come to you without shame.



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**21. (Native American)**

Now you will feel no rain,  
For each of you will be shelter to the other.  
Now you will feel no cold,  
For each of you will be warmth to the other.  
Now there is no more loneliness,  
For each of you will be companion to the other.  
Now you are two bodies,  
But there is only one life before you.  
Go now to your dwelling place  
To enter into the days of your togetherness  
And may your days be good and long upon the earth.

**22. (Saxon)**

As the grass of the fields and the trees of the woods bend together under the pressures of the storm, so must you both bend when the wind blows strong but know that as quickly as the storm comes, so equally quickly may it leave. Yet will you both stand, strong in each other's strength. As you give love; so will you receive love. As you give strength, so will you receive strength. Together you are one; apart you are nothing.

**23. (by Jose Marti)**

*In Spanish:*

“El amor  
nace  
con el placer de contemplarse,  
se alimenta  
con la necesidad de verse,  
y concluye  
con la imposibilidad  
de separarse”.

*In English:*

“Love is born  
with the pleasure of looking at each other,  
it is fed  
with the necessity  
of seeing each other,  
it is concluded with the impossibility  
of ever being apart.”