



Rev. Ann Fuller

Vow Renewals

Couples choose to renew their vows for many reasons. Some of the most common are:

- Social wedding after an elopement or civil marriage ceremony
- Wedding ceremony after a marriage ceremony in another state or country
- Milestone anniversaries
- After recovery from a serious illness or injury
- After a reconciliation

Vow renewals are great fun because they can be anything you want them to be and you don't have to worry about the legal paperwork. Customarily, the husband escorts the wife down the aisle, but there is no hard and fast rule about that. If I renew my vows I would probably have my sons walk me down the aisle.

Typically, vow renewals are more intimate affairs than weddings, but that doesn't necessarily have to be the case—particularly when the couple feels they did not have a meaningful wedding ritual when their marriage was originally solemnized. So if you had a courthouse marriage ceremony with two witnesses and want to have a wedding at a later date with over a hundred guests, do it!

While many wedding traditions are perfectly appropriate at a vow renewal, such as cakes and champagne toasts, some just do not make sense. Showers and bachelor parties are a bit out of context. Some people want to recreate their original wedding, others want to have the wedding celebration they never had the first time. I think it is a lot of fun to create new traditions, capture what your relationship has become and explore what you wish the future to bring. Vow renewals bring new life to a marriage and aren't solely a trip down memory lane.



Sample Vows

_____ years ago, I pledged my love and commitment to you, but it seems like only yesterday. I promised to love you, honor you, comfort and keep you. I pledges to be by your side in sickness and in health, in times of want, and times of plenty, for better or worse, for the rest of our lives. We have had all of those things, and you have been by my side as we created a family, a home, and a life together. Today, at the beginning of our ___th year as husband and wife, in the presence of God, and our family and friends, I renew my vows to you, pledging my eternal love for you, and eagerly awaiting what life may bring us.



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With great joy I pledged my love and commitment to you on our wedding day. But a loving relationship does not exist in a vacuum. Our family and friends first showed us how to love, helped us grow, and supported us when we found each other. I hope they will continue to love and support us as we love and support them. Therefore, I am delighted today, in the presence of these witnesses, to reaffirm my commitment to you, and once again, to promise to love you, honor you, and comfort you, in sickness and in health, for richer, for poorer, for better and for worse, as long as we both shall live.

On our wedding day, I pledged to love you in sickness and in health, and for better or worse. The past year has tested those vows, but our enduring love for one another has prevailed. I come here today to make a fresh start, to renew our vows of love, honor, and fidelity, and to reaffirm my love for you. When, I promised to love you for as long as we both should live, I never imagined that I would face losing you so soon, or the depths of despair I would feel at that prospect. Today, we have conquered adversity, and I am so ecstatic that I get to continue life's journey by your side. Once again, I promise to love you, honor you and keep you, for better or worse, in sickness and in health, for as long as we both shall live.

Sample Vow Renewal Ceremony

Words of Welcome

(Husband) and (Wife) those who love you and support and bless your relationship come together this day to witness as you reaffirm your marriage vows. We gather to rejoice in your time together as husband and wife, acknowledge the love that continues to grow between you and look forward to many years to come.

Declaration of Intent

When you first joined together in sacred matrimony, you could not know where your lives would lead. You promised to love, honor and cherish one another through all things. As you come here today to reaffirm your wedding vows and reflect over the past years as husband and wife, do you now joyfully and solemnly reaffirm the vows you made to one another? ~ *We do.*

Reading: Adapted from FOUNDATIONS OF MARRIAGE by Regina Hill

Love, trust, and forgiveness are the foundations of marriage. In marriage, many days bring happiness, while other days are sad. But together, two hearts can overcome everything...In marriage, all of the moments aren't exciting or romantic, and sometimes worries and anxiety are overwhelming. But together, two hearts that accept find comfort together. Recollections of past joys, pains, and shared feelings are the glue that holds everything together during even the worst and most insecure moments.



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Reaching out to each other as a friend, and becoming the confidant and companion that the other one needs, is the true magic and beauty of any two people together. It's inspiring in each other a dream or a feeling, and having faith in each other and not giving up... even when all the odds say to quit. It's allowing each other to be vulnerable, to be himself or herself, even when the opinions or thoughts aren't in total agreement or exactly what you'd like them to be. It's getting involved and showing interest in each other, really listening and being available, the way any best friend should be. Exactly three things need to be remembered in a marriage if it is to be a mutual bond of sharing, caring, and loving throughout life: love, trust, and forgiveness.

Affirmation of Marriage

Love between man and woman, like any other love, is a love generous in giving and generous in receiving. It is full of laughter, compassion and rejoicing. Love nourishes but it does not possess; in love we affirm one another and do not dominate. To love is not to win or lose, but to help and be helped.

Build strength through the beauty of love. This is the core of your marriage and why you have come to renew your pledges to one another. Trust yourself and trust one another to know what is truly best for each of you and your marriage. A healthy marriage requires dedication and the ability to remain open to change--to learn and grow together. Have faith that even though you know not what the future may bring, you are facing it together. Hold true to the journey you vow anew to share forever.

Reaffirmation of Vows

Please turn to one another and join hands.

(Husband), please look into (Wife's) eyes as you repeat after me.

*On our wedding day
I pledged my love
and commitment to you.
Since that day
We have created a home,
a family and a life together.
Today I joyfully
Reaffirm my vows to you
And once again promise
To love, honor and respect you
Through good times and in bad
As long as we both shall live.*



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(Wife), please look into (Husband's) eyes as you repeat after me.

*On our wedding day
I pledged my love
and commitment to you.
Since that day
We have created a home,
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Today I joyfully
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Blessing of the Hands

Please hold one another's hands with the palms facing up and see the gifts they are to you. These are the hands that work together as you build your future. These are the hands that give you strength, supporting and encouraging you in all your endeavors. These are the cherished hands that help you to express your love, compassion and desire. These are the hands that are always there to wipe the tears from your eyes, tears of sorrow and tears of joy. May these hands we see before us this day be blessed. May they long be held by wonder another, remaining tender and gentle. May these hands help to create a relationship founded in love, rich in caring and devoted to one another always. May these hands that hold your rings, forever be ready to reach out to one another in the glory of your love.

Blessing of the Marriage

May the glory resting upon 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. Please reaffirm your commitment to your marriage with a kiss.