

Marriage of Rebecca Y. Shen and Mark L. Fussell

July Second, Nineteen hundred and ninety nine

Officiated by Reverend Edwin Holt

Introduction

We are joyfully gathered here today to witness and celebrate the joining of two lives in marriage. Mark and Rebecca have invited us to rejoice with them and share in the creation of this important union, forged out of friendship, respect and love. This is a commitment that is not entered into lightly, but rather undertaken with great consideration and reverence.

On behalf of Mark and Rebecca I would like to welcome you and thank you for sharing in this celebration of their love. Each of you has enriched their lives . . . and your love, guidance and encouragement will always be treasured.

Opening Prayer

Our God, in whom all things exist and all things begin, we come to ask Your blessing upon Mark and Rebecca as they begin their lives together by coming to make their vows before you, and their family and friends. May their vows be as Your word to Your children; steadfast and sure under all conditions. May their love and trust for one another grow stronger each day by having the mind of God in their hearts to bring them peace and joy. Amen.

Intentions

Mark, will you have Rebecca as your wedded wife, to be your friend and companion, to share your life and your love, as your promise to give her your care and respect through all the days of your lives?

Rebecca, will you have Mark as your wedded husband, to be your friend and companion, to share your life and your love, as your promise to give him your care and respect through all the days of your lives?

Marriage Statement

Mark and Rebecca, today you are surrounded by your family and friends, all of whom are gathered to witness your marriage and to celebrate with you.

On this day of your marriage, you stand somewhat apart from all other human beings. You stand within the charmed circle of your love; and this is as it should be. But love is not meant to be the possession of two people alone. Rather it should serve as a source of common energy, as a form in which you find the strength to live your lives with courage.

From this day onward you must come closer together than ever before, but at the same time your love should give you the strength to stand apart, to seek out your unique destinies, to make your special contribution to the world which is always part of us and more than us.

Today, as you join yourselves in marriage, there is a vast and unknown future stretching out before you. The possibilities and potentials of your married life are great; and now it falls upon your shoulders the task of choosing values and making real the moral dreams that other men and women have sought. If your love is vital, it will make the choosing and acting easier for you.

Parent's Blessing

The union of Mark and Rebecca brings together two family traditions, two systems of roots, in the hope that a new family tree may become strong and fruitful. This is a personal choice and a decision for which they are primarily responsible. Yet their lives will be enriched by the support of their families.

I would like to say a word to the parents of Mark and Rebecca. On behalf of your son and daughter I would like to thank you for your love and care. In as much as your son Mark and your daughter Rebecca have agreed to become husband and wife and to establish a home of their own, will you give them your blessing in this union and do all in your power to strengthen them in the fulfillment of their vows to each other and in carrying out their responsibilities as husband and wife? Will each of you accept your daughter-in-law as your daughter and your son-in-law as your son and let your love surround them and uphold them without reservation?

Reading

The First Letter to the Corinthians

translated by Stephen Mitchell

Though I speak in the tongues of men and of angels: If I have no love, I am a clanging bell or a tinkling cymbal. Though I prophesy and see into all the mysteries and all hidden knowledge, and have faith enough to move mountains: if I have no love, I am nothing. And though I give away all my possessions to feed the poor, and offer up my body to be burned: if I have no love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient and kind, is never envious or boastful or conceited, does not act rudely or selfishly, is not easily angered, does not count up offenses, takes no pleasure in injustice, but rejoices in the truth; includes all things, has faith in all things, hopes for all things, endures all things.

Love never ends. If there are prophecies, they will disappear; if there is ecstasy, it will cease; if there is knowledge, it will vanish . . . but faith, hope, and love remain forever, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

Pastoral Remarks

When two people pledge to love and care for each other in marriage, they create a unique spirit, a spirit which binds them closer than any spoken or written words. The purpose of marriage is to create a loving partnership in which you can express your intimate thoughts and emotions. By working together and planning for the future you can make your dreams come true.

Marriage is a promise of a lifetime together, created in the hearts of two people who love. It is a physical, emotional, and spiritual joining which offers opportunities for sharing and growing that no other relationship can equal. A good marriage is created through mutual respect and understanding. It serves as a basis for an everlasting friendship.

How very fortunate you are to have found one another. Help each other through all the challenges of life and encourage each other to embrace all the warmth and joys of life and of people.

Build your relationship on a love fulfilling each other's needs. With patience and understanding, support your partner's goals, purpose, and spirit.

Mark and Rebecca, cherish each other and the love you share, and may your future together bring you everlasting happiness.

Wedding Vows

[Mark] Rebecca, please join me in life as my partner, my lover, my friend and my wife. I cherish the relationship that we have found together and wish to make it last for an eternity. I promise to continually discover who you are and help you to fulfill your needs, your goals, and your dreams. I also promise to reveal myself to you, so you can see into my heart and assist me with my dreams. I believe that together we can become our best selves and I will strive to make that happen. I will always stand beside you with an open heart as we journey through life together.

[Rebecca] Mark, I promise before God, our families, and our friends,, to be your loving wife,, to continue to be your loyal friend,, and to be an equal partner for life. I promise to give you my deepest love and respect,, and to willingly open my heart to you, as a sanctuary of warmth and peace, and a refuge of love and strength. I will honor your goals and dreams, and promise to help you fulfill them. I pledge to you my trust, support, and honesty, as we journey through life together.

Rings

As tokens of their marriage Mark and Rebecca have selected rings. These rings are an outward sign of an inward relationship, wear them proudly as they represent your marriage. As the ring is a perfect circle without end, it is the wish and hope of all that your marriage will be as perfect and never ending.

Let these rings symbolize the devotion and commitment each holds for the other. These rings, given in love, are a testimony to all who bear witness that Mark and Rebecca are truly joined together as husband and wife.

Ring Vows

[Mark] I give you this ring,, with all my heart,, as a symbol of my affection,, my commitment,, and my love.

[Rebecca] I give you this ring,, with all my heart,, as a symbol of my affection,, my commitment,, and my love.

Closing Words

Love is truly the greatest gift to share and compassion is the glory of life. A lasting marriage endures hardships, strives for mutual goals, and rejoices in accomplishments.

Grow with each other and build a relationship that you can be proud of. Delight in each other's company and never take one another for granted, for you are destined to enjoy the blending of your lives.

In times of need and in times of joy, rejoice in your families, for they have helped you to grow into the persons you are today. Their presence at this moment expresses their wish to continue to love and support you always, no matter where your life may lead. And remember your friends, for they too have shaped your lives and will always be with you.

May your home be bright with the laughter of family and friends. May it become a source of peace and strength for all who gather there. May it be filled with creativity and love and most of all may it become the one place in all the world that you most want to be.

Marriage carries important responsibilities not only to each other but to your children. Teach your children the value of loving, for they learn from your example. Give your children the freedom to find their own way, and always stand by them.

Mark and Rebecca may you encourage each other in whatever you set out to achieve. Together, may you discover a love that gives you the courage to stand apart and the desire to stand together. And trusting one another, trust life, and always welcome it

Pronouncement

As witnessed by your family and friends, it is my pleasure to pronounce you Mark and you Rebecca to be husband and wife, lovers, and friend for life.

Kiss

You may kiss the bride.

Blessing

Apache Blessing

Now you will feel no rain, for each of you will be a 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 you; for you are two persons, but there is only one life before you . . .

Go now to your dwelling place, to enter into the days of your life together. And may your days be good, and long upon the earth.

Introduction

It is my pleasure to introduce to you:

Mr. and Mrs. Mark Lewis Fussell.