



How To Write Your Own wedding vows

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You want: Heartfelt vows bringing you all to tears on the big day.

You have: A brain blank with wedding-decision fatigue and serious grammar issues.

Where do you start?

1. VOW, OR PROFESSION OF LOVE?

Yes, there's time for both here. But if you're wondering how to write your own wedding vows—what's the difference between promises and an elaborate toast?

Feel free to include your own spin on “I love you and cherish who you are.” But as you begin to brainstorm your vows, think about what you're promising. Weddings aren't just to unite two people on earth. They foreshadow the wedding and relationship of the Lamb with His bride, forecast in Revelation ([19:6-9](#)). A marriage reflects Jesus and His future wife, the church ([Ephesians 5:22-23](#)).

So while there's no problem whatsoever with mentioning you'll love your spouse when they burn the lasagna or leave the toilet seat up—keep in mind weddings are sacred. In fact, in many churches, they're a sacrament, like baptism or communion.

The question remains: What are you committing to, like Christ commits to His people? How do you want to mirror Him in your promises to one another?

Dr. Juli Slattery, in her teaching about sex, [points out](#) that following God's love for His people, covenant love involves four pillars: faithfulness, sacrificial love, passionate celebration, and intimate knowing. These could act as a starting point for what you promise.

2. YES MEANS YES.

God takes promises super-seriously, and we should take seriously what we vow. In the New Testament, God phrases this command as, "Let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No'" ([Matthew 5:37, NKJV](#)). Say what you mean; mean what you say, right?

So when you're wondering how to write your own wedding vows, this could look like not making promises you'll likely break on any average Tuesday afternoon: "I promise to never cut you down." Calling someone a slob for tossing dirty underwear *beside* the hamper is bad enough when you're not breaking a promise you've made to both them and God, no?

Instead, consider creating vows about the unbreakable parts of your commitment. That's where we get "for better or worse, for richer or poorer, in sickness and in health, until death do us part." Maybe you can hear the "faithfulness" part of covenant love in there.

3. THROUGH YOUR LOVE, TELL THE BEST STORY IN THE WORLD.

Because marriage is a picture of how God loves us, your vows are a chance to proclaim to each other, and your witnesses, all over again what Jesus did for us.



So what could DIY vows look like, incorporating different pillars of covenant love?

- **Faithfulness:** Whatever happens to us, in triumph or tragedy, I will never leave this covenant except when God, in His wisdom, separates us by death. Like Jesus pursues His Bride, I pursue oneness with you as long as we live ([Genesis 2:24](#)). Together, we will seek God's face and His impeccable ways.
- **Sacrificial love:** I will strive more and more to count your needs as more significant than mine ([Philippians 2:3](#)). I will follow and learn from Jesus, who loved His Bride and gave Himself for her, loving her as His own body ([Ephesians 5:26, 28](#)).
- **Passionate celebration:** I receive you as God's good gift, and covenant to see you as my God-created ally rather than my enemy. I aim to honor this beautiful, God-imagined union, and the workmanship He's crafted in you as a person, for good works He's created in advance for your life, and for us together ([Matthew 19:6](#), [Ephesians 2:10](#)). I can't wait to glorify Him together with you in this holy union.
- **Intimate knowing:** "Behold, you are beautiful, my love; behold, you are beautiful; your eyes are doves" (Song of Solomon 1:15). The God-created beauty of your entire person is breathtaking to me! I will pursue knowing you in every season of our lives—no matter what threatens us—as by God's kindness, you grow in loveliness and holiness.

4. PHONE A FRIEND.

Maybe your love is genuine, but you have no idea how to write your own wedding vows in a way they won't sound like something sung on Sesame Street.

It's important these vows come from your heart. But you also don't want your questionable grammar or that really weird metaphor to steal the show: "The cleanness of our love makes me think of laundry. It nourishes me in my gut, like kombucha."

So it's also fair, once you've pulled together your genuine ideas, that you run this by that friend or acquaintance—maybe who's a writer, a speaker, a poet, or a songwriter.

Traditionally, wedding vows don't just say "Promise I won't divorce you. Let's go get cake," but rather, "forsaking all others be faithful to you so long as we both shall live." I.e., you're not just going for facts, but compelling, engaging beauty. (Hey, you're paying for the tux and the dress.)

And yet ... to keep it believable, genuine, and something you won't stumble over, make sure the words remain in your voice.

Go for substance. Then make it stunning.

Ready to try your hand?



How To Write Your Own Wedding Vows: A Basic Worksheet

1. P R A Y.

Nobody knows your fiancé and how he or she is best loved like God does. Ask Him to empower you to love and honor your mate well.

- Acknowledge who God is and how He already shows Himself in your relationship.
- How does He hope to reflect Himself and His love within your marriage?
- What would God have you commit to your future spouse?
- What Scripture verses do you love? Why? How will they guide your relationship?
- How could you honor who He is in your marriage vows?
- What else might God be showing you as you pray?



2. BRAINSTORM ABOUT YOUR FIANCE.

...and make this more about them than you.

- Remember times when you've been emotionally moved by your fiancé, what it was about them that prompted such feeling, and how you'd describe that emotion.
- The authors of Song of Solomon wax poetic about what sets each other apart from the rest (see [1:8](#), for example). Without throwing the rest of humanity under the bus—what about your fiancé elevates them above others for you?
- What did God create in your fiancé that makes an excellent match for you?
- How is your world different because you have this person?
- What do you appreciate in your fiancé that they may not see?





3. DECIDE WHAT YOU MOST WANT TO PROMISE.

- When you're wondering how to write your own wedding vows, consider first what the Bible tells you about covenant love, which you want your marriage to emulate.
 - Look around in Scripture (perhaps 1 Corinthians 13), and don't be afraid to utilize cross-references in an internet search.
 - Consider researching *hesed* love—God's covenant, no-way-out love for His people (also translated as *kindness, faithfulness, mercy, goodness, loyalty, and steadfast love*).
- As stated above, consider Dr. Slattery's "pillars" of faithfulness, sacrificial love, passionate celebration, and intimate knowing, and how you might communicate these aspects of God's love in your own commitments.
- How could you reflect God, and what Jesus has done for us, in your vows?



4. BRING IT ALL TOGETHER.

- What are the main ideas arising from what you want to say?
- Looking at other versions of vows, are there important principles you may have forgotten?

5. TIME TO WORDSMITH.

- Combine similar sentences, taking out what's redundant.
- Plan your memorable exit. Everyone knows “as long as we both shall live”—because it's the kind of sweet finish that sticks with you.

