

**Civil Marriage Renewal
Ceremony Booklet**

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Format of ceremony can be adapted to suit your own special requirements

Reading 1

We have lived and loved Together

We have lived and loved together
Through many changing years
We have shared each other's gladness
And wept each other tears
And let us hope the future
As the past has been will be
I will share with thee my sorrows
And thou thy joys with me

Charles Jefferys

Reading 2

Victorian Guide to love, courtship and marriage

Don't ever both be angry at the same time.
Never let the cares of the world assume such importance that they cause you to neglect each other. Be genuinely sympathetic with each other's trials and tribulations.
Never make a remark calculated to bring ridicule upon the other.
Make criticism in the most loving and gentle way possible.
Don't be cross with an error, which was done with a good motive and the best judgement at the time.
Don't boast about the sacrifices you make for each other.
When you part, make time for a loving good-bye.

Reading 3

While unhurried
Days come and go
Let us turn to each other in quiet affection,
Walk in peace to the edge of old age.
(Ancient Egyption song)

Reading 4

To My Dear and Loving Husband
If ever two were one, then surely we
If ever man were loved by wife, then thee;
If ever wife was happy in a man,
Compare with me ye women if you can.
I prize thy love more than whole mines of gold,
Or all the riches that the East doth hold.
My love is such that rivers cannot quench,
Not ought but love from thee give recompense
Thy love is such I can no way repay;
The heavens reward thee manifold, I pray.
Then while we live, in love let's so persever,
Then when we love no more we may live ever

Anne Bradstreet

Reading 5

Long Marriages

Oh the head lies on the pillow
Twenty, thirty, forty years
The hair that was brown goes grey then white.

But all the time the love increases
To see the head there all those years
Is itself a charm against the things of night!

Gavin Ewart

Reading 6

There is nothing more lovely in life than the union of
two people
Whose love for one another has grown through the
years from the small acorn of passion to the great
rooted tree.
Surviving all vicissitudes, and rich with its manifold
branches,
Every leaf holding its own significance.

Vita Sackville-West

Reading 7

Eternal Soulmates

You are the one,
with whom I'm destined to be,
Across space and time,
You are drawn to me,

One love, one life, we are destined to be,
Soulmates forever throughout eternity.

In past lives I have loved you,
In this life I you too,
And I know if I shall live again
I am destined to love you.

I know I'll always find you where ever you are,
No matter the consequence,
No matter how far,

Even in death I shall love you more,
To fuel my search to find you,
So we shall love once more.

Across space and time, you are drawn to me
One love, lone life, we are destined to be,
Soulmates forever throughout eternity.

Lisa Teller

Reading 8

When First We Met

I loved you, dear, beginning with the very day we met
And every word you said was one I never could forget.

I loved you from the very first, your every glance and
gaze
Your perfect modesty and all of your engaging ways.

I know not how to say it but you were so good and
sweet
You simply overwhelmed me and you swept me off my
feet

And I could never change my mind if we should ever be
apart
For I could hold no other one so dearly in my heart

You are the only one I'll love as long as I may live
With all true affection my heart can ever give.

Reading 9

Always say "I love you"
Too many times it seems
We take for granted the ones we love
We wait for birthdays or holidays or some other special
occasion
to say "I love you" "I appreciate you" or "thank you".

In our busy lives we often forget that there is more
along the way than just bills to pay, phone calls to
return and errands to run.
There are people in our lives who need to be hugged,
who need to be loved.

A heart is like a garden that needs to be tended to
and nourished, with what only another heart can give –
Love and appreciation, devotion and honesty.

Tracia Cludemans

Reading 10 - The Key to Love

The key to love is understanding.....
The ability to comprehend not only the spoken word
But those unspoken gestures
The little things that say so much by themselves.

The key to love is forgiveness.....
To accept each others faults and pardon mistakes
Without forgetting, but with remembering
What you learn from them.

The key to love is sharing.....
Facing your good fortunes as well as the bad, together
Both conquering problems, forever searching for ways
To intensify your happiness.

The key to love is giving.....
Without thought of return
But with hope of just a simple smile
Any by giving in but never giving up.

The key to love is respect.....
Realising that you are two separate people, with different
ideas
That you don't belong to each other
That you belong with each other, and share a mutual bond.

The key to love is inside us all.....
It takes time and patience to unlock all the ingredients
That will take you to its threshold
It is a continual leaning process that demands lots of work.....
But the rewards are more than worth the effort.....
And that is the key to love.

Reading 11

I Knew I had been touched by love

I knew that I had been touched by love
the first time I saw you,
And felt your warmth, and heard your laughter

I knew that I had been touched by love
when I was hurting from something that happened,
And you came along and made the hurt go away

I knew that I had been touched by love
when I stopped making plans with my friends
And started dreaming dreams with you

I knew that I had been touched by love
when I suddenly stopped thinking in terms of "me"
And started thinking in terms of "we"

I knew that I had been touched by love
when suddenly I couldn't make decisions for myself
anymore
And I had the strong desire to share everything with
you

I knew that I had been touched by love
the first time we spent alone together
And I knew that I wanted to stay with you forever
Because I had never felt this touched by love

Reading 12

Love is the Reason

Love is the reason
why this day was chosen by you both to begin your
lives together and
Love is the reason
why you both will give with all hearts for the good of
each other.
Love is the reason
that together you will become one;
One in hope;
one in believing in life;
one in sharing the coming years

Reading 13

Now comes the knitting, the tying, the entwining into
one
Mysterious involvement of two, whole separate people
Into something altogether strange and changing and
lovely

Nothing can ever be, we will never be the same again;
Not merged into each other irrevocably but rather from
now on

We go the same way, in the same direction
Agreeing not to leave each other lonely, or discouraged
or behind,

I will do my best to keep my promises to you and keep
you warm;

Of all our yesterdays that make us who we are
The strength and frailties we bring to this marriage
And we will be rich indeed.

Reading 14

I Wanna be Yours

Let me be your vacuum cleaner
Breathing in your dust
Let be your Ford Cortina
I will never rust
If you like your coffee hot
Let me be your coffee pot
You call the shots
I wanna be yours

Let be your raincoat
For those frequent rainy days
Let me be your dreamboat
When you wanna sail away
Let me be your teddy bear
Take me with you anywhere
I don't care
I wanna be yours

Let me be your electric meter
I will not run out
Let me be your electric heater
You get cold without
Let me be your setting lotion
Hold your hair with deep devotion
Deep as the Atlantic Ocean
That's how deep is my emotion
Deep deep deep deep deep deep
I don't wanna be hers
I wanna be yours

John Cooper Clarke

Reading 15 - I'll Be There

I'll be there, my darling
Through thick and through thin
When your mind is a mess
When your head's in a spin

When your plane's been delayed
When you've missed the last train
When life is just threatening
To drive you insane

When your thrilling "whodunit"
Has lost it's last page
When somebody tells you
You're looking your age

When your coffee's too cool
And your wine too warm
When the forecast said "Fine"
And you're out in a storm

When you ordered the Korma
But got the Madras
When you wake in the night
And sure you smell gas

When your quick-break hotel
Is more like a slum
And your holiday photos
Show only your thumb

When you park for five minutes
In a resident's bay
And return to discover
You've been towed away

When the jeans that you bought
In hope or in haste
Stick on your hips
And won't reach round your waist/.....

Reading 15/continued - I'll Be There

.../When the dentist looks into
Your mouth and just sighs
When your heroes turn out
To be wimps in disguise

When the food that you most like
Brings you out in red rashes
When as soon as you boot up
The bloody thing crashes

When you're in extra time
And the other team scores
When someone informs you
There's no Santa Claus

When you gaze at the stars
And step on a nail
When you know you'll succeed
But, somehow, you fail

When your horoscope tells you
You have a good day
So you ask for a rise
And your boss says "No way"

So my darling, my sweetheart, my dear...

When you spill your beer
When you shed a tear
When you burn the toast
When you miss the post
When you lose the plot
When I'm all you've got
When you break a rule
When you act the fool
When you got the flu
When you're in a stew
When you're last in the queue
Don't be blue
'Cause I'm telling you
I'll be there for you!

Louise Cuddon

PROMISES

(1)

I, (Name) take you, (Name) as my best friend for life.

I promise to stand beside you
through thick and thin,
Through good and bad,
through joy and sorrow.

I want to spend the rest of my life
Hearing your thoughts and seeing your dreams
I promise to do my best to make our lives better and
better
This is my solemn vow.

(2)

I, (Name) declare again my love for (Name)
May our future together be happy and contented
My our love be as magical as moonlight
As warm as the sun
As certain as the tide
And as lasting as the mountains

(3)

From this moment, I, (Name), take you (Name),
As my best friend for life
I pledge to honour, encourage and support you
through our walk together.
When the way becomes difficult,
I promise to stand by you and uplift you,
so that through our union we can accomplish
more than we could alone.
I promise to work at our love and always
make you a priority in my life.
With every beat of my heart, I will love you.
This is my solemn vow.

(4)

I renew my promise as your husband/wife
To be loving, loyal and faithful.
For the rest of our lives

(5)

I (Name) choose you, (Name),
As my everything,
I vow to love you through sickness and health,
Through good and bad,
Through richer and poorer.
You are everything I need,
And at this moment
all my dreams have come true.
I love you and always will
This is my solemn vow.

(6)

I promise to be there for you
in your laughter and your tears
in your sickness and your health
in your comfort and your fears,
in your poverty and your wealth.
I promise to be there for you
For all of our life together
Come what may.

(7)

Together, we can accomplish anything
Together, we will be better than we could be alone
Together, we will share our love with the world
Together, our love will grow into a bond too strong to
break

(8)

I promise to give you the best of myself
and to ask of you no more than you can give
I promise to respect you as your own person
and realise that your interests, desires and needs
are no less important than my own.

I promise to share with you my time and attention
and to bring joy, strength and imagination to our
relationship

I promise to keep myself open to you,
to let you see through the window of my world
into my innermost fears and feelings, secrets and
dreams.

I promise to grow along with you, to be willing to face
changes

in order to keep our relationship alive and exciting
I promise to love you in good times and in bad,
with all that I have to give and all I feel inside in the
only way I know how
Completely and forever.

(9)

I, (Name) rededicate myself to my marriage with
(Name)

Whatever the future may hold

May our union be part of it

The future is hidden

It will have hopes and disappointments

Successes and failures

Pleasures and pain

But love can soften every blow

May our love never fail

But grow stronger and deeper as the years pass.

(10)

Before these witnesses, this is my promise
To treasure and take care of the special love we have
together
To continue to grow with you and respect your ideas
and expressions
To always talk with you and share our happy times and
our sad times
I promise loyalty and friendship
And to love you
With all that I am and all that I can
This I promise from the depths of my heart and mind
For all our life together.

(11)

I (Name) choose you as (Name) as my best friend for
life
I (Name) choose you as (Name) to embark upon this
great journey of marriage with me
I (Name) choose you as (Name) as my soulmate and
companion
I (Name) choose you as (Name) to be my wife, my
partner, my friend, my confidant, my soulmate

(12)

Our love may be like the ebb and tide of the ocean,
but it will always flow
Through good and bad, I want you always to know
that I will be by your side
I will be there for you in the ups and downs of life
I pledge my all to you

(13)

In sickness, I will nurse you back to health
In health, I will encourage you on your path
In sadness, I will help you to remember
In happiness, I will be there to make memories with
you
In poverty, I will do all that I can to make our love rich
And in wealth, I will never let our love grow poor

(14)

When you need someone to encourage you, I want it to
be me
When you need a helping hand, I want it to be mine
When you long for someone to smile at, turn to me
When you have something to share, share it with me

(15)

I, (Name) renew my promise to you (Name)
In the presence of our family and friends
That I will love and support you with compassion
Respect you as an individual person and cherish you
No matter what happens and enjoy your love always.

(16)

" I, (...), renew to you, (.....), the promise of marriage
I made to you (.....) years ago.
Today I accept you again to myself as the cornerstone
of my life.
As I have been true to you in good times and in bad,
in sickness and in health,
so I will continue to love you and honour you
all the days of my life"

(17a)

In the presence of and witnessed by our families and
friends

I, () declare my unending love for you ()
And I am honoured to be your wife

I promise to continue to love, cherish and comfort you

And I give you this ring as a symbol of our love

Past, present and future

All that I am is yours to know

All that I have is yours to hold

All that I hold dear, I share with you

(17b)

In the presence of and witnessed by our families and
friends

I, () declare my unending love for you ()
And I am honoured to be your husband

In the days to come we will walk together

And I will continue to be your companion and protector

And your support and help in times of trouble

I will treat you, my own beautiful lady, with all respect

And show my love everyday in all things great and
small

(18)

Couples own special wording

