

FORM FOR THE SOLEMNISATION OF MARRIAGE



Beloved in our Lord Jesus Christ, God instituted marriage with the following words: "It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him." (Genesis 2:18).

So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man." Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. (Genesis 2:21-24)

In our day and age, God continues to lead man and wife towards each other.

Our Lord Jesus Christ also testifies to this institution of marriage when he said: "Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate." (Matthew 19:4-6)

Furthermore, he also honoured the institution of marriage with his presence and the miracle he performed at the wedding in Cana. (John 2: 1-11)

The apostle Paul teaches us that the unity of husband and wife in marriage is a profound mystery, reflecting the relationship between Christ and his church. From this we learn that marriage is grounded in the good pleasure of God and that it is an honourable state. (Ephesians 5:32)

Those who are married can therefore also be fully confident of God's help and support, even when they least expect it. In this fallen world, we know that all kinds of adversity and suffering will come upon your path, nevertheless you can accept it with patience and thanksgiving knowing that all things come from the hand of the Lord.

You must also know the purpose of marriage.

The one must faithfully help and support the other in all things that relate to this life and the life to come. By marriage, the human race must be continued and increased (Genesis 1:28), and parents are to raise their children in the true knowledge and reverent love of God, to his glory and their salvation (1 Thessalonians 4:3-5).

Marriage also serves to enable man to avoid all unchastity. Therefore, every man must have his own wife, and every wife must have her own husband (Ephesians 5:23,25), with the knowledge and consent of their parents or guardians. Their married life must be holy so as to keep God's temple, namely the body, from blemish.

You must also know what conduct is expected of you, one towards the other, in accordance with the Word of God.

To the husband, you must know that God has appointed you to be the head of the wife, just as Christ is the Head of his church (Ephesians 5:23,25). You must love her and wisely guide her. You must comfort, teach and protect her, and honour her as your wife. Do not harbour any bitterness towards her, but live

with her in an understanding way. Diligently and faithfully, you must work in your daily calling so that you might honourably provide for your family and also give to those in need.

To the wife, you must love your husband, honour and obey him in all that is good and proper (Ephesians 5:24), just as the church submits to Christ. You must also help your husband in all that is good and right (Genesis3:16), giving the necessary attention to your home and family. Further you must live modestly and honourably, serving as an example of godliness to others (1 Peter 3:1-6).

The minister now asks the bridal couple [NAME SURNAME] and [NAME SURNAME].

Now that you know that God has instituted marriage and what he expects from husband and wife, do you hereby declare before God and all present that it is your sincere intention to live in this state, and that you desire that your marriage should now be solemnised?

Answer: Yes.

The minister now addresses the groom.

Do you, [NAME SURNAME], declare, that as far as you know, there is no legal impediment to your intended marriage with [NAME SURNAME] here present, and that you are calling everyone present to witness that you are taking [NAME SURNAME] to be your lawfully wedded wife? What is your answer?

Answer: Yes.

The minister now addresses the bride.

Do you, [NAME SURNAME], declare, that as far as you know, there is no legal impediment to your intended marriage with [NAME SURNAME] here present, and that you are calling everyone present to witness that you are taking [NAME SURNAME] to be your lawfully wedded husband? What is your answer?

Answer: Yes.

The minister addresses the couple.

May our Lord God confirm the desire and purpose of your hearts and may the beginning of your marriage be in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth!

Give now to each other the right hand.

The minister addresses the groom.

[NAME SURNAME], you have declared before God and all those present that you take [NAME SURNAME] as your lawfully wedded wife. Do you promise to never forsake her, that you will love her and care for her as a faithful and God-fearing man is obligated to his wife? Do you also promise to live with her in holiness and stay true to her in everything, in accordance with the testimony of the holy gospel? What is your answer?

Answer: Yes.

The minister addresses the bride.

[NAME SURNAME], you have declared before God and all those present that you take [NAME SURNAME] as your lawfully wedded husband. Do you promise to love and obey him, to serve and assist him, and never to forsake him? Do you also promise to live with him in holiness and to be true to him in everything, as a pious and faithful wife is obligated to her husband, in accordance with the testimony of the holy gospel? What is your answer?

Answer: Yes.

[NAME SURNAME, NAME SURNAME], here present, I now pronounce you, to be legally married. May the Father of all mercies, who by his grace called you to this holy state of marriage, may he bind you together in true love and faithfulness, and grant you his blessing. Amen.

Because all gifts come from above, from the Father of lights, and because there is no good in us, I now ask you to kneel before the Lord so that we may pray with you and for you.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you reveal your goodness and wisdom in all your works. You also said from the beginning that it is not good for man to be alone and so you created for him a helper corresponding to him and ordained that what was two should be one. You have called and bound together this couple in holy marriage.

We pray that you will guide them by your Holy Spirit that they may live, in holiness, together according to your Godly will in true and steadfast faith, resisting all evil. Bless them as you blessed the believing fathers, your faithful friends and servants, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

Since they are co-heirs of the covenant you made with these fathers, so we pray that if it be your will to bless them with children, you will also grant them the grace to raise these children in the Christian faith to the glory of your holy Name, for the building up of your church and the spreading of your holy gospel.

Hear us, merciful Father, for the sake of Jesus Christ, your beloved Son, our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, the only, true and eternal God, forever to be praised, Amen.

In conclusion, the minister requests the singing of a suitable blessing. The minister then says:

May our LORD God fill you with His grace and grant you a long and holy life bound together in godliness and love! Amen

Trial Translation