

The Wedding of

BBBB & GGGG

July 30, 2009 at the Hilton Hotel
Portland, Oregon

- **Groom's Men** escort the **Mothers** down the aisle and return to the wedding party.
- The **Mothers** light the tapers for the **Unity Candle** and return to their seats.
- **GGGG** and **Griffen** walk together down the center aisle and to their places in front of the guests..
- The **Groom's Men** escort the **Bride's Maids** down the central aisle and take their places

on either side of **GGGG** and **Griffen**.

- **BBBB** then makes her entrance on her **Father's** arm and walks to the front row.
- Once everyone is in place, **Griffen** will say the following **Words of Welcome**

Invitation

We invite you to be with us today as we gather
to witness and to celebrate
the union of **GGGG (FULL NAME)** and **BBBB (FULL NAME)**.

As these two formally become husband and wife,
we actually do nothing here
that binds them together.

We merely recognize
and come forward to bless and support
a relationship
which is, in deed, already well established.

Their bonds are made of love and respect,
kindness and honor.

The love and commitment between them
brings together the hopes and the dreams -
in deed, the very lives of two families.

You have the opportunity today
to declare your support
and to help make strong
the bonds of love that unite **BBBB** and **GGGG**
so they may live long and happy lives together,
whatever fortunes the future may bring.

Toward that end,
on behalf of **GGGG** and **BBBB, and their families**
I welcome you all.

Who presents **BBBB to be married to **GGGG**?**

- **BBBB's father** answers for her mother, her family, and himself.
- **GGGG** steps to **BBBB**, takes her hand from her father and places her arm in his. Together, they walk to Griffen.
- **GGGG** stands to **Griffen's** left , **BBBB** to his right, each facing at an angle toward the congregation. **Maid of Honor** arranges **BBBB's** dress as needed.
- Once everyone is in place and settled, **Griffen** offers a Prayer

Please be seated... and join me in a word of prayer...

Invocation

Great and gracious God;
We invite You to be with us today ...

And we ask Your blessing
today and forever
on **BBBB** and **GGGG**, and on their families
as we formally place a seal on their relationship
as husband and wife.

Make strong
the bonds of love that unite these two,
so they may know true joy
in their life together. Amen.

Declarations of Intent

Griffen To GGGG / BBBB -

Understanding that God has created and blessed
the covenant of marriage,
do you wish to take **BBBB / GGGG**
to be your **wife / husband**?

Response: I DO!

Marriages succeed best
with the love and support of your families and friends.
Therefore I ask you,
the families and friends of **GGGG** and **BBBB**:
Will all of you witnessing these vows
do everything in your power to uphold them in their marriage?
If you will, please say, "We will."

Scripture Reading

Love is the foundation
for all of the most successful relationships...
from the family to the work place.

We are not speaking of romantic love,
which is a wonderful element in a marriage,
but is not substantial enough
to support a couple through the hard times.

The ancient Greeks called this substantial love "Agape".
It is a self-less love
that exists for no apparent reason,
but for its own sake.
It requires nothing of the loved one,
not even love in return.
It is the stuff
that truly binds hearts together.

Listen now to the description of Agape'
presented by St. Paul to the First Century church in Corinth:
[A reading from First Corinthians 13: "The Love Chapter"](#)

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels,
but do not have love,
I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.

And if I know the mind of God,
and understand all mysteries and all knowledge,
and if I have all power,
so as to remove mountains,
but do not have love,
I am nothing.

If I give away all my possessions,
and if I hand over my body so that I may boast,
but do not have love,
I gain nothing.

Love is patient;
love is kind;
love is not envious
nor boastful
nor arrogant
nor rude.

It does not insist on its own way;
it is not irritable or resentful;
it does not rejoice in wrongdoing,
but rejoices in the truth.

It bears all things,
believes all things,
hopes all things,
endures all things.

Love never ends.

As for power, it will subside;
as for tongues, they will cease;
as for knowledge, it will come to an end.

Now faith, hope and love,
These three will last;
But the greatest of these is love.

Special Music and Other Readings

Vows

GGGG and **BBBB**; take each others hands and declare your marriage vows.

I take you, **BBBB / GGGG**,
to be my **wife / husband**;
and I promise,
before God
and these witnesses,
to be your loving and faithful **husband / wife**;
in plenty and in want,
in joy and in sorrow,
in sickness and in health,
for as long as we both shall live.

Exchange of Rings

GGGG and **BBBB**: Please present your wedding rings.

- **BBBB & GGGG** retrieve their rings from **Ring Bearer or Best Man/Best Lady**.
- **Griffen** says the following:

Rings are ancient symbols,
blessed and simple.

Round like the sun,
like a perfect pearl,
like arms that embrace.

May these rings remind you that your love,
like the sun,
illuminates;
that your love,
like the pearl,
grows in luster;
and that your love,
like arms that embrace,
is a grace upon this world.

- **BBBB** and **GGGG** place their rings in **GGGG's** right hand.
- **BBBB** places her hand on top, covering the rings.
- **Griffen** places his hand on top of theirs and says...

By your blessing, O God,
may these rings be to **BBBB** and **GGGG**
symbols of unending love and faithfulness,
reminding them of the covenant they have made this day;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

- *Each to the Other:*

I give you this ring
as a sign of our constant faith
and abiding love,
in the name of the Creator
and of the Savior
and of the Holy Spirit.

Unity Candle & Special Music

Just as **GGGG** and **BBBB** join their lives together today,
to follow a single path;
So now they unite the flames of separate candles
To create a single flame.

GGGG and **BBBB**:

The individual candles
Represent your lives before today,
As individuals
And as members of your particular families.

Lighting the center candle
Represents the union of your lives
Into one bright light,
And through your union,
The merging of your families
Into one greater family.

Take one of the lighted candles
And together light the center candle.

- *Griffen steps aside (the Music begins ?) as **BBBB** and **GGGG** go to the Unity Candle.*
- *Standing on either side of the table, they each take a lighted taper and together, light the central candle.*
- *They return to their places and join hands facing each other (until music ends).*
- *Griffen remains to one side and says...*

Prayer

Great God:

We ask that You strengthen **GGGG** and **BBBB**,
with patience, kindness, gentleness, love ...
all the fruit of Your Spirit...,
so they may fulfill the vows they have made this day.
Keep them faithful to each other in all things.
Fill them with such love and joy
that they may build a home
of peace and happiness for their family
that will last all their days. Amen.

Pronouncement

Before God

and in the presence of this company,

BBBB and **GGGG** have made solemn vows to each other.

They have confirmed their promises

by joining hands and exchanging rings.

Therefore, by the authority vested in me

by the State of Oregon as a Christian minister,

I proclaim that they are now husband and wife.

You may seal your promises with a kiss...

Announcements

*Ladies and Gentlemen: You are invited to join us for a reception immediately following this ceremony. **BBBB** and **GGGG** will join you there shortly after they sign papers and take a few more photographs.*

Benediction

As God's own people,

clothe yourselves in compassion,

kindness,

and patience,

forgiving each other always.

And crown all these things with love,

which can bind everything together

in perfect harmony.

The Lord bless you and keep you all.

The Lord be kind and gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor

And give you peace...

Amen.

Introduction of Couple

I have the honor of being the first to introduce to you:

Mr. and Mrs. GGGG and BBBB Surname

- **GGGG** escorts **BBBB** up the aisle to a location where the papers will be signed.
- The **Best Man** and **Maid of Honor** (and photographer) join us for the signing.
- The other **Groom's Men** dismiss the guests a row at a time, who then follow the parents into the reception.