

## Sample Convocation Paragraphs

The Nine Sample Ceremonies have additional sample Convocation Paragraphs.

1.

You are together as companions and soul mates; to be silly, to be serious, and to enjoy all of life.

2.

It is fitting to speak about love. Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful; it is not arrogant or 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.

3.

There is an art to marriage as there is to any creative activity we human beings engage in. This art asks that we pay attention to the little things as well as the big ones that are part of the closeness of marriage. It reminds us to never grow too old to hold hands. It encourages us, at least once each day, to say "I love you." In so much as it is possible, develop the capacity to forgive and forget and heal quarrels as they happen so you do not close a day together angry. Your courtship should not stop when your honeymoon ends. Use care that you do not take each other for granted, and remember to speak words of appreciation and to demonstrate your gratitude in thoughtful, loving ways.

4.

It is important to have a mutual sense of values and common objectives so that you stand together as you work through the world and do things for each other, not out of a sense of duty or obligation, but in the spirit of joy. Give each other room to grow and cultivate flexibility, patience, understanding, and a sense of humor in your relationship.

5.

In marriage, you can depend upon the other for the support you need as you grow because you are saying not only "I love you today" but also, "I promise to love you tomorrow, the next day, and always." Remember that your marriage is not just for two people. Use your

marriage to form a wide circle of love that gathers in your families and the child/children who is/are already a part of your lives.

**6.**

Find room for spiritual quests and make your search for the good and the beautiful a common one. Make yours a relationship in which the independence is equal, the dependence is mutual, and the obligation is reciprocal. A good marriage evolves when two distinct souls face life's joys and its sorrows not in unison, but in harmony.

**7.**

You have gathered here today with family and friends for the purpose of entering into a life-long relationship. The path of life which you now plan to travel together will undoubtedly be marked not only by times of prosperity, success, and happiness, but also by times of tribulation. For your marriage to endure, you must be bound together by mutual love and respect. You must have faith and confidence in one another, and you must both be tolerant and understanding of the human frailties and faults to which you, as all of us, are subject.

**8.**

Groom and Bride, remember to treat yourself and each other with respect, and to remind yourself often of what brought you together today. Give the highest priority to the tenderness, gentleness and kindness that your marriage deserves. And if each of you will take responsibility for the quality of your life together, it will be marked by abundance and delight.

**9.**

In the long history of mankind we have never discovered a better way of life than sharing it together in love in a lasting and responsible way. This arrangement meets our deepest human needs for love and companionship, for someone with whom we can share in an intimate and trusting way all the hopes, and joys, and dreams of life. But real love is something beyond the warmth and glow, the excitement and romance of being deeply in love. It is caring as much about the welfare and happiness of your partner as about your own. Real love is not total absorption in each other, it is looking outward in the same direction together. Love makes burdens lighter because you divide them. It makes joys more intense because you share them. It makes you stronger, so you can be involved with life in ways that are not possible alone.

**10.**

Grm and Bde, as the two of you enter into this marriage uniting you as husband and wife, and as you affirm your faith and love for one another, I would ask that you always remember to cherish each other as special and unique individuals, that you respect the thoughts, ideas, and suggestions of one another. Be able to forgive, do not hold grudges, and live each day so that you may share it together. From this day forward you shall be each other's home, comfort, and refuge. Your marriage will be strengthened by your love and respect.

**The following paragraphs are in addition to the above ten paragraphs which are already in the Nine Ceremony Samples.**

**11.**

We are gathered today to unite Grm and Bde in marriage. This celebration is but an outward sign of an inward union of heart, mind and spirit. This is a celebration of the joining of two souls already attuned to each other. When such a true bond already exists between a man and a woman, it is fitting that an outer acknowledgement should be made. We are here to bear witness to the entry into the closer relationship of husband and wife of these beloved friends who are already one spirit.

**12.**

Grm and Bde, it is this day you take a giant step of courage and commitment to love, understand and grow. When a commitment this strong is made by two people, the force of the commitment, of that love, of that courage, reaches out and touches all of us around you, so that our lives are changed and we share a part of your love. Like a stone dropped in a still pond, the ripples of the love from this celebration extend and change the world we live in.

**13.**

You are now taking into your care and keeping the happiness of the one person in all of the world whom you love best. You are adding to your life not only the affection of each other but also the companionship and blessing of a deep trust as well. You are agreeing to share strength, to share responsibilities, and to share love.

**14.**

#### **The Magnitude of Love**

Nothing in your life is more important than the love you feel, need, or receive. No accomplishment however celebrated or remunerated can ever match it. No tragedy will ever

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utterly displace it; no adventure, no matter how grand or captivating, will ever equal its immense power in your life.

Love will be tougher than all the ridiculous and challenging demands of responsible adulthood, greater than all the heartrending sorrows and unredressed wounds, more powerful than the disappointments of daily life. For love is bigger than sorrow and longer than time. Love is larger than life.

## 15.

Marriage is a supreme sharing of experience, and an adventure in the most intimate of human relationships. It is the joyous union of two people whose comradeship and mutual understanding have flowered in romance. Today Grm and Bde proclaim their love and commitment to the world, and we gather here to rejoice, with and for them, in the new life they now undertake together.

## 16.

The joy we feel now is a solemn joy, because the act of marriage has many consequences, both social and personal. Marriage requires "love," a word we often use with vagueness and sentimentality. We may assume that love is some rare and mystical event, when in fact it is our natural state of being.

So what do we mean by love? When we love, we see things other people do not see. We see beneath the surface, to the qualities that make our beloved special and unique. To see with loving eyes, is to know inner beauty. And to be loved is to be seen, and known, as we are known to no other. One, who loves us, gives us a unique gift: a piece of ourselves, but a piece that only they could give us.

We who love, can look at each other's life and say, "I touched his life," or, "I touched her life," just as an artist might say, "I touched this canvas." "Those brushstrokes in the corner of this magnificent mural, those are mine. I was a part of this life, and it is a part of me." Marriage is to belong to each other through a unique and diverse collaboration, like two threads crossing in different directions, yet weaving one tapestry together.

The secret of love and marriage is the emergence of the larger self. It is the finding of one's life by blending it with that of another. Such is the privilege of husband and wife - to be each himself, herself and yet another; to face the world strong, with the courage of two.

To make this relationship work, therefore, takes more than love. It takes trust, to know in your hearts that you want only the best for each other. It takes dedication, to stay open to one another, to learn and grow, even when it is difficult to do so. And it takes faith, to go forward together without knowing what the future holds for you both. While love is our natural state of being, these other qualities are not as easy to come by. They are not a destination, but a journey.

The true art of married life is in this an inner spiritual journey. It is a mutual enrichment, a give and take between two personalities, a mingling of two endowments, which diminishes neither, but enhances both.

### **17. A Religious Convocation**

Dearly Beloved,

We are assembled here in the presence of God, to join Grm and Bde, in holy marriage; which is instituted of God, regulated by His commandments, blessed by our Lord Jesus Christ, and to be held in honor among all men. Let us therefore reverently remember that God has established and sanctified marriage, for the welfare and happiness of mankind. Our Savior has declared that a man shall leave his father and his mother and cleave unto his wife.

By His apostles, He has instructed those who enter into this relation to cherish a mutual esteem and love; to bear with each other's infirmities and weaknesses; and to comfort each other in sickness, trouble, and sorrow; in honesty and industry to provide for each other, and for their household, in temporal things; to pray for and encourage each other in things which pertain to God; and to live together as the heirs of the grace of life.

### **18.**

Allow your love for each other to grow as you grow. Remember, when you love someone, you do not love them all the time, in exactly the same way, from moment to moment. That is impossible. It is even a disservice to pretend it is possible. Yet that is what most of us demand. We have such little faith in the ebb and flow of life and of love and of relationships.

We leap forward at the flow of the tide and resist in terror its ebb, for we are afraid it will never return. We insist on permanence, on duration, on continuity. But the only continuity possible in life, as in love, is in growth, in fluidity and in freedom, as dancers are free, barely touching as they pass, but partners in creating the same pattern.

## 19.

We are here today because Grm and Bde have decided to commit themselves to one another as husband and wife. They have shared their lives together, and during this time, they have thought frequently about the meaning of commitment. Our ceremony today was chosen by the Bride and Groom. As I speak, I speak for them. I speak their thoughts and feelings on what it means to be committed to one another for life as husband and wife.

Throughout our lives, we commit ourselves to various careers, ideas and beliefs. One of the deepest commitments we can make as human beings is to our spouse, our partner in life. When you examine the essence of commitment, you come to realize that there can be no commitment without there first being a choice. An ongoing commitment such as marriage therefore requires a continuous choice made by the husband and wife. When we commit ourselves to marriage, we commit ourselves to making the right choices. We commit ourselves to choose compromise over controversy and partner over self. We commit ourselves to choose the same path at every crossroads. We commit ourselves to choose giving over our expectation to receive.

When we begin a new marriage, we fully expect that the marriage will flourish and continue to grow. As we all know, sometimes this happens, and sometimes it does not. The difference is made by the daily gifts that one partner chooses to give the other. We need to constantly bestow upon our partners the gifts that make a marriage successful, because without this close attention, even the most beautiful flower will fade. Like painters, we decide what kind of relationship we want to paint for ourselves.

Each stroke can either add or subtract from the overall beauty of our lives. Our Bride and Groom have spent years painting a very beautiful relationship together. They want to create the same kind of marriage – one filled with the greatest gifts they can give one another.

They choose to give:

The gift of Respect, so that each partner can continue to feel confident about their role as a good spouse.

The gift of Dedication, so that the atmosphere in their home is one of constant effort to try hard for each other, and for themselves.

The gift of Loyalty, so that doubts cannot cause them to withhold their expression of their emotions.

The gift of Support, for they know there will be times when they will both need it from one another.

The gift of Companionship, because life is just better with two.

The gift of Communication, because they are two separate minds trying to lead one life.

The gift of Honor, as recognition for how hard they try, and how much they have grown.

And the gift of Love, because they feel it, and it is all they need.

## **20. The Defining of a Marriage**

Grm and Bde are about to pledge themselves to each other with vows. When they vow to love, honor, comfort, and cherish each other, they are giving a real and thoughtful promise, not a casual “I do.” They have consulted Webster’s dictionary to ensure that when they make their vows they are entering into them with the full knowledge of all they promise.

When they say “to love,” they are promising not just a physical love or an intellectual love, or an emotional love, but an intertwined combination of all three.

When they say “to honor,” they are promising to have respect and esteem for each other. To not only recognize the ways in which they are equal, but to hold up and to recognize the strength that each of them possesses that makes them great in each other’s eyes.

When they say “to comfort,” they are pledging to ease the grief or trouble of each other in times of trial. To put aside their own concerns when the other is in need of their support. They also promise to give strength and hope to each other even when both are in pain and in doing so lift each other from the dark.

When they say “to cherish,” they are promising to have and to cultivate great affection for each other, and to harbor in their minds, deeply and resolutely, the thoughts they have of each other. To hold each other in a special part of the memory, where they are apart from the other

relationships and encounters in their lives, and, while recognizing the conflicts, not dwelling on those, but nourishing instead the memories of joy and comfort.

So as we proceed with this ceremony contemplate these sentiments and hold them in your heart.

**21.**

Marriage is the promise of hope between two people who love each other, who trust that love, and who wish to share the future together. It enables two separate people to share their desires, longings, dreams and memories, and to help each other through their uncertainties. It provides the encouragement to risk more and thus to gain more. We are here tonight as Grm and Bde's friends and family to recognize and affirm their relationship as they begin their married life.

**22.**

Our hopes and prayers today are that yours will be a marriage cemented by mutual desire for a common, loving home; sustained by caring but forthright communication; fortified by a spirit of trust and patience that will help you to appreciate and to treasure the differences in your backgrounds, your temperaments, and your tastes. And while we hope that you will always remember the common qualities and shared interests that attracted and drew you toward each other initially – [ready laugh and quirky sense of humor, enjoyment of dance and discussion – enter your own attributes here] – we also hope you will discover in your differences the opportunity for new understanding and further growth.

**23.**

For two people coming together in alignment with their beliefs and faiths, willing to share and create a common future; marriage is not a ceremony but an ongoing commitment and a process. Each day for the rest of your lives you will make choices. You will choose whether to be kind and patient with each other. You will choose whether to find fault or whether to be forgiving. It is only through that commitment that you can discover true intimacy in which the hidden parts of yourselves are permitted to come forth, find acceptance, and help you become whole.

**24.**

Marriage is a sacred agreement to love and support each other to the best of our ability and to use the relationship as a means for changing and healing our individual barriers to love. Marriage requires that both people in the relationship work to help each other learn, grow and prosper.

Marriage teaches us to be more responsible for what we think and feel, say and do, and the level of awareness and willingness each person brings goes a long way toward making the relationship work. It is about learning to become less self-centered in ways that we could never have seen before. And mostly, it's about looking at the big picture and realizing that arguments and conflicts pale in comparison to the deep and true love we discover as we move through life and confront its challenges together as husband and wife.

Not only does marriage take patience and understanding, it takes time and work. Each person must be completely honest and willing to open up their private worlds to each other. It requires continuous communication, lest a disconnect or distancing begin, which can be very difficult to undo.

Marriage takes the willingness to be wrong a lot of the time even though your ego would insist that you are right, but reason tells you differently. And it takes a willingness to risk the bruising of your own ego in favor of surrender to the greater Self that both partners in the relationship have agreed to discover together.

We need to recognize, as often as we can, how precious and unique our chosen partner is. Within each of us, there is an inherent quality that can be discovered by seeing it in the other person, despite what the other is saying or doing. The sheer pain and frustration from conflicts that arise in a marriage relationship can serve as the perfect motivation for turning inward to accessing the help of our inner connection with each other and find the invisible strength and sanity within the middle of our minds. This inner strength, universal to us all understands our need for healing and can take our misperceptions, our anger, our guilt and frustrations and transform them into sane and healed perceptions of our partner. This way each partner learns to release the past and join in mutual love and respect.