

Exchange of Roses

As a first gift to each other the Bride and Groom can exchange Roses.

1.

Exchange of Roses

In the language of flowers, the rose is considered a symbol of love, and a single red rose always means “I Love You”. So it is most appropriate that for your first gift – as husband and wife – the gift should be a single red rose.

*The Bride and Groom go to their Mothers to get the roses
and come back in front of Judge Armstrong.*

OR

The Best Man gives the Bride a rose and the Groom a rose.

OR

The Bride and Groom each take a rose from a table.

Please exchange your roses.

The Bride and Groom exchange roses.

In this simple exchange, you have given each other your first gift as husband and wife, which of course is the gift of love; and it would be our hopes and our prayers that wherever you make your home, there be a place in it for roses; and that on each anniversary of this occasion that you celebrate, at least in part, by bringing to that place a rose, as a restatement of love and as a commitment to the vows you have made this day. In every marriage it is occasionally difficult to find words to resolve certain of the issues which may arise. If and when such issues might come to your marriage, if either of you will remember and bring to that place a rose, the other will see it and understand it as a statement of love, and accept it, for this love makes all things new and perfect.

2.

Rose Ceremony

Your gift to each other for your wedding today has been your wedding rings - which shall always be an outward demonstration of your vows of love and respect; and a public showing of your commitment to each other.

You now have what remains the most honorable title which may exist between a man and a woman - the title of "husband" and "wife." For your first gift as husband and wife, that gift will be a single rose.

In the past, the rose was considered a symbol of love and a single rose always meant only one thing - it meant the words "I love you." So it is appropriate that for your first gift - as husband and wife - that gift would be a single rose.

Bride and Groom each get their rose.

Please exchange your first gift as husband and wife.

In some ways it seems like you have not done anything at all. Just a moment ago you were holding one small rose - and now you are holding one small rose. In some ways, a marriage ceremony is like this. In some ways, tomorrow is going to seem no different than yesterday. But in fact today, just now, you both have given and received one of the most valuable and precious gifts of life - one I hope you always remember - the gift of true and abiding love within the devotion of marriage.

Bde and Grm, I would ask that wherever you make your home in the future - whether it be a large and elegant home - or a small and graceful one - that you both pick one very special location for roses; so that on each anniversary of this truly wonderful occasion you both may take a rose to that spot both as a recommitment to your marriage - and a recommitment that this will be a marriage based upon love.

In every marriage there are times where it is difficult to find the right words. It is easiest to hurt who we most love. It is easiest to be most hurt by who we most love.

It might be difficult some time in words to say "I am sorry," or "I forgive you," "I need you," or "I am hurting." If this should happen, if you simply can not find these words, leave a

rose at that spot which both of you have selected - for that rose then says what matters most of all and should overpower all other things and all other words.

That rose says the words: "I still love you."

The other should accept this rose for the words which cannot be found, and remember the love and hope that you both share today.

Bde and Grm, if there is anything you remember of this marriage ceremony, it is that it was love that brought you here today, it is only love which can make it a glorious union, and it is by love which your marriage shall endure.

3.

With Children Involved

Recognition of Chld (names)

Not only are Bde and Grm creating a marriage today, but they also are forming a family with Chld. Just as it is appropriate for Bde and Grm to declare their love for each other in the gift of a rose, they also wish to show the children how much they love them, with the gift of a rose and a promise.

To Bride/Groom: Grm/Bde, do you promise to accept and love Chld, as your own, and to protect and love him/her/them all of your life. Promising to do your best to guide and support him/her/them - and to respect him/her/them enough to allow him/her/them to see the world through his/her/their own eyes?

Groom/Bride: "I do."

*The Bride and Groom give each child a rose, a hug,
and whisper "I love you."*