

**Lisa & Carl**  
**Wedding Ceremony**  
**2010**

**Intro**

Family and Friends! We are here today with Carl and Lisa, not to witness the beginning of what will be, but rather to celebrate what already is!

Marriage is for the companionship, help, consideration and love with which husband and wife ought to have for each other.

Within its framework of commitment and loyalty, marriage enables the establishment of a home where, through tolerance, patience and courage, the love and affection of two spouses may develop into a deep and lasting relationship.

What they mean to each other is obvious. Their commitment to each has developed over some time. Of all the people they know, they have chosen each other to journey through life together.

Real love between two people is perhaps the highest experience that is possible for humankind. Such love reduces selfishness, deepens personalities, but above all gives life new purpose and meaning.

I am Lise Chamberland a Humanist Officiant, duly licensed by the Province of Ontario and the Humanist Association of Canada to solemnize marriages.

"Humanism is a non religious life stance based on rational thought, a strong moral sense, compassion, fairness and respect for all."

There are no objections to anyone taking pictures as pictures will be the fond memories that will remind both Carl and Lisa for many years to come of the solemn vows taken today.

## **Opening**

It is one of life's richest surprises when the accidental meeting of two life paths leads them to proceed together along the common path of husband and wife.

What greater thing is there for two human souls than to feel that they are joined together to strengthen each other in all labour, to face together all sorrow, to share with each other in all gladness and all memories?

To be loved is to know happiness and contentment. To give love is to know the joy of sharing oneself. It is through the miracle of love that we discover the fullness of life.

## **Statement of Intention**

Lisa and Carl have you come to be joined because of your shared love and did you arrive at this decision freely and willingly?

## **Declaration**

Do you Lisa and do you Carl solemnly affirm that you do not know of any lawful impediments against you getting legally married?

## **Acknowledgement**

It is appropriate that you, the family and friends are here to participate in this wedding. The ideals, the understanding, and the mutual respect, which these two bring to their marriage, have roots in the love, friendship, and guidance, with which you have provided them.

**Readings I now invite Andrew to read a poem**  
**I now invite Kassie to read a poem**

Lisa and Carl, we know that you come from two different traditions, which are neither contradictory nor antagonistic because their aims are the same - compassion, kindness, respect and a love of family.

However, marriage need not be a melting pot in which differences cease to exist, and as you become a married couple, you bring together in a mysterious yet happy way, two pasts, differing in traditions.

Build on them, for the strength of any people lies in that unexplainable special feeling, however this may be defined.

In addition, with the support and encouragement each of you can give to the other, you will be able to develop new personal dimensions, adding new memories and new hopes to those you are bringing into this union.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> poem

We are gathered here to join this man and this woman in marriage. This is an act as ancient as the history of the human race and as new as each new morning; for it speaks of the past and of the future, of the life of the individual and the existence of the community.

Because marriage is concerned with the most fundamental of human relationships, it must not be regarded lightly.

Those who enter into this relationship shall cherish for each other a mutual esteem and love, bear each other's infirmities and weaknesses, comfort each other in sickness, trouble and sorrow, encourage each other in trials of the spirit, and live together as the heirs of life.

Marriage is not to be entered into unadvisedly, but with devotion, respect and discretion.

Love and loyalty will be the foundation of a happy and enduring home; and if the solemn vows you are about to make be kept with honour and integrity, your life will be full of peace and joy, and the home you are establishing will be one of warmth and understanding.

## **Vows**

Lisa and Carl, you have known each other from the first glance of acquaintance to this point of commitment. At some point, you decided to marry.

From that moment of yes to this moment of yes, indeed, you have been making promises and agreements in an informal way.

All those conversations that were held riding in a car or over a meal or during long walks – all those sentences that began with “When we’re married” and continued with “I will and you will and we will”- those late night talks that included “someday” and “somehow” and “maybe” – and all those promises that are unspoken matters of the heart.

All these common things, and more, are the real process of a wedding.

The symbolic vows that you are about to make are a way of saying to one another, “you know all those things we’ve promised and hoped and dreamed – well, I meant it all, every word.”

Look at one another and remember this moment in time.

Before this moment you have been many things to one another – acquaintance, friend, companion, and even teacher.

Now you shall say a few words that take you across a threshold of life, and things will never quite be the same between you.

For after these vows, you shall say to the world, this is my husband, this is my wife.

## **Vows: May I have the rings please**

May these rings which you give and receive today be a symbol of your true love and trust in each other and always remind each of you of this special day

Carl please put the ring on Lisa's left hand

I, Carl,  
take you, Lisa,  
to be no other than yourself  
loving what I know of you  
trusting what I do not yet know  
with respect for your integrity  
and trust in your love for me through all our years  
and in all that life may bring us.  
I give you this ring to wear as a symbol of our love for each other

Lisa please put the ring on Carl's left hand

I, Lisa,  
take you, Carl,  
to be no other than yourself  
loving what I know of you  
trusting what I do not yet know  
with respect for your integrity  
and trust in your love for me through all our years  
and in all that life may bring us.  
I give you this ring to wear as a symbol of our love for each other

## **Pronouncements**

Carl and Lisa, having declared your love and devotion to one another before us today,

I, Lise Chamberland by the power vested in me by the Marriage Act of Ontario, pronounce you husband and wife.

Carl you may now kiss your bride

Signing of the registry

I invite Carl and Lisa and their 2 witnesses to come and sign the marriage license and registry. We will return to complete the ceremony after the signing.

Closing

Ladies and Gentlemen I now introduce you to our newly married couple Carl and Lisa