

# 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 a helper suitable for him" (Gen. 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" (Gen. 2:21-24).

In this way God still today leads every man and woman to each other. Our Lord Jesus Christ also attests of marriage in saying: "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" (Matt. 19:4-6). He furthermore honoured marriage by His blessed presence and wonders at the wedding in Cana. The Apostle Paul calls marriage mystic, commending it as an honourable state and teaching us that marriage, rooted in God's good pleasure, symbolises the union of the Saviour and the church, His redeemed bride, commending it as a state honourable among all.

Husband and wife are, therefore, assured of God's help and support, even when they do not expect it. All kinds of adversity and suffering may befall the married couple as a result of sin, this you can accept with patience and thanksgiving since it all comes from the hand of the Lord.

You also need to know the purpose of marriage.

The one must faithfully help and support the other in all things of this life and the next. Marriage must also extend the human race and parents are to raise their children in the truth and in reverent love to God to His glory and to their salvation.

Marriage, furthermore, serves to keep man from all unchasteness. Therefore, every man must love his wife and every woman her own husband with the knowledge and consent of their parents or guardians. Their marriage life must be holy to keep God's temple, namely the body, from blemish.

You also need to know how to treat the other in accordance with God's Word: God ordained that in marriage the husband should be the head of the wife, as Christ is the Head of the church. You must love and wisely guide her, comfort, teach, protect and honour her as wife. Do not harbour any bitterness towards her, but live in wisdom with her. Diligently and faithfully do your work each day that you may be able to honourably provide for her and your family and also give to the needy.

You, N, are to love your husband, honour and obey him in all that is good and reasonable, showing him deference just as the church shows deference to Christ. You must also be to his aid in all that is good and right, tending to your home and

family as you should. You are to live humbly and honourably, an example of virtue to others.

*The minister now asks the bridal couple*

AB and CD, you have now heard that God instituted marriage and what He expects, do you hereby declare here before God and all present that it is your sincere intention to live in this way and do you desire to enter into this holy state.

Answer: Yes.

Do you, AB, solemnly declare that as far as you know there is no lawful impediment to your intended marriage to CD here present and call all here present as witness that you take CD as your lawfully wedded wife?

Answer: Yes.

Do you, CD, solemnly declare that as far as you know there is no lawful impediment to your intended marriage to AB here present and call all here present as witness that you take CD as your lawfully wedded husband?

Answer: Yes.

*Then the minister addresses the couple as follows:*

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.

*Now they give each other the right hand and the minister turns to the groom:*

AB, you have declared before God and all here present that you take CD 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 should? Do you promise to live with her in the holy bonds of marriage and remain faithful to her in accordance to holy Scripture?

What is your answer?

Answer: Yes.

*Then the minister turns to the bride:*

CD, you have declared before God and all here present that you take AB as your lawfully wedded husband. Do you promise to love, honour and help him and never forsake him? Do you promise to live with him in the holy bonds of marriage and remain faithful to him as befits a pious and faithful wife in accordance to holy Scripture?

What is your answer?

Answer: Yes.

*Then the minister says:*

I now pronounce you, AB and CD here present, husband and wife. May the Father of all compassion who called you in His grace to this marriage bind you together in sincere love and faithfulness and bless you! Amen

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

Let us pray.

Prayer

Almighty God, You reveal your goodness and wisdom in all You do. You said from the beginning that it is not good for man to be alone and so You created for him a mate and ordained that what was two is now one. You have called and bound together this couple in holy matrimony. Guide them by your Holy Spirit that they may live holy in true and steadfast faith according to your Godly will and oppose all evil. Bless them as You blessed the believing fathers, your faithful friends and servants, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob \*as 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, to the building up of the church and to the spreading of your holy Gospel. Hear us, Father of mercy, through Jesus Christ, your beloved Son, our Lord who lives and rules with You and the Holy Spirit – the only, true, eternal God forever to be worshipped.

Amen.

*In conclusion, the minister requests the singing of a suitable blessing and 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