

Southern Weddings

OUR FAVORITE ROMANTIC
AND MEANINGFUL VOW
EXAMPLES

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VOW LIBRARY

Need help getting started? Sometimes the best inspiration comes from listening to other couples make their promises in marriage. Luckily, we've heard many of them over the years! Here are a few of our favorites.

I, Scarlett, take you, Rhett, to be my husband, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, all the days of my life.

I, Allie, do pledge you, Noah, my love, for as long as I live. What I possess in this world, I share with you. I will keep you and hold you, comfort and tend you, protect you and shelter you, for all the days of my life.

I, Eric, choose you, Tami, to be no other than yourself, loving what I know of you and trusting what things I will discover. I will respect you as a person, a partner, and an equal. There is little to say that you haven't already heard, and little to give that is not already freely given. Before you asked me, I was yours, and I am devoted to you in every way. As I have given you my hand to hold, so I give you my life to keep.

I love you unconditionally and without hesitation. I vow to encourage you, trust you, and respect you. I promise to work with you, knowing that together we will build a life far better than either of us could imagine alone. Today, I choose you to be my husband. I accept you as you are and I offer myself in return. I will care for you, stand beside you, and share with you all of life's adversities and all of its joys from this day forward.

Today, I promise you this: I will laugh with you in times of joy and comfort you in times of sorrow. I will share in your dreams and support you as you strive to achieve your goals. I will listen to you with compassion and understanding, and speak to you with encouragement. Together, let us build a home filled with learning, laughter, and light, shared freely. Let us be partners, friends, and lovers, today and all of the days that follow.

I, Maudie, take you, Atticus, to be the husband of my days, the companion of my house, the friend of my life. We shall bear together whatever trouble and sorrow life may lay upon us, and we shall share together whatever good and joyful things life may bring us. With these words, and all the words of my heart, I marry you and bind my life to yours.

I, Shelby, take you, Jackson, to be my husband. I promise to choose you every day, to love you in word and deed, to do the hard work of making now into always. To laugh with you, cry with you, grow with you, and create with you. To be your kin and your partner in all of life's adventures. I give you my hand, I give you my life, I give you myself.

I, Forrest, take you, Jenny, to be my beloved wife, to have and to hold you, to honor you, to treasure you, to be at your side in sorrow and in joy, in the good times and in the bad, and to love and cherish you always. I promise you this from my heart, for all the days of my life.

I take you as you are, loving who you are now and who you are yet to become. I promise to listen to you and learn from you, to support you and accept your support. I will celebrate your triumphs and mourn your losses as though they were my own. I will love you and have faith in your love for me, through all of our years and all that life may bring us.

TIP

It sounds obvious, but don't forget to look at each other during your vows! If you're repeating after your officiant or reading from a paper, you might be tempted to look away, but try to lock eyes with each other throughout—this is one of the most special moments of your life, and we want you to be fully present!

MAKE IT A TRADITION

We love this idea from one couple we featured in a past issue: they've made a tradition of reciting their vows to each other over dinner each year on their anniversary. The setting doesn't have to be anything fancy, but we agree there's something powerful about remembering and renewing these sacred promises on a yearly basis!

DON'T FORGET THE RING VOWS!

Though they get lumped together in our minds, the exchange of vows and the blessing and exchange of rings are actually two separate (but consecutive) parts of the ceremony. You'll need words for both. Here are two of our favorite ring vows, one more traditional and one more personal.

Emily, I give you this ring as a symbol of my vow, and with all that I am, and all that I have, I honor you in the name of God.

With this ring, I give you my heart. I promise from this day forward, you shall not walk alone: may my heart be your shelter, and my arms be your home.

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