

A.M. OUTLINE  
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## THE MARRIAGE VOWS

(Ruth 1:16-18)

### INTRODUCTION

Ruth's expression of devotion to Naomi, her mother-in-law, is often used in marriage ceremonies to express the devotion desired between a husband and wife.

#### 1. "I, \_\_\_\_\_, TAKE YOU, \_\_\_\_\_,"

It is a voluntary action - not a forced decision; selection; preference.  
When "taking" a mate, choose a Christian: (Deut. 7:3-4; 1 Cor. 9:5)  
William Keele's article: "Reasons Why I Married A Christian"

#### 2. "TO BE MY LAWFUL WEDDED \_\_\_\_\_"

"Lawful" - be sure you have a right to be married by law of land and by God.  
"Wedded" - (Matthew 19:5-6) "and the two shall become one flesh"

#### 3. "I PROMISE TO ABIDE BY GOD'S HOLY ORDINANCE"

You are vowing to allow God's Word to govern attitudes and actions in the relationship.

#### 4. "AND I PROMISE TO LOVE, HONOR, AND CHERISH YOU"

"Love" - it's show 'n tell; seeking what is best for the other.  
"Honor" - respect or esteem shown as one is due; adoration; admiration; treat rightly.  
"Cherish" - nourish; pamper; shelter; guard; treat with care.

#### 5. "SICKNESS / HEALTH; RICHER / POORER; FOR BETTER / WORSE"

One person said, "I'd just like to take her for healthy, richer, and better."  
Remember, the promise is not "so long as everything goes well."  
"Sickness" - what if a disabling accident happened on the honeymoon?  
"Poorer" - what if one or both of you lost your jobs?  
Can't say, "Been nice knowing you. Had fun while it lasted. Bye."  
"Worse" - is there something worse than sickness and being poor? Get ready!

#### 6. "AND I PROMISE TO KEEP MYSELF TO YOU ONLY"

Your vows contain two basic promises: one of love, the other of fidelity.

#### 7. "SO LONG AS WE BOTH SHALL LIVE"

**CLOSE** - Just as there is preparation and commitment for marriage, there is the same when one becomes a Christian, the bride of Christ: (Acts 2:38; Rev. 2:10)