

Vow:

A solemn promise, pledge, or personal commitment.



Wedding vows are the emphasis of wedding ceremonies around the world. Typically, vows include some variation of: “I take you... to have and to hold from this day forward, for better or for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish; from this day forward until death do us part.” Couples say these words when they marry, but one has to wonder if they really knew what they were saying or if they really mean it. One author and a voice for “Generation X” wrote; “We didn’t learn to break promises and (marriage) vows from big bad bullies at school—we learned from watching our parents deny every word they once said to each other.” For nearly half of marriages today, the “vows” couples took on their wedding day meant little or nothing and too many children are paying the price for their parents’ broken promises.

A vow—a solemn promise, pledge or commitment—should be taken seriously. Couples “vow” to remain with their respective spouses through all the problems they encounter, yet how often do we hear, “I didn’t sign up for this” when a spouse faces trouble. With your wedding vows, actually, you did sign up for whatever trouble you might face. The question is, are we focused on our circumstances and what we are getting? Or are we focused on the Lord and what *we* should be *doing* in the marriage relationship? We made a solemn promise, not only to remain with our spouse, but to love and cherish him or her. As Pastor Timothy Keller wrote; “Wedding vows are not a declaration of present love, but a mutually binding promise of future love.”

Your wedding vows *should* affect your marriage daily. You made a public declaration—a *promise* that you would love your spouse for better or worse. Essentially, you promised that you would love your spouse *no matter what*. Since “love” is giving of yourself (see 1 John 3:16), you should be giving yourself to your spouse every day. It is a matter of seeking to meet his or her needs without regard to whether or not your needs are being met. It is being unselfish. Are you living out this Christ-like attitude out everyday? Do your children and others see unselfishness in your life? In your marriage? Live out your marriage vows—love your spouse today!

Helpful Resources: *Fortified Marriages Resource page:* www.fortifiedmarriages.com

Articles to check out: *The 6 Promises that Make a Marriage* by Dave Willis

Everyday Vows for Lifelong Marriages by Tami Myer

10 Marriage Vows You Couldn’t Possibly Have Known to Make On Your Wedding Day by Winifred M. Reilly

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