

**Greeting:** Dearly Beloved, we are gathered here, in the presence of God and of these witnesses, these guests, and this “congregation of the righteous,” that this Groom (Adam) and this Bride (Jessica) may be united in holy marriage. What you have hereby attended and heretofore witnessed is a dress rehearsal—a dress rehearsal with actors in each position (a drama, if you will); a dress rehearsal of a soon coming day in which Christ Jesus, the Savior of the World, will be eternally joined with His body; His flesh and bones; his bride; those purchased with the dowry of His blood. This day in which we live has one focus; one pin-pointed attention; one laser focus of the Almighty: Ephesians 5:27 says that the Holy Spirit, the Great Wedding coordinator is preparing the people of God to be presented to Christ as a “glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such blemish.” Moreover, Jude tells us that we are in a day in which we are being kept from falling by the Great God of Heaven so that we can be presented “faultless before His presence with exceeding joy.” I see before me “exceeding joy” in the faces of Adam and Jessica. This is a forecast and foretaste of that glad day soon coming—in which God’s people, Christ’s bride, will be presented to God the Father in all His glory.

Jesus referred to His coming as the wedding procession in Matthew 25:6-10 when He said, “And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him...the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut.” Today, some of our wedding guests would be found ill-prepared if the Lord Jesus came and took His bride away. This was a procession that was greatly anticipated by His bride as she readied—knowing time would soon come when her “husband to be” had finished completing their home and had received the blessing from his father to come and gather his true love to Himself. To guests unprepared today, I can give you no greater warning than Jesus Himself gave when He said “Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.”

Along these lines, Matthew’s Gospel has the happiest line in Scripture... “the wedding was furnished with guests” (22:10), and you, the congregation—the guests—have graced the Green family and the Birkholz family with your presence. It seems like if the body of Christ would give more attention to these glad times, there would be an overwhelming sense of accountability—both happiness and sobriety.

**Giving of the Bride:** “Being assured that your love and your choice of each other as lifelong companions are in keeping with God’s will and the blessing of your families, I now ask. Who gives this woman to be married to this man?” **Bride’s Father** “I do.” (Bride’s father places her hand in Grooms hand and is seated).

**“Congregation, please be seated.”**

### **Declaration of Intention**

**Minister:** “Adam, are you ready to enter into this marriage with Jessica, believing the love you share and your faith in God’s keeping will endure all things?”

**Groom:** “I am.”

**Minister:** “Jessica, are you ready to enter into this marriage with Adam, believing the love you share and your faith in God’s keeping will endure all things?”

**Bride:** “I am.”

**MOVE TO NEW PLACE!!!!!!!!!!!!**

**Charge:**

Adam and Jessica, in Scripture...

1. Jesus is often referred to as the groom.

He is the One Who suffered, and bled, and died for His bride. Unselfishly; unreservedly; uninhibitedly giving the last full measure of His life's blood for the hand of His bride, He willingly took the beating, the mocking, the railing and the nailing, the thorns and the scorns for our justification, sanctification, and glorification. It's to the groom we say, "You are most observed today. For you have the admirable and exalted role of both gaining a bride, and giving your very life—both while breathing, and if need be, in death—for willful display of love, adoration, and sacrifice—in tenderness and warmth to your bride.

2. The Scripture describes the church as the bride.

In fact, there are many pictures of the union between Christ and His people: a. vine and branches; b. sheep and shepherd; c. foundation and building; d. body and head... but this union is a picture of the intimacy of Christ and his special people who believe in His sacrifice and are therefore assured of their redemption. All can enter by faith in His sacrifice. All are invited, but only those in whom Christ dwells by faith are to be a part of this most contented body of people known as His "called-out ones." A day is coming when those who have been "plucked out of" destruction; out of "turmoil"; out of danger; out of hell itself will look pure, spotless, holy, chaste, virtuous just as you look today. "Jessica, to you we say that as the bride of Christ adores Him, serves Him, admires Him, loves Him, so you are today His greatest example of how God's people love, adore and exhaust themselves for the One Who loved them and washed them from their sins in His own blood."

3. In our Scripture, Jesus referred to the sign of the marriage agreement between families when He said in Matthew 26:28

For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. Here Christ said the "price" He would pay for this marriage arrangement between He and His bride was His very own blood. Adam, you pledge your allegiance, loyalty, respect, honor, and your life-long commitment—directly to Jessica—but you do so to the honor of her family (for it is the husband who is commanded to "leave father and mother and cleave to his wife").

4. In Our Scripture, The Apostle Paul refers to Himself as the "father of the bride."

Jessica, "For your father, this must be a joyous and difficult day. The hours he has spent with your dear mother praying for your virtue while awaiting your future husband—raising you to be a godly helper while anticipating the day when you would officially transfer to the care of another man...in this day, my brother Bob is a notable pastor of sorts: He's a daddy who cared, protected, and provided in a way that only a father dare. In giving his dear daughter to this brother in Christ, your father is entrusting a token of his very life to Adam.

### **Exchange of Vows:**

"Before we get into the vows, I want to remind you that while you are both 'accepted before God in the person of Jesus,' there will be times you are 'beside yourselves.' Look into each other's eyes, please. The other person who is a 'child of God' will at times act as though they are simply 'sons of Adam and Eve.' (To Jessica) In his best day, he is a sinner, but be encouraged, he is a sinner indwelt by God and God will, with your patient help, restore Adam to Himself in every word, action, and thought. (To Adam) In her best day, she is a sinner, but be encouraged, she is a sinner indwelt by God and God will, with your patient nurturing leadership, restore Her to

Himself in every word, action, and thought. To both of you, I say, ‘the other is priceless, but you are needed to help them feel precious.’ To both of you I say, ‘when there are faults to find, suspect yourself first.’ To both of you I say, ‘when you don’t see what you like, be patient, God is far more interested in the sanctification of your spouse than you are.’”

**Minister:** “Adam, do you take Jessica to be your wedded wife, to live together after God’s ordinance in holy marriage? Do you promise to love, honor, and cherish her, in joy and sorrow, in sickness and health, being a good and faithful husband as long as you both shall live?”

**Groom:** “I do.”

**Minister:** “Jessica, do you take Adam to be your wedded husband, to live together after God’s ordinance in holy marriage? Do you promise to love, honor, and cherish him, in joy and sorrow, in sickness and health, being a good and faithful wife as long as you both shall live?”

**Bride:** “I do.”

**Adam-repeat after me but speak to Jessica**

“I, Adam, take thee, Jessica, to be my wedded wife, 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, till death do us part.”

**Jessica-repeat after me but speak to Adam**

“I, Jessica, take thee, Adam, to be my wedded 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, till death do us part.

### **Exchange of Rings**

**Minister:** Who has the ring for the bride?

The wedding ring is the visible sign of endless love within the commitments of Adam and Jessica to one another. It does not make them married, it does, however, testify that they are.

**Adam, repeat after me speaking to Jessica (placing the ring upon her finger)**

Jessica, I give you this ring as a pledge of my love and undying faithfulness. I promise you my love, friendship and support until death.

**Minister:** Who has the ring for the groom?

**Jessica, repeat after me speaking to Adam (placing the ring upon his finger)**

Adam, I give you this ring as a pledge of my love and undying faithfulness. I promise you my love, friendship and support until death.

### **Mailei Ceremony**

*In honor of Jessica's Hawaiian heritage to the Glory of God now is the time when the kahuna (kuh hoo 'nuh), that's me, takes the Maile (my'-lay) and binds the hands of the bride and groom together as a symbol of their commitment to each other and their union as one flesh.*

**While putting the lei around their hands.** Ke Akua (kay' ah koo ah) Ho'omaika'i (ho' oh my kah' ee) Oe (oy)

*Now Jessica will present the lei to Adam as a symbol of her love and respect*

### **Prayer**

“Pray with me.”

### **Declaration of Marriage**

Adam and Jessica, you have declared your commitment to each other before your family and God until death parts you or until the Lord returns for you. Therefore, it gives me the greatest of pleasure to pronounce you husband and wife. Adam, you may kiss your bride.

“Please face the congregation.”

**To the congregation: “Congregation, please stand with us.”**

### **Presentation**

It is with the greatest of pleasure I introduce to you for the very first time as husband and wife, Mr. And Mrs. Adam Green