

WEDDING VOWS....



Recently, I was asked to perform the wedding for a young lady who has grown up in the local congregation where I preached.

Normally, the couple is given specific vows to recite in their wedding service in which they in turn repeat to each other.

The bride-to-be, along with her husband-to-be, wanted to give wedding vows of their own, which they prepared ahead of time but did not let others, nor each other, know what was to be vowed.

Previewing each of their vows in private, I heartily agreed. At the time of rehearsal the night before, when it came to the part to go over their vows, the bride kept it a secret by just simply saying...."My vows", and so did her fiancée.

When the next day arrived, it was a perfect day for a wedding. The normal activities of final preparations were at hand. Guests began to fill the auditorium awaiting the time when the bride would step forth with her father and take that walk which would lead to leaving one who looked after her all her life, into the life of another, who would follow suit.

When the time came for their vows to be said, both were awaiting the words that would be spoken to them and witnessed in front of all that was in attendance that afternoon.

The bride delivered her vows with some emotion being kept under control as her future husband stood and listened – keeping his emotions in control. Then the groom took his turn and eloquently and sincerely told his future wife what he would vow to her and to God.

I don't know if there was a dry eye in the auditorium that day. For such a young couple, their hearts were poured into pleasing God first.

I have never witnessed such beautiful and God-honoring vows and asked for their permission to print their special exchange that they had given to one another on their wedding day.

JUSTIN'S VOWS:

"Rachel, the first time I spoke to you was 17 years ago. We were standing in Kindergarten class and I said that you were my girl friend.

After you disgustingly said, "No, I'm not," I told you that I would marry you someday.

Not having a clue at all what marriage was, I just thought you were cute. Well the good news is, I still think you're cute.

Today I am receiving the second greatest gift a person can receive on this earth, because our salvation is the greatest.

Since we've started dating each other, and now that I've physically watched you walk directly into a vegetable scale at Kroger, my love for you has grown more and more each and every day.

Today I understand what marriage is and I know what my responsibility entails as I stand here in front of you.

I vow to love you like Christ loves the Church and to be yours faithfully, spiritually, physically, emotionally, and mentally from this day forward.

I vow to be your protector, provider, comforter, and your spiritual leader.

I vow that I will continue my promise of these vows that I make to you today. Whether we're happy or sad, rich or poor, healthy or sick, for all the days of my life."

RACHEL'S VOWS:

"Justin, I used to pray that the Lord would send a Godly man for me to marry. I knew He would send him someday and that he would make me happy and fulfill my needs, but I never dreamed he would send somebody like you.

When I say "somebody like you", I mean:

- ◆ *A man who truly puts The Lord first.*
- ◆ *A man with integrity.*

- ♦ *A man who knows how to enjoy the small things in life and cherish and value family.*
- ♦ *A man who I know will always lead our marriage in the direction of Christ.*

Getting to know you this past year has been the happiest time of my life. In just a few moments, I will be your wife.

I could make my vows traditional and promise to always love and cherish you, but you already know that I will do those things. Instead, today I Vow To You:

- ♦ *That I will always put Christ first in our marriage.*
- ♦ *That I will always be the helpmeet God created me to be for you.*
- ♦ *That I will do my best to be a Proverbs 31 wife to you.*
- ♦ *That your heart will always be able to safely trust in me, and I will do you good all the days of my life.*

Like the woman in Proverbs, I vow to always be responsible with the money you work so hard for and be resourceful with the things we have.

- ♦ *I promise to raise our children in a loving Christian home where you are honored as our provider and protector.*
- ♦ *I vow to honor and respect you and the decisions you make in our marriage.*
- ♦ *I promise to submit myself to you as you submit yourself to Christ.*

I am so blessed to be standing here today exchanging our vows in marriage. I know that our love for each other can only grow stronger from here on out.

I love you with all my heart."

It is encouraging to see young people who have their heart, mind, and soul into wanting to please God first.

What a tremendous example this couple gave to the younger ladies and gentlemen who have yet to marry and are seeking a spouse.

What a great witness to their friends and family who may not yet be Christians on what to look for when making such a commitment to another person who will be your mate for life.

Congratulations to Justin and Rachel Ruff. May your marriage foundation, which you built on your wedding day with your special vows to each other, sustain you through all the joys, tears, hurdles, and successes that may happen throughout your family life.

So What about you? What are the vows you have placed with Christ, our Groom?

Have you yet begun vows that are founded on the Rock of Christ to weather what life will bring each day?

And if so, are they God-honoring or people pleasing?

Are you willing to keep them faithfully till you die? In doing so, you will receive the crown of life!

What a wedding day that will be for His people when Jesus returns for His Bride, the Church.



Pictured above – Mr. & Mrs. Justin Ruff