



## **Optional Readings: Bible & Religious**

**These can be read by the officiant or by your guests.**

### **Benedictions 1**

The Lord Bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you, and grant you His Peace. In the name of the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit.

### **Benediction 2**

We ask that the Holy Spirit of love may deepen the lives of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. May the relationship, which today has been expressed, continue to grow in the years to come. And whatever changes time may bring, let this wedding ceremony remain as a treasured memory and a guide to life. May they always experience that breathless wonder that exclaims: "Out of all this world, YOU have chosen ME." When life is done and the sun is setting, may they be found then as now, still hand in hand, still thanking you for each other. Amen

### **Colossians 3:12-19**

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

### **Corinthians 13**

Love is patient. Love is kind & envies no one. Love is never boastful, nor conceited, nor rude, never selfish, nor quick to take offense. Love keeps no score of wrongs, does not gloat over other men's sins, but delights in the truth. There is nothing love cannot face. There is no limit to its faith, its hope, and its endurance .

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### **From A Course in Miracles**

God has shared His joy with you and now you go to share it with the world. The Ark of Peace is entered two by two. And so you choose this instant as the one you offer to the Holy Spirit that His blessing may descend on you and keep you both in peace. Through your Holy Relationship, be born and blessed in every way. Two voices, together, call to the hearts of everyone to let them beat as one. And in that single heartbeat is the Unity of Love proclaimed and given welcome. Peace to your Holy relationship. You give to one another for everyone. And in your gift is everyone made glad.

### **Jewish Faith Blessing**

With Blessings from Jerusalem. Blessed are you King of the Universe who created joy and gladness, Groom and Bride, brotherhood, peace and companionship. Lord, of God, let there be heard on the streets of Jerusalem Joy and the Sound of Gladness, The Voice of the Groom and the Voice of the Bride. Blessed are You who gladdens the Groom with the Bride.

### **1 John 4:7-8**

Beloved, let us love one another for love is of God and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God. For God is Love.

**Mark 10:6-9** And Jesus said, "But from the beginning of the creation, God made them male and female. For this reason a man shall leave his Father and Mother and be joined to his wife. And the two shall become one flesh. So then they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore, what God has joined together, let no man separate"

**Prayer to Our Father** Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy Will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those Who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine Is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen

### **Proverbs 3:1-6**

My child, never forget the things I have taught you. Store my commands in your heart, for they will give you a long and satisfying life. Never let loyalty and kindness get away from you! Wear them like a necklace; write them deep within your heart. Then you will find favor with both God and people, and you will gain a good reputation.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will direct your paths.

### **Romans 12:9-18**

Let love be without any pretense. Avoid what is evil; stick to what is good. In love let your feelings of deep affection from one another come to expression and regard others as more important than yourself. In the service of the Lord, work not halfheartedly but with conscientiousness and an eager spirit. Be joyful in hope, persevere in hardship; keep praying regularly; share with any of God's holy people who are in need; look for opportunities to be hospitable. Bless your persecutors; never curse them, bless them. Rejoice with others when they rejoice, and be sad with those in sorrow. Give the same consideration to all others alike. Pay no regard to social standing, but meet humble people on their own terms. Do not congratulate yourself on your own wisdom. Never pay back evil with evil, but bear in mind the ideals that all regard with respect. As much as possible, and to the utmost of your ability, be at peace with everyone. The word of the Lord.