

Reflections on Marriage

When Christians marry, they say to each other:

1. We are going to maintain this marital union no matter what, for richer or poorer, in sickness and in health.
2. We have been blessed through God's love. We plan to share this love with each other and with those around us.
3. We are two individuals who enrich our existence by having a shared life in Christ Jesus.
4. We have chosen to marry because we belong not TO but WITH each other.
5. We are friends, and we shall remain so. We are lovers, and we shall remain so. We are individuals, and we shall remain so. We are partners, and we shall remain so. We are children, children of God, who are called in Christ Jesus to witness and serve Him and with His help we shall remain so.
6. I will be with you, no matter what happens between us.
7. If you should go blind tomorrow, I will be there.
8. If you achieve no success, attain no status, I will be there.
9. When we argue and are angry, as we inevitably will, I will work to bring us together.
10. When we seem totally at odds and neither of us is having our needs fulfilled, I will persist in trying to understand and in trying to restore our relationship.
11. When our marriage seems utterly sterile and going nowhere at all, I will believe that it can work. I will wait for it to work and I will do my part to make it work.
12. When all is wonderful and we are happy, I will rejoice over our life together and strive to keep our relationship growing and strong.