

Deb and Carl's Wedding celebration

Introduction – Baha'i Wedding

Jaci: For a Baha'i wedding, the couple must receive consent from their parents to marry, and Carl and Deb are grateful that we are being joined today by their parents.
[present flowers]

A Baha'i wedding is a simple exchange of a single statement: “we will all, verily, abide by the will of god” once this pledge is made in the presence of two witnesses, Deb and Carl will be married. Today, Carl's brother Don and Deb's sister Karen have agreed to serve as these witnesses.

A Baha'i wedding can also include other sacred prayers and writing, which Carl and Deb have selected for their wedding today.

So Don and Karen, if you could join us for the exchange of vows...
[present flowers]

Deb: “we will all, verily, abide by the will of god

Carl: “we will all, verily, abide by the will of god

Prayer for marriage

Jaci: O my lord o my lord these two bright orbs are wedded in thy love, conjoined in servitude to thy holy threshold, united in ministering to thy cause. Make thou this marriage to be a threading lights of thine abounding grace, o my lord the all-merciful, and luminous rays of they bestowals, o thou the beneficent, the ever-giving, that there may branch out from this great tree boughs that will grow green and flourishing through the gifts that rain down from thy clouds of grace.

Verily, thou are the generous. Verily, thou art the compassionate, the all-merciful.

Marriage Tablet

Tracy: This is an excerpt of the Baha'i marriage tablet.

The bond that unites hearts most perfectly is loyalty. True lovers once united must show forth the utmost faithfulness one to another.

Your thoughts must be lofty; your ideals luminous, your minds spiritual, so that your souls may become a dawning place for the sun of reality. Let your hearts be like unto 2 pure mirrors reflecting the stars of the heaven of love and beauty.

Together make mention of noble aspirations and heavenly concepts. Let there be no secrets one from another. Make your home a haven of rest and peace. Be hospitable, and let the doors of your house be open to the faces of friends and strangers. Welcome every guest with radiant grace and let each feel that it IS his own home.

Nourish continually the tree of your union with love and affection, so that it will remain ever green and verdant throughout all seasons and bring forth luscious fruits for the healing of nations.

Be like two sweet-singing birds perched upon the highest branches of the tree of life, filling the air with songs of love and rapture.

Lay the foundation of your affection in the very center of your spiritual being, at the very heart of your consciousness, and let it not be shaken by adverse winds.

Jaci: God has given you sweet and lovely children, consecrate yourselves to their instruction and guidance, so that they may become imperishable flowers of the divine rose-garden, nightingales of the ideal paradise, servants of the world of humanity, and the fruit of the tree of your life.

Live in such harmony that others may take your lives for an example and may say one to another: "look how they live like two doves in one nest, in perfect love, affinity and union. It is as though from all eternity God had kneaded the very essence of their beings for the love of one another."

Attain the ideal love that god has destined for you, so that you may become partakers of eternal life forthwith. Quaff deeply from the fountain of truth, and dwell all the days of your life in a paradise of glory, gathering immortal flowers from the garden of divine mysteries.

Unity Ceremony

Tracy: Deb and Carl, your marriage does not simply unite the two of you.

Two homes will now become one. I invite Karly, Jillian, Connor, and Ethan to join you

Two homes will now become one. Karly, Jillian, Connor, and Ethan, along with Carl and Deb, will unite to create a new home and family together.

The essential element for this union and this family is love. The vase before us has stood empty and is now ready to be filled by the family united in today's marriage, **symbolizing** the blossoming of this union and their continued cultivation of love for one another.

Karly and Jill please place your flowers. Connor and Ethan. Deb and Carl.

[addressing guests]

Each flower, like each member of this new family, is unique and beautiful in their own right. Just as the flowers join together, they compliment and build upon the beauty in each other. The flowers brought together symbolize the love that will create strong bonds of unity between them.

May God bring unity into your home and may you be reminded of the beauty your care has cultivated.

[children step to sides]

Pledges to each other

Vow

Tracy: Carl please repeat after me:

I, Carl, take you, Deb, as my wife, my friend and my love
beside me and apart from me, in laughter and in tears,
in conflict and tranquility, asking that you be nothing other than yourself
loving what I know of you, trusting what I do not yet know
and promising to nurture your growth and encourage your dreams
in all ways that life may find us.

Ring exchange

Connor gives ring to Carl he places ring on her finger...

Tracy: Carl please repeat after me:

Deb, you are my beloved and my friend
This ring is a symbol of our union
A token of my faith and love.
I give it TO YOU with all of my heart
To honor you as my wife, in the name of God

Jaci: Deb, please repeat after me:

I, Deb, take you, Carl, as my husband, my friend and my love
beside me and apart from me, in laughter and in tears,
in conflict and tranquility, asking that you be nothing other than yourself
loving what I know of you, trusting what I do not yet know
and promising to nurture your growth and encourage your dreams
in all ways that life may find us.

Ring exchange

Ethan gives ring to Deb she places ring on Carl's finger

Jaci: Deb please repeat after me:

Carl, you are my beloved and my friend
This ring is a symbol of our union
A token of my faith and love.

I give it TO YOU with all of my heart
To honor you as my wife, in the name of God

Pronouncement of Marriage

Jaci: Friends, I happily present to you Carl and Deb and their family.

Recession

Tracy: Carl and Deb thank you for sharing this special day with them. Please enjoy the buffet lunch under the tent. Carl and Deb will greet you at your tables in lieu of a receiving line. Also, anyone who is able to help bring the chairs over to the tables would be most appreciated. Thank you so much. Enjoy.