

*Samantha Stuten*

Couples Package

## Couples Questionnaire

Party 1's Name:

Party 2's Name:

Email:

- ♥ What is the style/theme of your wedding?
- ♥ What is the dress code? Do you have any requests for how you'd like me to dress / not dress on the day?
- ♥ What are your colours?
- ♥ How many guests?
- ♥ Do you need to hire a PA system?
- ♥ Do you have a Wedding Party? If so, please list names and their relationship to you.
- ♥ Who are your two witnesses? (must be over 18 years)
- ♥ It is a legal requirement for your full names to be said at least once during the ceremony, and before the legal vows. Would you like your full names to be used: in the introduction / during the vows / at some other time throughout the whole ceremony?
- ♥ Do either Parties wish to be 'Given Away'?  
If so, who will be giving them away? and their relationship to them.
- ♥ Would you like a traditional style (eg. "Who brings this woman/man to be married to this woman/man") or modern (eg. "Thank you for delivering the beautiful bride/groom safe and sound to us today. I know the groom/bride is especially grateful, as are the guests who are keen for the party... etc")
- ♥ Do you have any cultural rituals or traditions you would like performed? (eg. Acknowledgement of land/country etc)
- ♥ Do you wish to acknowledge or mention anyone important? (eg. Children, joining of 2 families etc or those not present - deceased, unable to travel etc).
- ♥ Would you like to incorporate blessings from family, friends, children? (eg. "Do parents give their blessings today... etc").
- ♥ Would you like to incorporate any "I Do" / "I will" type questions (these are different to vows, as there is no "I do"/"I will" in the legal vows.) These types of questions are commonly known as "The Asking" and can be more casual and informal than vows. (examples can be found below)
- ♥ How would you like to deliver your vows?  
Memorise the vows / Read off palm card / Repeat after Sam
- ♥ When would you like to exchange your rings?  
Incorporated with your vows / In a separate ring exchange
- ♥ What wording would you like to use, as you exchange your rings?

- ♥ Do you have a ring bearer?  
Yes / No  
If so, who is it? Is there any special way you'd like the rings to be presented?
- ♥ Would you like a toast during the ceremony?  
Yes / No  
If so, would it just be the two of you or would everyone be involved? When would it happen?
- ♥ Do you have a special pen you would like to use for signing? (Please note, the ink needs to be black)  
Yes / No
- ♥ How would you like to be formally introduced at the end of the ceremony?  
Mr and Mrs / Mr and Mr / Mrs and Mrs / Husband and Wife / Husband and Husband / Wife and Wife / Newlyweds / Partners for life / Other
- ♥ After formally introducing you will you:  
Walk down the aisle with guests to follow you to congratulate / Ask everyone to come forward to you.
- ♥ Would you like me to hand over to your MC and/or advise of any logistics (eg "After the ceremony, our gorgeous couple will have some photos taken for approx 2hrs. Please enjoy some drinks on the balcony and meet at the reception at 5pm").
- ♥ How long have you known each other?
- ♥ How and when did you meet?
- ♥ What were your first thoughts of each other when you met?
- ♥ When did you decide you wanted to be with one another forever?
- ♥ List the things you love about each other.
- ♥ List the things that drives you crazy about each other.
- ♥ List the most important aspects of your relationship.
- ♥ Tell me about your marriage proposal? How, when where?!
- ♥ Why do you want to get married? Do you think anything will change?
- ♥ If you only had three words to describe each other, what would they be?
- ♥ What has been your greatest adventure together so far?
- ♥ What leisure, sports, activities and/or interests do you enjoy together?
- ♥ Do you have any funny / quirky stories or memories you'd like to share?
- ♥ Do you have a favourite movie/tv show/anything that you quote or refer to?
- ♥ Is there a special reason you decided on the location for your wedding?
- ♥ What does your family mean to you? Do you want any specific mention of this? (eg. Ceremony content speaking of the importance of family, a poem, acknowledgement of the importance of family etc.)
- ♥ What do your friends mean to you? Do you want to mention this in the ceremony? (eg. "Friends are the family we choose! You all mean the world to us and we're happy that you're here to celebrate with us today!")
- ♥ What are your dreams and hopes for the future?
- ♥ Would you like any readings, poems, quotes, stories, songs, dances or any other inclusions in your ceremony?

- ♥ Would you like any rituals to be included in your ceremony (eg. Lighting candles, a sand ceremony, rings being passed around before the ceremony, planting a tree etc).  
Yes / No  
If so, do you have anything specific in mind, and who would you want to be involved?
- ♥ Anything else you think is relevant or you'd like to be included?

## Vows

In a New Zealand marriage ceremony, couples can write their own vows as long as they say "I [name] take you [partner's name], to be my legal [wife/husband/partner]", or something similar, to each other at some point in the ceremony.

You have 3 options for your wedding vows; you can say them, repeat them or answer 'I do'. You can choose to write your own vows or use a more traditional approach (examples below and there are plenty of 'modern' examples of vows on the internet – just google 😊.)

### ***Traditional***

I, [name], take you, [name], for my lawful wife, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and health, until death do us part.

"I, [name], take you, [name], to be my equal partner in love, life, and law, today, tomorrow, and forever. I promise to share your joy and sorrow, to help you heal when the world wounds you, and to help you find beauty in everything."

### ***Modern***

I love you, [name]. You are my best friend. Today I give myself to you in marriage. I promise to encourage and inspire you, to laugh with you, and to comfort you in times of sorrow and struggle.

I promise to love you in good times and in bad, when life seems easy and when it seems hard, when our love is simple, and when it is an effort. I promise to cherish you, and to always hold you in highest regard. These things I give to you today, and all the days of our life.

I join my life with yours. Wherever you go, I will go; whatever you face, I will face. For good or ill, in happiness or sadness, come riches or poverty, I take you [name], as my husband/wife, and will give myself to no other.

## Exchange of Rings

Here are some examples however there are plenty more on the internet 😊

I have for you a golden ring. The most precious metal symbolizes that your love is the most precious element in my life. The ring has no beginning and no end, which symbolizes that the love between us will never cease. I place it on your finger as a visible sign of the vows which have made us husband and wife.

I promise to love, respect and honour you  
I will always be there for you, with you, beside you  
Let this ring be a symbol of our love,  
may it represent our today, our tomorrows,  
our future & our past.  
As I have given you my hands to hold,  
so I give you my life to keep.

## Examples of Readings

### Excerpt from *The Alchemist*

When he looked into her eyes, he learned the most important part of the language that all the world spoke — the language that everyone on earth was capable of understanding in their heart. It was love. Something older than humanity, more ancient than the desert. What the boy felt at that moment was that he was in the presence of the only woman in his life, and that, with no need for words, she recognized the same thing. Because when you know the language, it's easy to understand that someone in the world awaits you, whether it's in the middle of the desert or in some great city. And when two such people encounter each other, the past and the future become unimportant. There is only that moment, and the incredible certainty that everything under the sun has been written by one hand only. It is the hand that evokes love, and creates a twin soul for every person in the world. Without such love, one's dreams would have no meaning.

### What is Love by Unknown

Sooner or later we begin to understand that love is more than verses on valentines and romance in the movies. We begin to know that love is here and now, real and true, the most important thing in our lives. For love is the creator of our favorite memories and the foundation of our fondest dreams. Love is a promise that is always kept, a fortune that can never be spent, a seed that can flourish in even the most unlikely of places. And this radiance that never fades, this mysterious and magical joy, is the greatest treasure of all — one known only by those who love.

### He's Not Perfect by Bob Marley

He's not perfect. You aren't either, and the two of you will never be perfect. But if he can make you laugh at least once, causes you to think twice, and if he admits to being human and making mistakes, hold onto him and give him the most you can. He isn't going to quote poetry, he's not thinking about you every moment, but he will give you a part of him that he knows you could break. Don't hurt him, don't change him, and don't expect for more than he can give. Don't analyze. Smile when he makes you happy, yell when he makes you mad, and miss him when he's not there. Love hard when there is love to be had. Because perfect guys don't exist, but there's always one guy that is perfect for you.

## **How Falling in Love is Like Owning a Dog by Taylor Mali**

On cold winter nights, love is warm.  
It lies between you and lives and breathes and makes funny noises.  
Love wakes you up all hours of the night with its needs.  
It needs to be fed so it will grow and stay healthy.

Love doesn't like being left alone for long.  
But come home and love is always happy to see you.  
It may break a few things accidentally in its passion for life, but you can never be mad at love for long.

Is love good all the time? No! No! Love can be bad. Bad, love, bad! Very bad love.

Love makes messes.  
Love leaves you little surprises here and there.  
Love needs lots of cleaning up after.  
Sometimes you just want to get love fixed.  
Sometimes you want to roll up a piece of newspaper and swat love on the nose,  
not so much to cause pain, just to let love know, "Don't you ever do that again!"

Sometimes love just wants to go out for a nice long walk.  
Because love loves exercise. It will run you around the block and leave you panting,  
breathless. Pull you in different directions at once, or wind itself around and around you  
until you're all wound up and you cannot move.

But love makes you meet people wherever you go.  
People who have nothing in common but love stop and talk to each other on the street.

Throw things away and love will bring them back, again, and again, and again.  
But most of all, love needs love, lots of it.  
And in return, love loves you and never stops.

## **Love Sonnet 17 by Pablo Neruda**

I love you without knowing how, or when, or from where.  
I love you straightforwardly, without complexities or pride;  
so I love you because I know no other way  
than this: where I does not exist, nor you,  
so close that your hand on my chest is my hand,  
so close that your eyes close as I fall asleep.

## **The Art Of Marriage by Wilferd Arlan Peterson:**

Happiness in marriage is not something that just happens. A good marriage must be created. In the art of marriage the little things are the big things...

It is never being too old to hold hands.

It is remembering to say "I love you" at least once a day.

It is never going to sleep angry.

It is at no time taking the other for granted; the courtship should not end with the honeymoon, it should continue through all the years.

It is having a mutual sense of values and common objectives.

It is standing together facing the world.

It is forming a circle of love that gathers in the whole family.

It is doing things for each other, not in the attitude of duty or sacrifice, but in the spirit of joy.

It is speaking words of appreciation and demonstrating gratitude in thoughtful ways.

It is not looking for perfection in each other.

It is cultivating flexibility, patience, understanding and a sense of humor.

It is having the capacity to forgive and forget.

It is giving each other an atmosphere in which each can grow.

It is finding room for the things of the spirit.

It is a common search for the good and the beautiful.

It is establishing a relationship in which the independence is equal, dependence is mutual and the obligation is reciprocal.

It is not only marrying the right partner, it is being the right partner.

It is discovering what marriage can be, at its best.