**Charges to the bride and groom**

As I read Scripture from the fifth Chapter of the book of Ephesians, I want you both to pay very close attention to the words stated here. They are from the word of God that the Holy Spirit will honor as you stand on them in faith.

The world has the idea that marriage is simply a legal contract. It is a legal contract (we don’t make light of that); but at the same time, it is a spiritual covenant. When the words of faith are spoken according to the Word of God between two born-again believers, the power of God goes into operation. There is an actual miracle that takes place when the faith of these two people is released in God’s power. God honors their faith and brings them into union together. With these thoughts in mind, listen very carefully to these words.

*Submitting you one to another in the fear of God.*

*Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the Church: and he is the Savior of the body.*

*Therefore, as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands … in everything.*

*Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; that he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the Word, that he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.*

*So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church*.

For we are members of his body, of his flesh and of his bones.

**To the Groom**: Lionel, have you accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and personal Savior?

Groom: I have.

**To the Bride**: Laurie, have you accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and personal Savior?

Bride: I have.

Now, upon public profession of your faith, you have made known to all men that Jesus Christ of Nazareth is your Lord and your Savior.

First Corinthians 6: 17 says you are one spirit with Him. Here in Ephesians, it says that you have become one flesh with the Lord. You are His. He is yours. You are one together with Him.

I want you to understand that if you rightly discern the Body of Christ, then you rightly discern the miracle that takes place in marriage. Your spirits will be joined together and you will become one. You will not be one just in the eyes of the law. There is something much more powerful that happens. The very creative power of God will join you together.

By the very evidence that you are here today it shows without any doubt that God has joined you two to be together and in whom God has joined together let no man put us under.

**To the witnesses**

I want to speak this to the witnesses here: Jesus said in the 18th Chapter of Matthew’s Gospel, “Again, I say unto you, that if two of you shall agree on earth as touching anything that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.”

You are not here just because of tradition. You are here for a serious purpose – to bear witness forever of the miraculous union that will take place, and to add your agreement before God to that which takes place.

Don’t ever, ever, ever tamper with that agreement. From this day forward, regardless of what comes, you are in agreement with this union.

I charge you to do everything in your power to see that this union remains solid and strong and happy and prosperous.

**Vows**

**GROOMS STATEMENT**

I want to be so many things for you. I want to be someone who reminds you every single day how much your loved. I want to be someone that makes you happy. I want to be someone you can trust with absolutely everything. Every feeling you feel like sharing. Every hope and worry. Every joy and sorrow. I want to be someone who makes you smile a million times more than I make you frown. I want to make beautiful memories with you. I want to go many places with you. I want to see more sunsets with you that I can even begin to count. I want to be a part of your tomorrows and I want you to be a part of every one of mines. And more than anything else, I want to be what you think of every time you think of happiness and forever and love.

**To the Groom**: Lionel, do you take Laurie as your wife, as your own flesh to love her even as Christ loves the Church, to protect her and care for her for the rest of your lives?

Groom: *I do.*

Then turn to her and make this profession of your faith:

*I, Lionel, according to the Word of God, will love you as God so loved the church, and I join myself to you, to be a husband to you. From this moment forward, we shall be one.*

**To the Bride:** Laurie, do you take Lionel as your husband, submitting yourself to him as unto the Lord, showing reverence to him as the head of this union for the rest of your lives?

Bride: *I do.*

Then turn to him and make this profession of your faith:

*I, Laurie, according to the Word of God, submit myself to you, to be a wife to you. From this moment forward, we shall be one.*

**Pronouncement**

Join right hands, please.

As a representation of Jesus Christ, before Almighty God and in the Name of the Father, of His Son Jesus, and by the power of the Holy Spirit of God, I now pronounce you one together.

You are now husband and wife.

You may kiss your bride!

**Presentation**

 I now present to the world under the skies of our heavenly father Mr. and Mrs. Lionel Artis!