

# *Exchanging Rings Immediately after the Vows*



Traditionally, rings are exchanged after the vows. There are many ways to do this. You can combine your vows with a ring exchange that follows immediately afterwards:

***Example:*** *I call upon the people here present to witness that I, NAME, take you NAME, to be my wedded wife. To have and to hold from this day forward. I promise that our marriage will always be on of honesty and trust. I will respect you and encourage you. I will laugh with you and be your friend, and I will love you forever. (Best man hands the groom the ring). I give you this ring as a token of my promise. Wear it, think of me, and know that I love you.*

This part of the ceremony is up to you. It can be as long or as short as you like. You needn't say anything at all, I can simply prompt you to "place the ring, a symbol of your love for (Name) on his/her finger" and leave it at that. There really are no rules to this part of the ceremony. The following collection of ring exchanges are suggestions only. You may prefer to come up with words of your own, edit something below, or blend two or more of the ring exchanges. Some couples like to say the same thing while other couples choose different words for each partner. You could even keep the wording as a surprise to one another:

## ***Examples to say straight after the vows:***

I give you this ring to wear upon your hand as a symbol of our unity

This ring marks the beginning of our journey together. Wear it proudly, for it publicly displays the love that I have for you.

I give you this ring as a token of my abiding love,  
as a sign that I have chosen you above all others.  
All that I am, and all that I have,  
I offer to you in joy, in thanksgiving and in sacred union.  
With this ring, I thee wed.

With this ring, I give to you my promise  
that from this day forward you will not walk alone.  
May my heart be your shelter  
And my arms be your home.  
May we walk together through all things.  
May you feel deeply loved, for indeed you are.



With this ring,  
I give you my heart.  
I have no greater gift to give.  
I promise I will do my best.  
I will always try.  
I feel honored to call you my (wife/husband).  
I feel blessed to call you mine.  
May we feel this joy forever.

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 ending, 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.

This ring I give to you as a token of my love and devotion to you.  
I pledge to you all that I am and all that I will ever be as your (wife/husband).  
With this ring, I gladly marry you and join my life to yours.

I give you this ring as a symbol of my love. As it encircles your finger, may it remind you always that you are surrounded by my enduring love

As the ring never ends, so my love will be never-ending  
As the cords bind to each other, so to you will I be bound  
As precious as the gold it is made from, so precious are you to me  
I love you, (wife/husband's name), as this ring will always remind you.

*I [GROOM], promise before friends and family, to clean up my dirty laundry, help you cook, clean, make the bed, vacuum and put the lid back on the toothpaste. I promise to admit when I'm wrong, even when I'm not, bring you flowers even if I haven't done anything wrong and to love you with all of my heart. I give you this ring as a token of my promise*

*I [BRIDE], promise before everyone and their dog, to always invite you to go shopping, never complain when you snore and to never ask you, "does this dress make me look fat." I promise to not talk your ear off, spend too much time on the phone with my friends, fix a special dinner for you more often than you bring me flowers and to love you with all of my heart. I give you this ring as a token of my promise.*

# Separate Ring Ceremonies



You may, however, want to have a Separate Ring Ceremony to make a bigger deal about exchanging rings. In this case, you would say your personal vows to each other and then we would pause and continue with a separate ceremony. The examples below show the sort of thing I would say, followed by your response in *italics*. Again, there are no rules here, you can mix up all the words to suit you – or even come up with something completely your own!

## **#1 - These Rings are a Reminder**

The Couple would now like to exchange rings. May these rings forever remind them of their pledge to one another. May their compassion and kindness for one another always be like these rings, with no beginning and no end. May their relationship always be like these rings, separate but close, simple but beautiful. May the precious metal of these rings remind them that their love is the most precious element in their lives.

GROOM, please place this ring on BRIDE'S finger, and repeat after me:

***With this ring, I thee wed***

## **#2 - These Rings Unite Two Hearts**

The wedding ring is a circle, it has no beginning and no end and therefore, it is a symbol of eternity. The wedding ring is an outward sign of an inward and spiritual bond which unites two hearts in endless love. These rings contain in their precious metal, that which is more precious, that which is priceless:  
love and hope and a promise for the future.

GROOM, please place this ring on BRIDE'S finger, and repeat after me:

***Bride, I give you this ring as a symbol of our love and commitment***

BRIDE, in accepting this ring, do you take GROOM to be your husband? ***I do.***

BRIDE, please place this ring on GROOM'S finger, and repeat after me:

***Groom, I give you this ring as a symbol of our love and commitment***

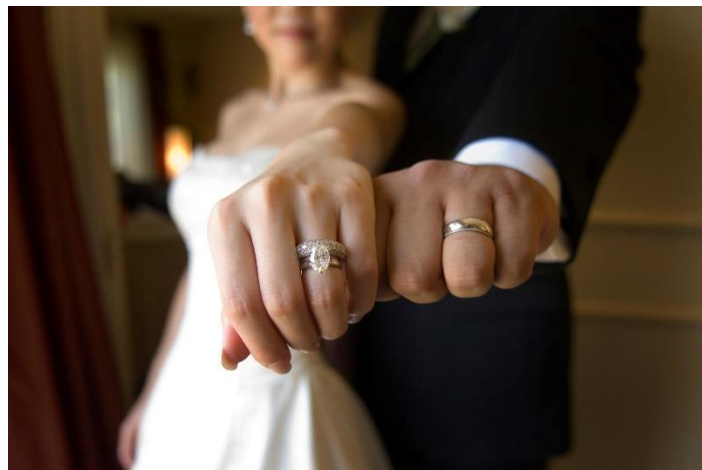
GROOM, in accepting this ring, do you take BRIDE to be your wife? ***I do.***

### **#3 – Love Accepts Imperfections**

This is the point in the ceremony where we usually talk about the wedding bands being a perfect circle, with no beginning and no end. But we all know that these rings do have a beginning. Rock is dug up from the earth. Metal is liquefied in a furnace at a thousand degrees, then molded, cooled, and painstakingly polished. Something beautiful is made from raw elements. Love is like that. It's hot, dirty work. It comes from humble beginnings, made by imperfect beings. It's the process of making something beautiful where there was once nothing at all.

GROOM, please place the ring on BRIDE'S finger and repeat after me:

***This ring is my promise to accept your imperfections and recognize your beauty.  
With this ring I marry my best friend.***



### **#4 – These Rings Are Our Bond**

Today, we use the wedding ring to symbolize a connection. It is a constant reminder of the bond between a husband and a wife. BRIDE and GROOM, you hold in your hands the wedding rings that you will exchange with one another. When you give a ring to someone in marriage, you are giving them a symbol of your eternal love, a love that - like the circle formed by each of these rings - has no beginning and no end.

GROOM, please place the ring on BRIDE'S finger and repeat after me:

***I give you this ring as a token of my promise. Wear it proudly, for it shows the world the bond we share and the love that I have for you.***

### **#5 Forever in Your Minds**

The promises that you have made to each other today, are inscribed forever in your minds and in your hearts. But words are fleeting, the sound of them is soon gone - and so those who marry wear rings as visible, tangible symbols of their commitment to each other.

These rings announce to the world that you have been found.

They are a reminder and a celebration of the promises you have made today and in exchanging these rings you join your two lives together.

GROOM, please place the ring on BRIDE'S finger, and repeat after me:

***I give you this ring as a sign that I choose you  
to be my lover, my partner and my best friend.  
Wear it, think of me, and know that I love you***

### **#6 – A Circle is the Strongest Geometric Shape**

The circle is the symbol of the sun and the earth and the universe. It is a symbol of holiness, of perfection and of peace. BRIDE and GROOM, your friends, family and sponsors have formed a circle around you. A circle is the strongest geometric shape therefore, the people in this circle will be strong and support both of you. A circle has no sides, therefore the people in this circle will never take sides against either of you. The wedding ring is also a circle, it has no beginning and no end, and therefore, it is a symbol of eternity. The wedding ring is an outward sign of an inward and spiritual bond which unites two hearts in endless love.

Each person in the circle will hold these rings for just a moment and warm them with love.

Then they will pass the rings onto the next person in the circle.

GROOM, This ring is now warmed by those you love. This ring carries within it the blessings and pledges of support from your family, your friends and your sponsors.

GROOM, please place the ring on BRIDE'S finger, and repeat after me:

***With this ring, I thee wed***



### **#7 – A Symbol of Completeness**

From the earliest times, the circle has been a symbol of completeness. A ring is an unbroken and never ending circle that symbolizes a love that is never ending. When you look at this symbol, I hope that you will be reminded of your commitment to love each other.

GROOM, please place the ring on BRIDE'S finger, and repeat after me:

***I give you this ring as a symbol of my love and commitment***

### **#8 – Love Freely Given**

Traditionally, the passage to the status of husband and wife is marked by the exchange of rings. These rings are a symbol of the unbroken circle of love.

Love freely given has no beginning and no end.

Love freely given has no giver and no receiver  
for each is the giver and each is the receiver of love.

May these rings remind you always of the vows you pledge to each other today.

GROOM, please place the ring on BRIDE'S finger, and repeat after me:

***This ring is a token of my love. I marry you with this ring,  
with all that I have and all that I am and all that I ever hope to be.***

### **#9 – A Promise**

A ring is a fitting symbol for a wedding promise. It is a circle with no beginning and no end.

Love without end is what we hope to achieve in marriage.

As this ring is placed upon your finger remember that it is

your love for one another that has brought you here,

and it is that love that will guide you down the pathways of your future

GROOM, please place the ring on your partner's finger, and repeat after me:

***Take this ring as my gift to you.***

***Wear it and think of me, and know that I love you.***

### **#10 – Circle of Wholeness**

These rings are the symbols of vows taken, a circle of wholeness.

These rings mark the beginning of a journey filled with wonder,

surprises, tears, laughter, celebrations, grief and joy.

May these rings glow with the warmth and life that flows through their wearers today.

GROOM, please place the ring on your partner's finger, and repeat after me:

***With this ring, I give you my heart. From this day forward, you shall not walk alone.***

***May my heart be your shelter, may my arms be your home.***



### **#11 – Symbol of Eternity**

The ring is a circle, an ancient symbol of eternity and completeness, so perfect, with no beginning and no end, for love that is given comes back around again. You are each the

beginning and the ending, each the giver and the receiver.

GROOM, please place the ring on your partner's finger and repeat after me

***I give you this ring in remembrance of this hour, a symbol of love that is complete, beautiful, and endless.***