

Daughters

Fellowship • Encouragement • Exhortation

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Monday, 6 October 2008

Dear Girls,

WEDDING CEREMONY

In writing the following Form for the Solemnization of Marriage which was used at Pete's and my wedding ceremony we took pieces from the Liturgical Form of the Canadian and American Reformed Churches, from various CRC and OPC forms and from the form in the back of my church's *Psalter Hymnal* (a CRC publication). And some of the form we simply 'made up' ourselves. Many of the forms we came across were good but we wanted one which would reflect our understanding of marriage and which would articulate this in the way which we would articulate it. We wanted to fully understand each word and its meaning and we wanted to bear witness to marriage as we understood it Biblically. Here is the final result:

Form for the Solemnization of Marriage

Where the wedding takes place before the congregation, the following announcement is to be made on the previous Sunday (or previous three Sundays in both Pete's and Genevieve's churches):

Peter Alexander de Deugd and Genevieve Elizabeth Smith have signified their desire to be united in marriage according to the ordinance of God. They desire to begin this holy state in the Name of the Lord and to complete it to His glory. If no lawful objection is brought forward, the ceremony will take place, Lord willing, at All Saints Church on the corner of Church Street and the Square in Palmerston North, New Zealand at 10:00am on 16 February 2008.

I always cringe at that part during the wedding ceremony when the minister says, "Are there any objections?" Usually there is an awkward pause and people look around themselves to see if someone is going to stand up or come in from the back of the church to stop the proceedings.

Pete and I were able to avoid all such awkwardness by placing this notice (to the left) signifying our desire to marry in our church bulletins and the local paper. This enabled the minister to simply state at the beginning of the ceremony, "As there have been no objections we shall continue..."



Introduction/Declaration of Purpose

[Minister says]

Beloved in the Lord, we are assembled here in the presence of God for the purpose of joining in marriage Peter Alexander de Deugd and Genevieve Elizabeth Smith. We want to honour the will of God for marriage: that one man and one woman make a covenant in Christ to join together as one for life and to work as He enables and guides them to fill the earth and subdue it. We further want to honour the concern of the Christian Church for her welfare;

All Saints Anglican Church in Palmerston North, New Zealand where we were married.

and also to honour the interest of the state for the orderly development of society.

Invocation

[Minister]

Let us ask God's blessing on this service.

Almighty God, gracious heavenly Father, as we have met together this morning in your presence to witness the marriage of Pete and Genevieve, we recognise that unless You control and guide us in all we do, we do it in vain.

Therefore we ask You, O God, please be with us, over-rule us in all we think, say or do, that it



At the beginning of the service Pete's whole family followed by his groomsman walked down the aisle together. They had their own processional. This was to signify that this was a family event. They entered as a family. After the best man walked down the aisle the 14 maiden daughters entered. And after them the whole Smith family came in (including my married brother, his wife and their daughter)

en masse followed by the bridesmaid and flower girl (my sisters) and finally by Dad and myself. This meant that my whole family walked down together although in different groups (my brother and his wife and child followed by mum escorted by another brother and with three other siblings, then the bridesmaid, flower girl and after a space Dad and I). Again we did this so that we would be entering as a family to emphasize that this was a family event.



Maiden daughters waiting to enter.

may be pleasing to You and bring praise and glory to Your Name.

Fill Pete and Genevieve with a sense of the solemnity of the vows they are about to make. May they look to You for Your assistance, and enter into these sacred obligations in humble dependence upon Your enabling grace. Grant this, O Father, with the forgiveness of our sins, through Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord and Saviour.

Amen.

Congregation, please be seated.

Objections

[Minister]

Since we have received no lawful objections to their proposed union, we may now proceed to the solemnization of their marriage in the name of the Lord.



My father and Pete's father stood at the front of the church with us. At this point I was by Dad's side, not by Pete's.

Symbolizing the Foundation Built by the Parents

[Minister]

Pete and Genevieve stand here today with their fathers who together with their wives have raised these two young people in the fear and admonition of the Lord. They have laid a foundation for their children and that foundation is the Holy Scriptures, the Word of God. This common unity in the Lord Jesus Christ and their mutual desire to build on the foundation laid by their parents means that a union between Pete and Genevieve is an equal yoking and union which is in the Lord.

Before Pete's Dad blessed him to enter into marriage he made a presentation to Pete. It was done in this way: Mr de Deugd brought out the family Bible and held it out to my dad, who took it and they shook hands over it. Together they presented it to Pete and Mr de Deugd said something to Pete to the effect that both he and my dad were united in desiring that Pete would be guided by the Scriptures as he sought to fulfill his role as the head of a new household. The presentation and show of unity between our fathers were actions Pete was particularly desirous to have included in our wedding ceremony.

Groom's father's blessing

Pete, your mum and I have sought diligently by instruction, and example, to demonstrate that it is man's purpose, by the exercise of his calling, to develop and subdue the earth in terms of God's Law-Word, and for the extension of His Kingdom. Pete, you have developed and made evident your calling in

the effective use of the special talents that God has given you. Now, God has further blessed you, and been gracious to you, by giving you a helper who is virtuous, capable, and beautiful, to assist, and support you develop your work and establish your family. We have come to respect, admire, and love Genevieve, and look forward so much to her becoming part of our extended family; therefore, we give you our blessing as you leave us, and join Genevieve to become husband and wife.



Giving away of the Bride

[Mr Smith gives a blessing and then gives Genevieve to Pete — places her hand in Pete's hand]



My wife Barbara and I have worked hard to preserve and protect Genevieve. She has also worked hard to do good to you her husband all the days of her life, even years before she was aware of your existence. While none of us is without the stain of sin, by God's grace and Christ's cleansing blood, we have here a woman of unusual purity in body and soul, one who has been trained and who has personally striven to intellectually pursue a right understanding of God's word, excellence and edification in her conversation and who is both eager and fearless in applying God's word to every area of her thoughts, words and deeds. She also made it a priority to submit herself to my headship over our family, in order that she might learn beforehand how to be a submissive wife. Because we have come to know that in you these things are prized and highly valued, I have no hesitation in giving away our daughter Genevieve, a special treasure of our hearts and lives, to you, dear Pete, for to this she has been called.

[Mr Smith is seated.]

At this point the whole wedding party was seated.

Song

[Minister]

We will now sing Psalm 139 *All That I Am I Owe To Thee* which you will find in your ceremony booklets.

[...continued next week, Lord willing, with an explanation of the institution of marriage...]

For the Greater Glory of God through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,

Genevieve de Deugd
Issacharian Wife

Notes:

I have sent this email to girls who have embraced a vision of victorious daughterhood as well as those who may be thinking about doing so (and even to some girls who may just like some encouragement regarding different areas of home life). Some of the girls are in the USA, UK, Australia and other parts of the world. Most are in New Zealand. You are welcome to forward this email on to others so long as you do so in its entirety. If you do not want to receive these emails please just send a return email to me stating that fact. If you know of other girls who would be encouraged by receiving these emails, feel free to forward the email to them or send me their email address.

The name Issacharian in *Issacharian Daughters* derives from Issachar, the name of one of the twelve tribes of Israel. In the Old Testament the men of Issachar were commended for understanding the times. Because they understood the times, they knew what they should do. One of my aims with the *Issacharian Daughters* newsletter is to equip girls to understand the times we live in so that they will know what to do.