

Issacharian Daughters

Fellowship • Encouragement • Exhortation

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Monday, 27 October 2008

Dear Girls,

WEDDING CEREMONY—PART 4

The Marriage Vows

[Minister]

Will you now join right hands?

*I, **Peter Alexander de Deugd***, covenant before God and man, to you Genevieve Elizabeth Smith to cleave to you as my legal wife[1] and live with you in the holy bonds of marriage according to God's ordinance and never to forsake you as long as we



both live[2]. I promise with the gracious help of God and in the fear of the Lord to lead you, to protect you, and provide for you[3]; to love you even as Christ also loved the church, to lay down my life for you[4]; to wash you with the water of the Word[5]; to love you as my own body and to nourish and cherish you even as the Lord does the church[6]; to render unto you the affection due you, knowing that I do not have authority over my own body but you do[7]; to dwell with you with understanding, giving honor unto you, as unto the weaker vessel, and living together with you as heirs together of the grace of life[8]. You alone will be my delight as the wife of my youth[9]. If the Lord blesses us with children, with His help, I will bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord[10]. I will fight for you, for our sons, for our daughters, and for our household[11]. I will be yours in times of plenty and in times of want, in times of sickness and in times of health, in times of joy and in times of sorrow, in times of failure and in times of triumph until death do us part.

*I, **Genevieve Elizabeth Smith***, covenant before God and man, to you Peter Alexander de Deugd to cleave to you as my legal husband[12] and live with you in the holy bonds of marriage according to God's ordinance and never to forsake you as long as we both live[13]. I promise with the gracious help of God and in the fear of the Lord to be a helper suitable and complementary to you[14], to submit myself under your headship - just as the church is subject to Christ, so I will be to you in everything[15]; to obey you and seek to please you as my earthly lord[16]; to honour you [17] and respect you[18]; to love you; to render unto you the affection due you, knowing that I do not have authority over my own body but you do[19]; to be your good, discreet, pure, keeper of our home[20]; to care for the affairs of our household so that your heart may always safely trust in me[21]; to be your

fruitful bearer of children [22] if the Lord chooses to so bless us [23] and to love our children[24]; to help you diligently teach our children the commandments of the Lord as we talk of them in our house, as we walk by the way, when we lie down, and when we rise up[25]. I will be yours in times of plenty and in times of want, in times of sickness and in times of health, in times of joy and in times of sorrow, in times of failure and in times of triumph until death do us part.

- [1] Genesis 2:24
- [2] Hosea 2:19-20
- [3] 1 Timothy 5:8
- [4] Ephesians 5:25
- [5] Ephesians 5:26
- [6] Ephesians 5:28-29
- [7] 1 Corinthians 7:3-4
- [8] 1 Peter 3:7
- [9] Proverbs 5:18-19
- [10] Ephesians 6:4
- [11] Nehemiah 4:14
- [12] Genesis 2:24
- [13] Hosea 2:19-20
- [14] Genesis 2:18
- [15] Ephesians 5:22-24
- [16] 1 Peter 3:6
- [17] Exodus 20:12]
- [18] Ephesians 5:33
- [19] 1 Corinthians 7:3-4
- [20] Titus 2:5
- [21] Proverbs 31:11
- [22] Psalm 128:3
- [23] Psalm 139:13-14
- [24] Titus 2:4
- [25] Deuteronomy 6:7

*When Pete and I were thinking about our own vows we read lots of standard vows and vows people had personalized or written for themselves. Our favourite set of vows, the ones we saw to be the most comprehensive and to carry the biggest witness, were vows written by Peter and Kelly Bradrick. Pete and I desired in every aspect of our wedding ceremony to communicate as fully as we could the Biblical idea of marriage. A vow such as the following would be, we thought, insufficient: "I _____, take you _____, to be my wedded wife/husband to love and to cherish from this day forward." We were delighted by Peter and Kelly Bradrick's vows because they communicated so well and so thoroughly **what** we were vowing to one another when we said we took one another to be our wedded spouses. In their vows, Peter and Kelly simply wrote them using verses straight from Scripture. Pete and I did the same thing. We used some of the same Scriptures that Peter and Kelly used and we used others that they did not. We also had to include certain words to be sure the phraseology was legal in New Zealand. Two phrases within the vows were also very important to us: "to live with you...according to God's ordinance" and "I promise...with the help of God." Our vows certainly don't contain all of God's ordinances regarding our responsibilities to one another as husband and wife and we wanted to recognise this in our vows and not give the idea that we were limiting our responsibilities to just those stated. And then we also wanted to strongly communicate that we couldn't do any of this except with the help of God.*

Exchange of Rings

Groom: Genevieve, I give you this ring as a symbol of our covenant in Christ and a witness to the world that you belong to me as my wife.

Bride: Pete, I give you this ring as a symbol of our covenant in Christ and a witness to the world that you belong to me as my husband.

Pronouncement & First Kiss

[Minister]

Pete and Genevieve have given their consent and made their marriage vows to each other. They have declared their marriage by the joining of hands and by the giving and receiving of rings. As a minister of the church of Christ and by the authority which the state has vested in me, Pete and Genevieve, I now pronounce you husband and wife. The Father of all mercies, who by His grace called you to this holy state of marriage, bind you together in true love and faithfulness, and grant you His blessing. Amen.

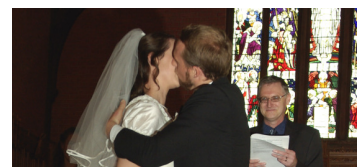
[Minister joins their right hands together and says]

Those whom God has joined together let no one put asunder.

[Minister, addressing the groom]

You may now kiss the bride.

Our first kiss.



Signing the Registry

[Minister]

Pete and his new bride along with their witnesses and myself will now sign the registry.

Presentation of the New Couple

[Minister]

It is my pleasure to present to you for the first time as husband and wife Mr and Mrs Pete and Genevieve de Deugd.

Charge

[David Waldron – from the pulpit]

From the beginning of creation, God made mankind male and female. Because of this a man shall leave his father and mother and the two shall become one flesh; consequently they are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together let no man separate (Mark 10v9).



Pete and Genevieve, today you have become one flesh in the sight of God. We have witnessed today a wonderful spiritual transaction, a binding covenant between you both. This is an immense blessing from the living God. The union into which you have now entered is a living picture of the intimate close relationship between Christ and God's chosen, adopted children.

Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways! For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who became His counsellor? Or who has first given to Him that it might be paid back to Him again? For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen.

Pete and Genevieve, the Lord has blessed you with His gift of eternal life in Christ which you have both received by faith. This saving faith is made evident in the way in which you both live your lives.

Pete and Genevieve, the Lord has blessed you with each other! He has answered your prayers and His is the ultimate source of the love which you have for one another.



Pete and Genevieve, the Lord has blessed you with Godly parents who have raised you both in the fear and admonition of the Lord and have taught you both from an early age to preserve yourselves for this day. For this covenant. For holy matrimony.

Covenant blessing is always accompanied by covenant responsibility. Like two sides of a coin they are inseparable.

David Waldron charging Pete and I. He is also the one who introduced Jonathan to us Smiths who in turn introduced Pete to us Smiths!

Pete, you are to love Genevieve as Christ loves the Church and gave Himself for her. You are to be patient

and kind, not arrogant or irritable. You are not to behave rudely or to insist on your own rights. You are to nourish and tenderly care for Genevieve, providing for her and protecting her spiritually, mentally and physically. As Genevieve's husband you are to give to your wife her conjugal rights recognising that she has authority over your body as you do over hers. You are to be a one-woman man and Genevieve is to be your one woman as long as you both shall live on this earth. You are to ask God to deepen your understanding of Genevieve as you live with her. You are to give honour to her as the weaker partner; being heir with you of the precious gift of life. You are to commit yourself to being used by God to meet Genevieve's needs and to co-operate with the Holy Spirit as He transforms your wife into the image of Jesus Christ, producing His character in her.



Genevieve, you are to accept that God gives Pete the responsibility of leadership in your home under the authority of Christ. You are to submit to Pete as to the Lord, and to treat him with respect. You are to trust that your heavenly Father will supply all your needs. You are not to assert your rights. You are to put Pete's needs and desires before those of any other man. As Pete's wife you are to give to your husband his conjugal rights recognising that he has authority over your body as you do over his. You are to be a one-man woman and Pete is to be your one man as long as you both shall live on this earth. You are to ask that the Holy Spirit would produce in you the lasting beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit. You are to commit yourself to loving Pete and any children the Lord may bless you with and to continuing to develop your gifts as a homemaker. You are to commit yourself to being used by God to meet Pete's needs and to co-operate with the Holy Spirit as He transforms your husband into the image of Jesus Christ, producing His character in him.

Prayer/Intercession for the New Couple

[Minister]

Pete and Genevieve, since we cannot expect anything from ourselves, please kneel before the Lord and we shall pray with you and for you that He may enable you to fulfil your vows and grant you His blessing.

Almighty and heavenly Father, You have said from the beginning that man should not be alone. We thank and praise you that you have given Pete and Genevieve to each other in marriage, that they may be one.

We pray that You would grant them Your Holy Spirit that they may live together according to Your will in true faith. Help them to resist the power of sin, and to live in holiness before You. Lift up Your countenance upon them, and guide them in prosperity and adversity by Your fatherly hand. Grant them Your blessing according to the covenant promises given to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. If it pleases You to give them children, confirm Your covenant to them and to their seed; and grant that they may nurture these children



in the fear of the Lord, to the glory of Your Name, and to the edification of the church, making disciples of all nations and working to extend Your Kingdom to the ends of the earth.

Let them live in communion with Your Son, Jesus Christ, in the harmony of true love, and to the benefit of their neighbours. Cause them to look forward with all the church to the great day of the marriage feast of the Lamb.

Hear us, merciful Father, for the sake of Jesus Christ, Your beloved Son, who with You and the Holy Spirit, the only true God, lives and reigns for ever.

Benediction/Blessing/Dismissal

[Minister]

Pete and Genevieve, and to all gathered here together:

The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace.

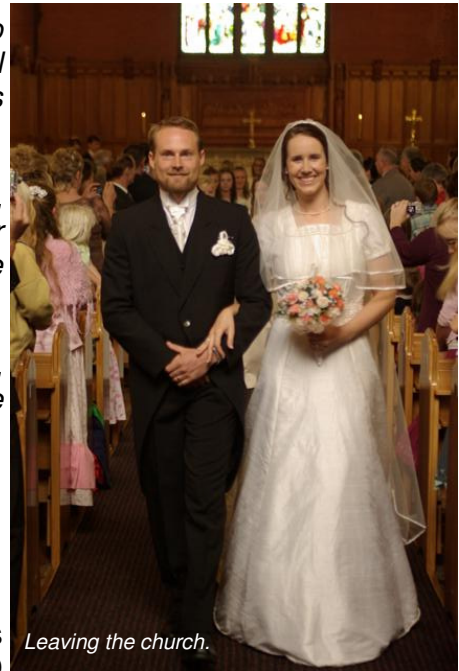
Amen

Recessional

[Pete and Genevieve leave the church.]

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

Genevieve de Deugd
Issacharian Wife



Leaving the church.



Maiden daughters rejoicing as Pete and I greet guests.