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I. Prelude

II. Processional

- Groom
- Officiator
- Groomsman
- Bridesmaid
- Bestman & Maid of Honor
- Flower Girl
- Entrance of Bride

III. The Welcome and Purpose

A. Welcome

Good EVENING!

... family, friends, and guests,

We've gathered today to CELEBRATE the MARRIAGE of Sharon Shania and Andrew Min.

On behalf of the FAMILIES of the BRIDE and GROOM, we WELCOME you.

Please remain standing and JOIN me now in PRAYER.

B. Pastoral Prayer

- Father, we ask You to BLESS this WEDDING CEREMONY.
- Fill us with Your SPIRIT,
- that we may SEE and HEAR Your Words,
- that we may know Jesus Christ more CLEARLY and FULLY through this marriage.
- Cause us to PRAISE YOU, as we PARTICIPATE in this UNION, that you've GRANTED.

Be GLORIFIED we pray. In Jesus name. Amen.

C. Declaration of Purpose

Guests, Please be seated,

GOD's WORD commends in Hebrews 13:4 that Marriage should be honored by all.

Therefore, Dearly beloved, we are GATHERED together here

- in the SIGHT of GOD,
- and in the company of you all
- To JOIN TOGETHER this MAN and this WOMAN in MARRIAGE;
- Through this wedding and by end of this ceremony, we will be witnesses, to the creation of a New Marriage Institution.

Therefore, If anyone, in this company,
can show JUST CAUSE, why they may NOT LAWFULLY be joined together, let him now speak, or FOREVER hold his peace.

- [PAUSE.]

Andrew and Sharon,

On the Day of Judgment, in BEFORE SIGHT of GOD, the secrets of all hearts shall be DISCLOSED. So in that light, if either of you know any IMPEDIMENT, why you may not be lawfully **joined**, together in Matrimony, DO CONFESS it now.

- [PAUSE.]

With that silence,
The Declaration of Purpose, portion of wedding ceremony is now closed.

We will now move the next portion of the wedding ceremony, the Question of Intent and Giving Away of the Bride.

[SHORT PAUSE.]

D. Question of Intent

Andrew, Is your intent to take Sharon to be your wedded wife? to live together in marriage? To love her, comfort her, honor and keep her, in sickness and in health; and, forsaking all others, keep only unto her, so long as you both shall live?

[Andrew says,—“I DO”]

Sharon, is your intent to take Andrew to be your wedded husband? to live together in marriage? To obey him, serve him, love, honor and keep him, in sickness and in health; and, forsaking all others, keep only unto him, so long as you both shall live?

[Sharon says—“I DO”.]

E. Giving away of the bride

Who gives this WOMAN to be married to this MAN?

[FATHER: Her Mother and **I do!**]

[***BRIDE/GROOM hold hands - LOOK at pastor]

[WAIT until Father sits down]

IV. The Word / Wedding Message

Good evening everyone! My name is Ki Min, I am Andrew's Uncle! It is a special honor and pleasure for me to preside over this wedding.

When Andrew asked me if I could officiate the wedding I was very surprised because I'm not a pastor or an elder, and I've never officiated a wedding. But Andrew knows that I am a Christian, so jokingly I said I would officiate only if he lets me share the gospel. And I didn't think much of it, until months later, he asked me again, but this time he shared that Sharon's mom wanted a "Christian" wedding. So, I took that as from **God** and here I am officiating this wedding. So I will do my best to expose you to a "Christian" wedding.

A Christian marriage, **centers** on the **Word of God**.

The Bible says in Psalm 19, concerning the **Word of God**:

- "(That it is) sweeter ... than honey and the drippings of the honeycomb...
- (and that) In keeping them there is great reward"

Andrew and Sharon, I love you both, and the best thing I can offer is not my own wisdom, but the **Word of God**, which **promises**, just as I read "**great reward**" for those who keep it.

So my aim today is to share with you what the **Bible** says about marriage, and by understanding it, **I pray** you will have a joyful, enduring, **great** marriage for as long as you live.

The very first book of the Bible, the Book of Genesis, tells us about the first marriage: The marriage of Adam and Eve. Genesis 2:18 says "the Lord **God** said, 'It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.'" And so God made Eve, and brought her

to Adam. This shows us that marriage is not man's invention, but God's. This is why, it is important to know what God tells us about marriage, from his **word the bible**.

So what makes biblical, **bible** based marriage **unique** compared to the world's view of marriage? The answer is that the Bible calls marriage a **covenant**.

So what is a covenant? A **covenant** is a **binding** promise, **made** before God. Malachi 2:14 says, "The Lord was witness between you and the wife of your youth... ..she is your companion and **your wife by covenant**." Here God explicitly refers to marriage as a **covenant**. A covenant is not like a contract you might sign for a job or a phone plan. Those are based on performance: if one side doesn't deliver, you can walk away. A **covenant**, on the other hand, is a **solemn, unbreakable promise** between **two parties, sealed before God**.

And since marriage is a covenant, **then**, that means, it is built on **covenantal love**. Isaiah 54:10 says, "though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed, yet my unfailing love for you will not be shaken **nor my covenant of peace** be removed..."

Covenantal love is unconditional, not conditional.

Andrew, Sharon, when you take your vows before God and man, you are promising to show each other **unconditional covenantal love** until your death: the same type of unconditional love **God shows to his people**.

So what does covenantal love look like for you, in daily life?

For you, Andrew, that means daily denying yourself of your wants and your desires, always putting the needs of your wife over your personal preferences. That means doing the hard work of **rejecting**

passivity, always leading courageously, **always** initiating and **always** improving, **always** communicating and **always** setting healthy boundaries in such a way to **promote** the **flourishing** of your **new family**.

For you, Sharon, that means **encouraging Andrew's leadership** as he seeks to promote the well being of your family. That means **always** responding in loving communication, **always** encouraging, **always** informing and using **all** the resources you have to promote joy, good memories, beauty and faithfulness in your life together.

And remember, marriage is a **covenant**, not a **contract**. It is based on a **promise**, not **conditions**. So **Andrew, Sharon**, even if your spouse fails to fulfill their duties as husband or wife, be resolved to never neglect your vows.

Soon, the excitement of today's wedding, and the honeymoon phase of your relationship will end; and you will enter the mundane day to day stage of your marriage. And **here is the bad news**. You will fall short of your vows. You **will fail** each other **again and again** in giving and receiving covenantal love.

Andrew and Sharon, you **are** going to **say** things and **do** things to each other that **will be hurtful**, and these don't come from a place of love. And every time you hurt each other, you are **breaking your vows** to love, and are **guilty** of **sinning** against your spouse.

And because those vows were made **before God**, breaking them means you are ultimately guilty of sinning **against God**. And because God is holy, He **must punish** sin. Romans 3:23 says, "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" and Nahum 1:3 says, "the Lord will by no means clear the guilty".

God cannot **simply, overlook evil** or broken promises. That means **every one of us**, gathered here, is guilty before God not only as husbands and wives, but as sinners who fall short of His perfect standard. {pause 3...2...1...}

Imagine you are in a courtroom because you committed a crime. {pause 1...} The judge reviews your case and declares you **guilty**, but the fine is **so high** you cannot pay. But someone who loves you, steps in and **pays it, for you**. Once your fine is paid, the judge can rightly dismiss your case, not because you were innocent, but because the penalty has been satisfied.

That is what Jesus did on the cross. You and I are guilty before God, and the penalty for our sin is death. We cannot make ourselves right with God by trying harder. We cannot keep covenantal love in our own strength.

But because Jesus loved us, He took our penalty of death on Himself so we can be set free. And in His resurrection, He conquered death, showing that our debt of death, has been fully paid and accepted for that coming judgment day.

Now Jesus offers, his gift of forgiveness, to ALL, who repents and believes in Him. That means turning away from very sins which is killing them, and trusting the promises of Jesus, to save you. In John 5:24, Jesus promises "**Truly, truly**, I say to you, **whoever** hears my word and believes him who sent me has **eternal life**. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from **death to life**."

Andrew and Sharon, this is the key to a joyful and enduring marriage.

When sin rules your hearts, you cannot truly forgive each other when you mess up. You will keep scores. You will grow bitter, and you will hurt each other deeply. But when your **marriage** is centered on the **Gospel**, you can forgive, because you know you have first been forgiven by Christ.

In conclusion,

My goal was to expose you to Marriage from a Christian Perspective.
So, in summary..

1. Christian marriage, focuses on the Word of God, for the answers to a joyful, enduring, great marriage
2. Great Marriage Centers on the Concept of Covenantal love, which is a solemn promise made before God and to each other
3. Covenantal love is ultimately expressed in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ
4. **Look to Jesus**, who provides the ultimate covenantal love to **each of you**, so that you can be **empowered** to **unconditionally love each other**, for a long and happy marriage.

That concludes my message.

V. The Marriage

A. Exchange of Vows

We will now, begin the “Exchange of Vows”

Please turn towards each other and join hands.

Andrew, repeat after me:

I, Andrew, take you, Sharon,
to be my wedded wife /
to have—and to hold / from this day forward /
for better for worse / for richer for poorer /
in sickness and in health /
to lead, love and to cherish /
till death us do part /

according to God’s holy ordinance /
I pledge to you, myself.

Sharon, please repeat after me:

I, Sharon, take you, Andrew, /
to be my wedded husband /
to have and to hold / from this day forward /
for better for worse / for richer for poorer /
in sickness and in health /
to love, cherish, and to obey /
till death us do part /

according to God’s holy ordinance /
I pledge myself, to you.

B. Personal Wedding vows

Andrew and Sharon, will now share, their personal wedding vows to each other.

C. Exchange of Rings

Now, the "Exchange of Rings"

Andrew, Do you have a token of your vows?

Place the ring on Sharon's finger and repeat after me:

With this ring I thee wed, /
and with all my worldly goods /

I thee endow, /
in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. /

Amen.

>>>>>>>>>>

Sharon, Do you have a token of your vows?

Place the ring on Andrew's finger and repeat after me:

With this ring I thee wed, /
and with all my worldly goods /

I thee endow, /
in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. /

Amen.□

D. Prayer

Please Join me in Prayer

Heavenly Father,

We pray now for your blessing on Andrew & Sharon's marriage;

Help them to grow in their love for each other, to continually mirror your forgiveness and your patience with each other.

Lord, bless them with many children, if this is your will for them.

Lastly, grant your mercy & grace to understand the Gospel of Jesus Christ, so that their marriage will point to the greater reality, the love of Jesus Christ for His people.

We pray all this in name, of the Only God and Savior, Jesus Christ.
Amen.

E. Pronouncement of Marriage

Those whom God has JOINED together, let no man separate.

Forasmuch as Andrew and Sharon have covenanted together in HOLY WEDLOCK,

and have witnessed the same before God and this company,
and have given and pledged themselves each to the other,
and have declared the same by giving and receiving rings,
and by joining hands;

I pronounce that they are Husband and Wife

Andrew, You may kiss your bride!! [STEP ASIDE]

F. Honoring of Parents

At this time, the BRIDE and GROOM will HONOR their parents.

Please turn. Please make your way before Sharons Parents. Please Bow.

Now make your way before Andrews Parents. Please Bow.

Now please take your stand, in front of me and face the audience.

G. Benediction

Now the FINAL benediction.

May the GRACE of our Lord Jesus Christ,
The LOVE of God, and the FELLOWSHIP of his Holy Spirit, be with us all,
now and forevermore.
In Jesus name. Amen

VI. Recessional

– *include music*

- Bride and Groom, Bridal Party, Parents (reverse order)

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