

Having left my father and my mother,<sup>1</sup> I, \_\_\_\_\_, promise to you \_\_\_\_\_, before God and man, to be your loving, faithful husband as long as we both shall live.

From the overflow of my love and commitment to God, I vow to love you as his Son loves the church, having given himself up for it.<sup>2</sup> I will strive to faithfully discharge my God given responsibility of being your head, so that following and serving me is an honor, and a joy. I vow to wash you regularly with the water of his Word in order that you may live a holy and blameless life that portrays the righteousness and beauty of Jesus Christ.<sup>3</sup> With all diligence, I purpose to nourish and cherish you as Christ now does for his bride, the church.<sup>4</sup> I will work hard to serve you at all times, in sickness and in health, in poverty and in wealth, in sorrow and in joy, in failure and in triumph.

Through the power of the Holy Spirit, I purpose to lead you in the path of righteousness,<sup>5</sup> provide that which is necessary for your spiritual, mental, and physical well-being,<sup>6</sup> and to protect you.<sup>7</sup> I will strive to emulate the Lord Jesus by serving you selflessly, regarding you as more important than myself, and looking out for *your* best interest.<sup>8</sup>

With the Bible as my final authority for my beliefs and practices, I promise to enjoy romantic love with you alone, delighting in you alone,<sup>9</sup> for the rest of my earthly life. I vow to give to you the affection which you are due, knowing that I do not have authority over my own body but you do.<sup>10</sup> By the grace of God, my faithfulness to you will emulate his covenant faithfulness to us. May God punish me severely if I allow anything but death to separate us.<sup>11</sup>

Knowing that you are a weaker vessel, I promise to live with you in an understanding way, granting you honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life.<sup>12</sup> If God blesses us with children, I will strive to rear them in the discipline and instruction of the Lord,<sup>13</sup> with a goal that they one day rise up and bless you.<sup>14</sup>

Following the instruction of the wisest man who ever lived, I promise to enjoy life with you all the days of my fleeting life,<sup>15</sup> trusting it will be infinitely better with you by my side. I promise to show you righteousness and justice, unfailing love and compassion<sup>16</sup> as we serve the king of kings together. The Lord once said, "Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends."<sup>17</sup> As the greatest of my mortal friends, I promise to lay down *my life* for the betterment of *your life*, every day that God gives us. Today \_\_\_\_\_, my dove, I give to you, me.

<sup>1</sup> Gen 2:24

<sup>2</sup> Eph 5:25

<sup>3</sup> Eph 5:26-27

<sup>4</sup> Eph 5:29

<sup>5</sup> Prov 12:28

<sup>6</sup> 1 Tim 5:8

<sup>7</sup> Neh 4:14

<sup>8</sup> Phil 2:3-4

<sup>9</sup>

Prov 5:18

<sup>10</sup>

1 Cor 7:4b

<sup>11</sup>

Ruth 1:17b

<sup>12</sup>

1 Pet 3:7

<sup>13</sup>

Eph 6:4b

<sup>14</sup>

Prov 31:28

<sup>15</sup>

Eccl 9:9

<sup>16</sup>

Hos 2:19

<sup>17</sup>

John 15:13