

## The Questions before the Consent

**94.** The minister then questions them about their freedom of choice, fidelity to each other, and the acceptance and upbringing of children, and each responds separately.

**N. and N.,** have you come here to enter into Marriage without coercion, freely and wholeheartedly?

**The bridegroom and bride each say:**

I have.

**Addressing the bridegroom, the minister says:**

**N.,** are you resolved to take **N.** to be your wife: to love her, comfort her, honour and protect her, and forsaking all others, to be faithful to her as long as you both shall live?

**The bridegroom replies:**

I am

**Next the minister, asks the bride:**

**N.,** are you resolved to take **N.** to be your husband: to love him, comfort him, honour and protect him, and forsaking all others, to be faithful to him as long as you both shall live?

**The bride replies:**

I am

The following question may be omitted, if circumstances suggest this, for example, if the couple are advanced in years.

Are you prepared to accept children lovingly from God and to bring them up according to the law of Christ and his Church?

**The bridegroom and bride each say:**

I am.

## The Civil Declaration of Freedom

**94a.** The law of England and Wales require the couple to make a declaration of their freedom to marry, in one of the following forms. Christian names and surnames must be used. Please choose one of the three forms printed below.

### Form A

**First, the minister asks the bridegroom:**

Are you, **A.B.**, free lawfully to marry **C.D.**?

**The bridegroom replies:**

I am.

**Next, the minister asks the bride:**

Are you, **C.D.**, free lawfully to marry **A.B.**?

**The bride replies:**

I am.

**Or:**

### Form B

The bridegroom reads the following or repeats the words after the minister:

I do solemnly declare  
that I know not of any impediment why I, A.B.,  
may not be joined in matrimony to C.D.

The bride reads the following or repeats the words after the minister.

I do solemnly declare  
that I know not of any impediment why I, C.D.,  
may not be joined in matrimony to A.B.

Or:

#### Form C

The bridegroom says:

I declare that I know of no legal reason why I, A.B., may not be joined in marriage to C.D.

The bride says:

I declare that I know of no legal reason why I, C.D., may not be joined in marriage to A.B.

#### The Consent

##### 95. The minister invites them to declare their consent:

Since it is your intention to enter the covenant of Holy Matrimony,  
join your right hands and declare your consent  
before God and his Church.

They join their right hands.

##### 96. The couple face each other. The groom and bride read the following, or repeat the words after the minister. Christian names and surnames must be used. Please choose one of the forms below.

#### Form A

The bridegroom says:

I call upon these persons here present to witness  
that I, A.B., do take thee, C.D.,  
to be my lawful 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 love and to cherish  
till death to us part.

The bride says:

I call upon these persons here present to witness  
that I, C.D., do take thee, A.B.,  
to be my lawful 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 and to cherish  
till death to us part.

Or:

## Form B

### The bridegroom says:

I, A.B., take you (thee), C.D., 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 love and to cherish  
till death do us part.

### The bride says:

I, C.D., take you (thee), A.B., 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 and to cherish  
till death do us part.

## The Reception of the Consent

**98.** Then, receiving their consent, the minister says to the bride and bridegroom: Please choose one of the forms below

May the Lord in his kindness strengthen the consent  
you have declared before the Church,  
and graciously bring to fulfillment his blessing within you.  
What God joins together, let no one put asunder.

### Or:

May the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, the God of Jacob,  
the God who joined together our first parents in paradise,  
strengthen and bless in Christ  
the consent you have declared before the Church,  
so that what God joins together, no one may put asunder.

**99.** The minister invites those present to praise God:

Let us bless the Lord.

### All reply:

Thanks be to God.

Another acclamation may be sung or said.

The Blessing and Giving of Rings: please choose one of the three prayers below.

**100.** The minister says:

May the Lord bless ✠ these rings,  
which you will give to each other  
as a sign of love and fidelity.

R. Amen.

or

Bless, O Lord, these rings,  
which we bless ✠ in your name,  
so that those who wear them  
may remain entirely faithful to each other,  
abide in peace and in your will,  
and live always in mutual charity.  
Through Christ our Lord.

or

Bless ✠ and sanctify your servants  
in their love, O Lord,  
and let these rings, a sign of their faithfulness,  
remind them of their love for one another.  
Through Christ our Lord.

He sprinkles the rings, as the circumstances so suggest, and gives them to the bride and bridegroom.

**Please choose one of the two forms below for the exchange of rings**

**101. The husband places his wife's ring on her ring finger, saying, as the circumstances so suggest:**

N., I give you this ring as a sign of our marriage:  
with my body I honour you,  
all that I am I give to you,  
and all that I have I share with you,  
in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

R. Amen

Likewise, the wife places her husband's ring on his ring finger, saying, as the circumstances so suggest:

N., N., I give you this ring as a sign of our marriage:  
with my body I honour you,  
all that I am I give to you,  
and all that I have I share with you,  
in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

R. Amen

Or

The husband places his wife's ring on her ring finger, saying, as the circumstances so suggest:

N., receive this ring  
as a sign of my love and fidelity.  
In the name of the Father, and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

Likewise, the wife places her husband's ring on his ring finger, saying, as the circumstances so suggest:

N., receive this ring  
as a sign of my love and fidelity.  
In the name of the Father, and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.