

10 Kisses Marriage Ceremony

By Martin Cisneros

Marriage Ceremony Explanatory Preface: This marriage ceremony may be a little different from any other marriage ceremony you've ever seen, since this marriage ceremony will have approximately 10 kisses, unless things get out of hand. While for some people the idea of a marriage ceremony having 10 kisses would be totally unheard of, the author felt it was a desirable pause for romantic meditative reflection on the part of the couple that are marrying on the joy of the commitments they are making. While for some it may conjure up Biblical imagery of 10 commandments or 10 sons of Haman being hanged, at the same time the whole story of Purim comes to us in 10 chapters in the Old Testament Book of Esther. And as Purim is about a prophetic reversal of a decree of Death, marriage is one of the things that mankind has instinctively reached towards in their pursuit of immortality since the beginning of time.

The author of this marriage ceremony was struck by a recent refusal to allow a royal couple in the UK to kiss at their wedding and wanted to include 10 kisses in any wedding ceremony he ever wrote for his own usage. In Jesus' parable of the talents that were entrusted to His servants, increasing what He's entrusted to ten talents lead to a very favorable promotion. In the Book of Ruth, while Ruth was married to her first husband 10yrs, when it came to the marriage that was a redemptive "God-send," Boaz negotiated Ruth's situation in the presence of 10 elders.

In closing this brief note on the idea of 10 kisses in this marriage ceremony, though Israel failed to inherit the Promised Land after tempting God 10 times in the wilderness, according to Numbers 14, I see these 10 kisses as 10 yesses to God and to one another to submitting to God and to one another and to fully take the Promised Land that God is revealing to the couple being married today.

Minister: Let us begin with prayer: "Father, in the Name of Jesus, we are gathered together before You, today, for a day of blessings abounding from heaven & for a day of celebration of the work of Your grace in bringing about an unbreakable bond of redeeming love & incorruptible commitment between two of Your children. We open ourselves to the operations of Your Holy Spirit among us, today, should You have additional blessings & gifts to bestow for the building & edification of these two that are becoming one today. We thank You for Your Presence among us, on this joyous occasion, & for the fullness of Your blessings. We add our Covenantal faith agreement with these two people, today, for what You are bringing forth of new life through them from this day forward.

We stand in agreement with the High Priestly Ministry of our Lord Jesus, & I humbly officiate in His Name as His midwife in bringing forth this beautiful gift, today, for two people that's ultimately in the behalf of all of Creation. Amen!"

MINISTER: We are gathered in the Presence of God for the joining together of Groom's name & Bride's name in Holy Matrimony.

(Groom & Bride Kiss)

Whether Bride & Groom have concluded their kiss yet or not, minister begins with the following, though the kiss may be whatever length is natural to the moment.

Marriage is a holy & righteous gift given by God that was born in Eden through His wisdom, not only for companionship, but so that care for God's Creation would always be a partnership bringing to bare upon all of Creation a righteous male influence & a righteous female influence. This call to bring forth a replenished Creation that's born of a couple's worship, obedience to God, & tender affections overflowing from their love for one another into acts of kind service to all of humanity & to the Creation around us is a sacred calling that is a golden thread that continues through the Scriptures from the Gospel God preached to Abraham about all of Creation being blessed through the Christians that would ultimately come forth through his seed, & is witnessed to us in the prophets of the Bible & in the Gospel of the New Testament.

This calling isn't one to partake of while not rightly discerning the plan of God in the Scriptures. Our society is filled with a sad commentary of those who have & many in our world & in our Churches are sick & some of them have died from not rightly discerning God's purpose in Christ through the home to bless all of the nations of the earth & all of His Creation. Marriage is like the Ark of God in the Old Testament, filled with wonder, & shrouded in gold, mystery, & angels. It's deadly to those who touch it inappropriately, yet it's the gift of life, blessing, & it's a Covenantal Remembrance of God's faithfulness to all life everywhere for those who have given themselves to the Scriptures, wholeheartedly, in keeping with the plan of the Lord, & then to one another to serve His will, & to love & work for one another & with one another for the benefit of their homes & all of the rest of Creation.

Religious definitions abound about this wonderful gift from our heavenly Father, from those who view it as a tangible expression of an inward working, invisible heavenly grace, to those who view it as the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. It's among God's earliest works, among man's

most basic needs, a meeting place for God in the earth, & according to Song of Solomon, Ephesians 5, & many other passages of Scripture, it's both a pattern of heavenly things & one of God's preeminent vehicles through which He is achieving redemptive history for His Creation. It's mocked by the profane, thought unattainable & unrealistic by the wicked, yet it's among God's greatest mysteries of the Scriptures, indicating it's one of His foremost mysteries that proceeds from heaven, itself.

In marriage, mindful people are invited by God to reach a degree of unity that allows them to pass from being those who are comforted by the rod & staff of God through the valley of the shadow of death in the 23rd Psalm, to where they are the ones that have been anointed, according to Zechariah 8:3-6, to lead the nations with the rod & staff of the Lord. This is additionally the gist of Scripture in Ephesians 5, 1Peter 3, Revelation 2:26-27; 3:12; & 21:22-27 as they become matured Psalm 23 lambs, overtaken by His goodness & mercy, discerning the difference between good & evil, according to Hebrews 5:14, & able to lead others beside still waters, into green pastures.

(Groom & Bride Kiss)

Whether Bride & Groom have concluded their kiss yet or not, minister begins with the following, though the kiss may be whatever length is natural to the moment.

Minister: As our Groom & Bride kiss we join God in blessing the union that God is creating this day. May the Hand of the Lord be upon this marriage nurturing them, protecting them, & revealing days of heaven on earth to them, in them, & through them as they live as the image & likeness of God all of their days. **I anoint them with oil** believing & expecting the Blood of Jesus & the Anointing of Jesus to be Present in their oneness before heaven & all of the Creation. May the truth be spoken through them in love to one another & to all, all of their days, with the Hand of the Lord upon them & stretched forth in their lives doing great signs & wonders in the Name of Lord Jesus. We declare fully expectant in God that of the increase of their fruitfulness, romantically & in God's Kingdom, there shall be no end.

Minister leads groom in saying to the bride:

Groom to Bride: I vow to serve, to protect, & to edify you all of my days, to let the Word of Christ dwell in me richly in all wisdom & to more & more each day become what Christ & you need me to be through the abundance of grace & gift of righteousness through which we reign together, as one, in this life & in coming

ages.

(Groom & Bride Kiss)

Minister leads bride in saying to the groom:

Bride to Groom: I vow to serve, to protect, & to edify you all of my days, to let the Word of Christ dwell in me richly in all wisdom & to more & more each day become what Christ & you need me to be through the abundance of grace & gift of righteousness through which we reign together, as one, in this life & in coming ages.

(Groom & Bride Kiss)

Minister leads groom in saying to the bride:

Groom to Bride: I vow to be an expression of our oneness with each other to family, to friends, to enemies, to the community, & to the world; to protect the testimony of what God's grace has done in making us one; to work with you until all of the world knows Christ's subjection to the Father & God as all in all.

(Groom & Bride Kiss)

Minister leads bride in saying to the groom:

Bride to Groom: I vow to be an expression of our oneness with each other to family, to friends, to enemies, to the community, & to the world; to protect the testimony of what God's grace has done in making us one; to work with you until all of the world knows Christ's subjection to the Father & God as all in all.

(Groom & Bride Kiss)

Minister leads groom in saying to the bride:

Groom to Bride: I vow to always be what you need me to be & to always remind you that only the abundance of grace & gift of righteousness through Christ can satisfy the heart, meet every need, remove every anxiety, give lasting peace, & perpetuate & expand our Covenantal dominion into all of the world.

(Groom & Bride Kiss)

Minister leads bride in saying to the groom:

Bride to Groom: I vow to always be what you need me to be & to always remind you that only the abundance of grace & gift of righteousness through Christ can satisfy the heart, meet every need, remove every anxiety, give lasting peace, & perpetuate & expand our Covenantal dominion into all of the world.

(Groom & Bride Kiss)

Minister leads groom in saying to the bride:

Groom to Bride: I receive you as God's gift to me in daily courtship & monotony, in perfection & in mistakes, in divinity & in carnality, to the ages of ages & beyond. I love you & with this ring I thee wed.

(Groom & Bride Kiss)

Minister leads bride in saying to the groom:

Bride to Groom: I receive you as God's gift to me in daily courtship & monotony, in perfection & in mistakes, in divinity & in carnality, to the ages of ages & beyond. I love you & with this ring I thee wed.

(Groom & Bride Kiss)

Whether Bride & Groom have concluded their kiss yet or not, minister begins with the following, though the kiss may be whatever length is natural to the moment.

Minister: We seal this Covenant of marriage by the Hand of God with the Name of Jesus, the Blood of Jesus, & the Holy Spirit. May the peace of God that passes all understanding guard their hearts & their marriage bed. May they have all sufficiency in all things & be ever abounding to every good work through all of God's grace, through the Scriptures, & through the Blood of Jesus, according to 2Corinthians 9, 2Timothy 3, & Hebrews 13. Thanks be to God Who has given them the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. May they be settled, unmovable, & superabounding in the finished work of Christ, being aware that their toil in the finished work of Christ, through faith, isn't in vain, according to 1Corinthians 15:57-58. Now that these two are bound & sealed as one flesh on earth by the Name of Jesus, may their voice before God always be unified through His Holy Spirit as one Holy Scripture in the heavenly holiest & throughout all of His Creation. We believe Lord Jesus in His High Priestly ministry has now declared them one flesh that no one can ever separate either from Him as one flesh with

one another, nor can anyone ever separate them from their unity with one another. And I have the joy of presenting to the heavens & earth, & to all who are gathered here today, Mr & Mrs _____ (fill in the blank with last name).