



**5 THINGS I KNOW
FOR CERTAIN ABOUT WEDDINGS. . .**

**AND THAT I WANT
YOU TO KNOW!**



Rev. J.P. Reynolds, M.Div.

*“You are my husband. . .
you are my wife. . .*

*My legs run because of you
My feet dance because of you
My heart shall beat because of you
My eyes shall see because of you
My mind thinks because of you
And I shall love because of you.”*

– Eskimo love song

I love weddings. . .
And over the past 20 years
I have had the honor of
officiating at 100's of weddings.

I'm not going to say that I've
"seen it all", but, I have seen a
lot--the magical, the poignant,
and the eccentric. . .

This booklet contains various
insights I've gained over time
regarding weddings and
ceremonies — the 5 things I
know are true!

I've also included several of my
favorite quotes regarding love
and commitment.

I share these with you in the
hope that they help you keep
your sanity as you go about
planning your celebration!

If you like what I have to say,
and think I may be the right
person to officiate at your
ceremony, please contact me.

I'd be delighted to meet with
you.

All good wishes. . .

Cheers!
J.P. Reynolds

*“When you and I first met,
the meeting was over
very shortly.
It was nothing.*

*Now it is growing into something as
we remember it.
But still we know
very little about it.*

*What it will be
when I remember it
as I lie down to die,
what it makes in me
all my days till then—
that is the real meeting.*

*The other is only
the beginning of it.”*

– C.S. Lewis

A wedding celebrates what already exists.

As a couple, you summon family & friends and ask them to celebrate the great good you have found in each other — and to bear witness as you pledge your life to each other.

A wedding is wonderful gift you give to family & friends. For an afternoon, an evening you allow them to put aside the messiness of daily life and to focus on what really matters — love, loyalty, friendship.

A wedding is an oasis from the grind of daily life — a celebration that renews and refreshes all who join in.

Your life together began the first moment you met. Your wedding is a touch point along your journey together — celebrating the life you have created, celebrating the life you are committed to creating.

*“A friend is someone
who hears the song
in your heart,
and sings it to you
when memory fails.”*

– Unknown, but wise, source

As soon as you tell family & friends that you are getting married, BEWARE!

Some strange hormonal reaction kicks in. People whom you thought were going to be supportive, flake on you. People who are sitting patiently on your "B" list will generously surprise you.

Remind me to tell you about the sister of the bride who substituted a poem the couple had selected with a 4-page manifesto on "what is a marriage?" And, yes, the sister had just completed a messy, bitter divorce!

For some, the preparations leading up to your wedding will substitute for group therapy. . .

Be strong! Amidst the fun of planning your celebration will be the politics, power plays, and petty antics of the few. . .

No, you are not selfish to think that this is your day, not theirs!

*“But in love
something miraculous happens.*

*In loving someone,
we give them
an ideal against which
to measure themselves.*

*Living in the presence
of that ideal,
the beloved strives to fulfill
the lover’s expectations.*

*In this way,
Love makes of us
the bravest and best persons
that we are capable of being.”*

– Fenton Johnson

The reception — the party
— flows from the joy of the
ceremony.

The heart of your wedding is
the ceremony.

Your exchange of vows
is, perhaps, the most intimate
moment in your life together.
And that is the great gift you
give to us — allowing us to bear
witness to that intimacy.

Your ceremony should be one
of the most authentic moments
in your life together.

While compromises can and
will be made with regards to
reception details, the ceremony
should never be compromised
simply to "please" family
members.

It is your wedding — not your
parents, not your friends', and
certainly not the officiant's!

Allow your ceremony to give
voice to what this act and this
day mean to you.

*“It is the quality of daily life
that matters most.*

The taste of the food on the table.

The light in the room.

*The peace and wholeness
of the moment.*

*Perfect love casts out fear
and the only perfect love
found on earth*

*is the wordless commitment
of families. . .”*

– Germaine Greer

A word to the mother of the bride or the father of the bride or the mother or father of the groom. . .

I'm not a parent, so it is not possible for me to know what it is to have a child fall in love and marry some "stranger". . .

But, I have spent years working with brides and grooms who do have parents (and step-parents), who drove them nuts in the days leading up to the wedding!

Let me be blunt —

IT IS NOT YOUR WEDDING
EVEN IF YOU ARE HELPING
TO PAY FOR IT!

A gift is not a purchase that comes with special entitlements!

You had your wedding — this is their wedding. Support them. Don't give ultimatums. Don't lay on guilt trips.

Are they marrying a good?
Rejoice!

I've seen too many brides and grooms crying days, hours before their wedding because of cruel words and decisions made in the name of "love."

Remind me to tell you about the mother who attempted to stop me from pronouncing the couple "husband and wife"!

*“I have given my love
to what is
worthy of my love.*

*Is that not the kingdom,
the unperishing spring?”*

– Ursula Le Guin

Don't sweat the small stuff!
A cliché, I know, but. . .

A few days before her wedding,
A bride calls me--panicked.
So much left to do—so little
time.

Among other things, she was in
the process — herself — alone
— of tying purple ribbons onto
150 fans she was handing out
at the ceremony. The purple
matched her bridesmaids'
dresses.

Trust me. . .
5 years from now, no one will
remember the purple ribbons!

Either delegate detail work to
detail-loving friends, or
reconsider for the sake of your
sanity!

There's no such thing as the
"perfect" wedding.
There will be glitches.
That doesn't mean it won't be
magical. But, it is only magical
when people focus on what is
really important.

If you invite those who are at
the core of your life, then you
could serve cupcakes and
KoolAid and still have a blast!

I received my Masters of Divinity
The Graduate Theological Union,
Berkeley, CA.

Ordained 20 years,
I have worked as a
hospital chaplain,
youth prison chaplain,
a high school teacher in
the South Pacific,
as well as in parishes
ranging from NYC to Nome, Alaska.

Today I am a motivational speaker and
business communications consultant.

I also teach at
Loyola-Marymount University.

5 godchildren and 2 nieces
keep me balanced and grounded!

With humor and good nature
I help a couple fashion
a ceremony that reflects
their uniqueness;
a ceremony, warm & gracious,
that honors the sacredness of
their commitment.

My desire is
to celebrate a ceremony
that inspires & refreshes,
that will serve as
a wellspring
for your journey in life.



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Inter-faith

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