

At the conclusion of the teaching “*Love: Wedlock*” the leader instructs the people to gather together as couples and be seated for the prologue to the *Renewal of the Marriage Vows*. [Leader brings forward their own spouse to be near.]

Leader then says to the community:

We have gathered today in the love of friendship and family to celebrate a renewal of marriage vows between husbands and wives.

We solemnize this significant event in your lives and enter into this ceremony in an attitude of respect for our steadfast and ongoing commitment to each other.

Although I am officiating here today, it is not truly in my power to re-establish or bless your relationship in any way, because each of you have already done that in your hearts. Today you proclaim your love anew, and we all rejoice with and for you. We acknowledge our unseen friends, our angels, our Mother Spirit, our Master – Jesus and our Paradise Father who indwells us all.

In marriage, we give ourselves freely and generously into the hands of the one we love, and by doing so, we receive the love and trust of the other as our most precious gift.

Today you re-commit yourselves to honoring and protecting one another above your separate selves, and to valuing your union above your own interests. In doing this, you secure for yourselves a wealth of love and peace not otherwise attainable.

But as you know so well, with this joy also comes the profound responsibility to protect the bond you share. For it is only with continual care that your love is truly secure in the face of life’s inevitable tests.

Regard each other always with the same deep respect that has kept you through the years, and be ever mindful of the many gifts the other offers you.

Inspire and encourage one another. For it is by strengthening your spouse, that you have strengthened your marriage. Bring out the very best in each other. Be sparing in criticism, and generous in praise for things well done.

In communication, continue, to be honest and open with each other, knowing that the heart that communicates truth without hesitation earns trust and builds a secure home.

And as always, accept your marriage as a work-in-progress that consumes your attention day by day and yet is never completed. Because a lifelong love requires a lifetime of hard work. But it is a joyous labor, whose fruits are the very richest.

Your future stretches out before you, vast and unknown. That future, with its hopes and disappointments, its joys and its sorrows, is hidden from your eyes. But it is a great tribute to your belief in each other that you remain none the less willing to face those uncertainties together. May the pure, simple love with which you join your hearts and hands again here today never fail, but grow deeper and surer with every passing year.

Husbands would you take your wife's hand and make your vows to her...Repeat after me:

My beloved, I believe in this marriage more strongly than ever. [wait for response]

Today, I renew the promises I made to you at our marriage, [wait for response]

A promise of my hand and my heart, [wait for response]

A promise to you of my love and devotion, [wait for response]

A promise to provide for and protect you, [wait for response]

It is with these promises that I recommit my love for you. [wait for response]

I will continue to love you [wait for response]

For as long as I shall live [wait for response]

Wives, would you now make your vows to your husbands...Repeat after me:

My beloved, I believe in this marriage more strongly than ever. [wait for response]

Today, I renew the promises I made to you at our marriage, [wait for response]

A promise of my hand and my heart, [wait for response]

A promise to you of my love and devotion, [wait for response]

A promise to provide for and protect you, [wait for response]

It is with these promises that I recommit my love for you. [wait for response]

I will continue to love you [wait for response]

For as long as I shall live [wait for response]

We are all here today to celebrate your love and acknowledge your lifelong devotion to each other.

Your example reminds us of love's possibilities.

So, by joining hands right now and looking into each other's eyes, let it be known that you are joined inseparably in this lifetime and that this loving association continues as we all journey to our Father in Paradise.

Inasmuch as you have sealed this renewal of your marriage vows in the presence of those gathered here, it gives me much pleasure to pronounce that you are now, even more than ever before, Husband and Wife.

In preparation for the event we at God Discovered give you some ideas:

In the weeks leading up to the vow renewal, be planning for this joyous socializing event. Form a group of interested people who will plan for food/beverages to be enjoyed post Renewal of the Marriage Vows.

Plan for music, dancing, children's games, poems read, passages from our Urantia Book read. Let someone other than the regular leader lead in prayer, etc... Have a photographer available for picture taking. Let a small group/person decorate a picture-taking staging area. Have individual flowers given to the wives and allow the children to engage in the party.

After the small group lesson "Love: Wedlock" Week #7 open up the meeting for an ALL-OUT PARTY!!!

Let your creative juices flow. Leaders, it is important to understand that when you delegate for a social event like this you are in effect watching for future leaders who have the gifts, skills and talents for your community to GROW! They WILL want more of this and to do it again soon. This is called “socializing the human fraternity of the divine spirit” as Jesus so taught us to do.

Be an effective leader by not always needing to be up front and the center of attention. This will endear you to your people.

And do NOT forget your own spouse on this day. They too need to be acknowledged by YOU!

For those of you battling the woes of polygamy we invite you to reach out to us for specific ideas in how to navigate this challenge. Be ever aware that the new philosophy of living, as our Revelators have challenged us to present and bring forth for our world, will entail the need for courage to uplift what has up until now been debilitating social negativity as we all know this archaic practice is.