

CCCAUST MARRIAGE RITES

The following is an essential component prior to the wedding ceremony:

- **PRE-MARRIAGE EDUCATION:** The couple must receive teaching on Christian Marriage and should receive appropriate counsel prior to the wedding ceremony in subjects such as: interpersonal relationships, communication and conflict resolution, sexuality, family, and financial management.

The following are essential components for the wedding ceremony:

- **MARRIAGE EXPLANATION:** An opening statement which explains the nature and purpose of Christian marriage. The Marriage Explanation is to include the words:
 “Christian marriage is the God ordained covenantal union of a man and a woman to the exclusion of all others, voluntarily entered into for life.”
- **CALL or ENDORSEMENT:** A call for possible objections as a way of confirming the legitimacy of the marriage OR a public opportunity for the families to endorse, support and give their blessing to the marriage.
- **BIBLE READING:** Suitably selected for each couple.
- **TALK:** A message based on the Bible to encourage the couple and the audience.
- **VOWS:** Includes the following:
 1. **Witnesses:** Include the words “In the presence of God and these witnesses...” or similar.
 2. **Intention Questions:** Include the words “Do you GROOM NAME take BRIDE NAME to be your lawful wedded wife. Do you BRIDE NAME take GROOM NAME to be your lawful wedded husband?” or similar.
 3. **Covenantal Promises:** The couple makes personal covenantal promises to each other. These promises may be tailored to include personal components. These should be vetted and guided by the Celebrant and must include aspects of commitment, love and faithfulness to each other. Include “In the presence of God, family and friends, I promise...” or similar.
- **SYMBOLS/TOKENS:** Usually rings are exchanged, but could include other things like a lighted candle, communion, etc.
- **PRAYER** for or **BLESSING** upon the couple.
- **DECLARATION:** A declaration that the man and woman are married firstly according to God’s Law and secondly according to the Laws of the Australian Commonwealth.
- **SIGNING:** The official wedding documents are signed by the couple, witnesses and the authorised celebrant.
- **PRESENTATION:** The couple is presented to the audience by name.