

Service to Renew Vows

By Dr. Gary & Barb Rosberg

- I. **Renewing Vows**
- II. **A Suggested Service Format**
- III. **Launching a 6-week Series**



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Option I. Renewing Vows

A. Recite the Covenant Vows

Husbands and wives stand and turn to your mate

Hold hands...

The covenant reads:

Together as husband and wife, we declare our home a divorce-proofed home – a covenant home – built on the solid foundation of Jesus Christ, characterized by unconditional love, and devoted to our lifelong commitment to each other. In the presence of God and these witnesses, and by a holy covenant, we promise to exhibit these loves toward each other every day. We promise that from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, forsaking all others as long as we both shall live.

B. Husbands, repeat after me...

The husband says and signs: By signing this covenant, I promise to initiate a forgiving love when I've offended you or when conflict arises. Demonstrate serving love by putting your needs above my own. Exercise persevering love by walking through the most difficult times – hand in hand. Establish a guarding love that will safeguard our marriage and let no man, woman, or child divide us. Enjoy a celebrating love that keeps the spark alive in the relationship and celebrates you as my best friend. Experience a renewing love that says, "I'm committed to you until death do us part."

C. Wives, repeat after me...

The wife says and signs: By signing this covenant, I promise to initiate a forgiving love when I've offended you or when conflict arises. Demonstrate serving love by putting your needs above my own. Exercise persevering love by walking through the most difficult times – hand in hand. Establish a guarding love that will safeguard our marriage and let no man, woman, or child divide us. Enjoy a celebrating love that keeps the spark alive in the relationship and celebrates you as my best friend. Experience a renewing love that says, "I'm committed to you until death do us part."

Option II. A Suggested Service Format

- Praise and Worship
Begin with songs that are meaningful to your congregation. Many songs can be 'wedding-like' in feel.
- Welcome family and friends
Explain the idea and goal behind your decision to do a service for couples to renew their vows.
- Explain the parts of the service
Learn about the covenant of marriage
Ask people to come forward to sign the covenant, renewing their vows
Celebrate with a reception afterwards
Sign personal covenants at the reception
- Tell them why you chose to have this series in your church.

Tonight I'm going to challenge you to reflect on why you got married and the commitment you made to each other the day of your wedding. You will renew those vows that you made and apply them to your marriage, in your home, and help others for the sake of the next generation.

Today we are gathering for a renewing of your love and vows as we sign a Declaration of Dependence upon Jesus Christ for Biblical marriages.

A. The Covenant

1. That's a term we don't use much anymore.
2. A covenant is a binding, unbreakable agreement between two people.
3. How is it used in the Bible?
 - a. God made a covenant with Abraham when he promised to make his descendants a mighty people.
 - b. God made a covenant with Moses and the Israelites when he gave them the Ten Commandments.
 - c. God made a covenant with David when he swore that his throne would last forever.
 - d. God made a covenant with us when Christ died for our sins and opened our way to God through faith in him.

Can you sense the seriousness? Can you taste the permanence? Can you smell the irrevocability of an agreement that would move the Son of God willingly to the cross? Yet that's the kind of agreement we made when we stood at the altar and affirmed our love. Marriage is entered into by covenant. We did nothing less.

A commitment that is lived out daily is what gives us our confidence and security. We don't need to peer into the future and wonder whether we are staying together or not. We can know with surety ahead of time what the choice will be. Covenant commitment is what gives us the ability to confidently say, "We're going to persevere. We're going to make it. We're going to paddle upstream in a culture that doesn't applaud commitment. We have a love that would say 'I do' all over again."

Husbands and wives, the very survival of our marriages depends on our recognition of the covenant and vows we made on our wedding day. To have a renewing love is to be able to say with absolute conviction that "Divorce is not an option. We are married for life." We need to shout from the rooftops that without living in that firm pledge to God and each other, our marriage is open to attack from every angle.

We need to forever banish from our thinking the idea of divorce. Our marriages can only be great when we commit to never using "the d-word." Before we can ever know the deep security and confidence God intends for us to enjoy as a couple, we need to be certain in our heart of hearts that our relationship is rooted in a love that won't give up.

B. Malachi 2

God hates divorce

Remain faithful to the wife/husband of your youth

Guard yourselves and remain loyal to your family

Remain committed for the sake of the next generation

C. Recite the Covenant Vows

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D. Sing a song or listen to a song being sung about a marriage commitment.

E. Husbands, repeat after me...

The husband says and signs: By signing this covenant, I promise to initiate a forgiving love when I've offended you or when conflict arises. Demonstrate serving love by putting your needs above my own. Exercise persevering love by walking through the most difficult times – hand in hand. Establish a guarding love that will safeguard our marriage and let no man, woman, or child divide us. Enjoy a celebrating love that keeps the spark alive in the relationship and celebrates you as my best friend. Experience a renewing love that says, "I'm committed to you until death do us part."

F. Wives, repeat after me...

The wife says and signs: By signing this covenant, I promise to initiate a forgiving love when I've offended you or when conflict arises. Demonstrate serving love by putting your needs above my own. Exercise persevering love by walking through the most difficult times – hand in hand. Establish a guarding love that will safeguard our marriage and let no man, woman, or child divide us. Enjoy a celebrating love that keeps the spark alive in the relationship and celebrates you as my best friend. Experience a renewing love that says, "I'm committed to you until death do us part."

G. Prayer

H. Mass kiss

I. Signing of Covenant (*play background music while signing; possibly put a slide show together of families in your church.*)

Church members and regular attendees come forward now to sign the big covenant. (*Elders or other church leaders can guide people to stage.*) The big covenant is one that a church frames and mats with enough signature lines for all the couples to sign one document. This way, you can hang it in your church.

Personal covenants can be signed at the reception. Can use this time now to sign with your family, parents, kids, etc. and pray as a family.

J. Closing

Could have everyone stand and join hands.

Put on that breastplate of armor. Take the Word of God into your heart and into your home. Stay on your knees in prayer. Stay clean before each other and the Lord Jesus. Experience God's grace and forgiveness when you struggle, and then get back in the race. And spread the word, God is not done with us. He is simply looking for some couples that are willing to take the truth to the thirsty and to experience a great marriage. We are in. And we believe you are too. See you in the battle or on the other side. Bless you!

K. Praise Team sings one song.

L. Reception

Make it like a wedding reception. Have a tiered cake as the centerpiece. Possibly have someone taking photos of families. Have tables set up where the pastors can sign individual covenants.

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Option III. Launching a 6-week Series

6-week Series using the “Secrets to a Lasting Love” by Dr. Gary & Barb Rosberg

- Forgiving
- Serving
- Persevering
- Guarding
- Celebrating
- Renewing



For more information visit: www.thegreatmarriageexperience.com



www.marriagecomission.com



Association of Marriage
& Family Ministries

www.amfmonline.com