

## Tying the Knot Ceremony

### Option 1:

\_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_ have just sealed their relationship with the giving and receiving of rings. Today their relationship is further symbolized by the tying of a fisherman's knot; a true lovers knot, for it is the strongest there is; its bond will not break, becoming ever stronger under pressure.

These two cords represent each of you as individuals - as the unique and special gifts you bring to your marriage. As you fasten your pieces together, these actions represent the the joining of your two lives into one common purpose. The completed knot represents your future, secure in the knowledge your relationship will continue to be strong, despite the inevitable changes life brings.

\_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_ please tie your knot.

Although the fisherman's knot is one of the simplest to tie, it is also one of the sturdiest. As stress is applied, the knot becomes ever stronger. It is the goal of marriage to achieve a blending of hearts and lives, but like the spaces between these cords formed by the knot, let there also be spaces in your new life together, so each may encourage and nurture the individual growth of the other.

I ask that you now pull on this rope to see it strengthen under pressure while still allowing us to see the individual cords - just as your support of one another as beautiful and blessed individuals strengthens your union. As you hold one another in mutual concern and shared respect, may you continue holding each other tightly in your hearts and form a strong bond, now and forever. Let this knot indicate the strength of your love and be a symbol of your unity from this day forward.

### Option 2:

#### Story of the True-Lover's Knot: (Officiant reads)

Around the turn of the nineteenth century, an art form arose from the ranks of deep-water sailors. That art form was KNOTTING. Sailors used rope to create knots that were anywhere from simple to elaborate. Some knots were purely for use, some knots were created for decorative use. Some knots were used to signify meaning. One knot that arose during this time period that was heavily laden with meaning was the TRUE-LOVERS' KNOT.

The true lover's knot is a simple and clear knot, implying its forthright goal. It is made up of two overhand knots, linked together, much like the "true-lovers" are in their hearts. A deep-water sailor would tie the knot loosely, and send it to his intended back home. Upon receiving it, the woman could:

- a) untie it, meaning the sailor shouldn't show his face around the next time he was in port, or
- b) she could send it back, leaving it loose, the way she received it, meaning the sailor would be welcomed home, but he better be on his best behavior, or
- c) she could tighten the knot before returning it,

meaning the sailor should hurry his way to the homestead.

Groom, since you are asking Bride to marry you, take this cord, which represents the bond between you, and tie the knot which signifies your intentions for your gathered friends and family to see.

*Groom ties the knot and hands the rope to Bride.*

Bride, will you tighten the knot to represent how you will hold his heart tight to yours

*Bride tightens knot and hands rope to Officiant. Officiant holds knot up for all to see.*

I see by this knot before me that you both share the same intentions concerning this relationship, that you will hold each other's heart tight, and form a strong bond from here to forever.

### **Option 3:**

(\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_) have just sealed their relationship with the giving and receiving of rings. Today their relationship is further symbolized by the tying of a fisherman's knot; a true lovers knot, for it is the strongest there is; its bond will not break, becoming ever stronger under pressure.

(\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_), will you please tie this knot? ~ (couple begin tying the knot)

These two cords represent your past; each of you as individuals and the unique and special gifts you bring to your marriage. As you fasten your pieces together, these actions represent the present; this moment when you join your two lives into one common purpose. The completed knot represents your future, secure in the knowledge your relationship will continue to be strong despite the inevitable changes life brings. Although the fisherman's knot is one of the simplest to tie, it is also one of the sturdiest. As stress is applied, the knot becomes ever stronger.

It is the goal of marriage to achieve a blending of hearts and lives, but like the spaces between these cords formed by the knot, let there also be spaces in your new life together, so each may encourage and nurture the individual growth of the other.

I ask that you know pull on this rope to see it strengthen under pressure while still allowing us to see the individual cords ~ just as your support of one another as beautiful and blessed individuals strengthens your union. ~ (pull on the rope together)

As you hold one another in mutual concern and shared respect, may you continue holding each other tightly in your hearts and form a strong bond, now and forever. Let this knot indicate the strength of your love and be a symbol of your unity from this day forward.