

Rich & Aimee Stevens Wedding Ceremony

Welcome

Good evening. My name is Mike Baird, and as Bishop of the Cooper Mountain Ward, it is my privilege on behalf of the wedding party to welcome all of you here.

Prayer

In nearly every culture, marriage is considered at least a solemn ceremony, if not a sacred religious rite. To Rich & Aimee it is both solemn and sacred.

In order to properly set the tone, therefore, we will begin with a word of prayer. The prayer will be offered by **Ross Stevens**, Rich's Father. Thank you.

Rich and Aimee, on behalf of everyone here I want to thank you for including us on this day.

Be One

You will remember that at the end of the creative period after God had planted a Garden Eastward in Eden He said something we are all familiar with:

"It is not good for Man to be alone" (Genesis 2:18)

And so it is today and this is in part why this is a special day.

I have thought much about the two of you, and have prayed for you both. I have pondered much what I should say to you today. I have one main thought for you:

God put Adam & Eve, our first parents together. Just as He put them together, I hope that you will always believe and trust that He has put the two of you together.

Just as he told them to "be one" (Genesis 2:24) I hope and pray that you too will "be one".

Let me please share some thoughts on how you can be one.

Before I do let me say this: You will have many things that come along. Things that will challenge you and make it difficult to be one. You will have disagreements along the way. Disagreements about big things and little things

- What the words "on time" mean
- Which way the toilet paper roll comes

But the only thing that can truly keep you from being one is yourselves. If you truly desire to, you can resolve all your conflicts and find all the joy and happiness that comes from being one.

Let me share three thoughts about being one:

1. Be a Builder

- **Look to build** your relationship and each other.
- **Never, never criticize the other.** You should never try to help your mate by offering “constructive criticism” because there is no such thing. To criticize is to tear down, and you are to be builders. Look for opportunities to praise and to thank, and overlook any opportunity to point out areas for improvement. You know that you should go into your marriage with your eyes wide open, and spend the rest of your eternal life with your eyes half-closed. As you frequently express gratitude and admiration, not only will your relationship strengthen and grow, but so will your mate.

2. Be Devoted

- **Your devotion is to each other.** You will be making serious and sacred vows today where you will be pledging your all to each other. Love each other with all your heart.
- **Don't compete.** As silly as it may seem, many couples try to compete with one another. They try to control or compel the other, or waste time and energy keeping track what they might think is fair or unfair. Avoid that behavior like the plague. Cooperate, and never compete. Take glory in each others success. Cleave unto each other, and let no one and let nothing else interfere.
- **Be loyal** to each other and don't ever share things with other people that you ought not.

3. Keep First Things First

- **Seek First the Kingdom of God** and all these things will be added unto you. I **promise** that these words are true and if you will put the Lord first you will have all things needed for your happiness. You may or may not have fame or fortune but you will have everything you need.

Please take each other by the right hand.

Richmond Ross Stevens and Aimee Dawn Veit, you have taken one another by the right hand in token of the covenants you will now enter into in the presence of God and these witnesses.

(Turn to the bridegroom) Rich Stevens, do you take Aimee Veit as your lawfully wedded wife, and do you of your own free will and choice covenant as her companion and lawfully wedded husband that you will cleave unto her and none else; that you will observe all the laws, covenants, and obligations pertaining to the holy state of matrimony, and that you will love, honor, and cherish her as long as you both shall live? (Yes or I do)

(Turn to the bride) Aimee Veit, do you take Rich Stevens as your lawfully wedded husband, and do you of your own free will and choice covenant as his companion and lawfully wedded wife that you will cleave unto him and none else; that you will observe all the laws, covenants, and obligations pertaining to the holy state of matrimony; and that you will love, honor and cherish him as long as you both shall live? (Yes or I do)

Richmond Ross Stevens and Aimee Dawn Veit, by virtue of the legal authority vested in me as an elder in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, I pronounce you, Richmond Ross Stevens and Aimee Dawn Veit husband and wife, legally and lawfully wedded for the period of your mortal lives.

May God bless your union with joy in your posterity and a long life of happiness together, and may he enable you to keep sacred the covenants you have made. These blessings I invoke upon you in the name of the Lord, Jesus Christ, Amen.

You may kiss each other as husband and wife.

Rings

It is customary to exchange rings at this time.

Rich, place the ring on her left hand.

Aimee, place the ring on his left hand.

The rings you exchange are there to remind you of the covenants you have made this day. The gold may symbolize the purity of this sacred relationship. The diamonds reflect the strength and long-lasting nature of the marriage covenant. The diamond can be harmed only by the introduction of extreme forces from the outside. Similarly, this marriage covenant can only be harmed if outside forces are introduced to destroy it.

Please do us all a favor and let us see you kiss each other again.

Ring for Autumn

At this time we have a couple other things

- Rich would like to place a ring on Autumn's hand as a symbol of his commitment to be a good father and to love and cherish her as if she were his own

Musical Number

- We'll now here a musical number by Autumn & Summer:
"Love is Spoken Here"

Thank you

May I present to you the newest family in the area:
The Stevens Family