

## **Phil & Alicia's Wedding**

1. Lighting of Candles
2. Seating of Grandparents and Moms
3. Mother's light candles
4. Men enter
5. Bridesmaids Enter
6. Ringbearer
7. Flowergirl
8. Wedding March & Bride Enters / Mrs. Gascoigne stands
9. Bro. Farinella Read Scripture— Gen.2:18, 21-24—seat the congregation
10. Bro. Farinella: "Who gives the Bride away?"
11. Surrender of Purity Ring—Rob
12. Bro. Farinella Prays
13. Alicia sings
14. Message

On an occasion like this we contemplate God's original plan for man in marriage, that he may have companionship and fulfilling happiness. As the LORD said, "*It is not good that man should be alone; I will make an helpmeet for him. And...the LORD God made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.*" (Gen. 2:18, 22). God created this wonderful institution first, for He knew the inestimable significance of continual fellowship and affection.

Marriage is therefore particularly a sacred institution ordained by God. When the Lord brought Adam and Eve together, it was to enable them to bring greater glory to God in their union which was not possible individually. And truly, if a couple follows the leadership of God in their marriage, it will result in bringing great honor to the Lord. This is why God stated that a man and woman being united in marriage become '*one flesh...*' in Gen. 2. 2 minds, 2 hearts, 2 people with physical

abilities united to transcend the limitations they possess as individuals. 2

This wedding ceremony of Philip and Alicia gives us a physical manifestation of these intentions of God concerning marriage. In some ways, it is as a photograph of the written Word—to glorify the LORD. The Word of God is a live book, and we can see it in the way it changes and builds lives, as it is being visually displayed before us today with Philip and Alicia. God's purposes are being fulfilled in them today. We can see this in 4 definitive ways:

1. First, they have both trusted Christ as their Saviour. Since marriage is God's institution, the success and purpose of marriage cannot be fulfilled without a relationship with the LORD. God says in Ps. 125:1, *'They that trust in the Lord shall be as Mt. Zion, which cannot be removed, but abideth forever.'*

2. Second, they have also both actively served the LORD from their early lives. They did not waste it by "sowing their wild oats", but rather by bringing others to Jesus, and influencing others in their generation to serve the Lord. This union here is a result of Philip & Alicia reaping their spiritual investments.

3. Thirdly, they have kept themselves for each other in marriage. In a day when infidelity seems to be the norm, Philip and Alicia have taken heed to God's admonition that *"This is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication; that every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honor."* (I Thes. 4:3-4). It is a joy to see purity rewarded as it is this day.

4. Finally, they have both surrendered their lives to follow the LORD, to serve Him with all their heart, soul, and might. Philip has been called into the Gospel ministry. Being called to preach the GOSPEL

is God's highest calling. The challenges he will face under Satan's attack requires the help of a faithful wife and companion in this battle, which you Alicia will be called upon to supply. Prov. 31:11 says, *"The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil."*

Wisdom would look to the Biblical characters of Aquila and Priscilla as a pattern for this marriage. Whenever one appears in Scripture, the other is alongside. It is always Aquilla & Priscilla—never just Aquila or just Priscilla. They succinctly served the Lord as a unit. Also, though we find accounts of them several times in Scripture, nothing negative is recorded about their walk with the Lord. This explains to us why they had a life-long dedication to serve, for them *"to live was Christ, and to die was gain."* They had even opened their home to house the baby church started in Rome. Phil and Alicia, it would be wise to look to the example of these saints as instruction for your service together in full-time ministry. Difficulties will arise in your lives together, for it is commonplace in all lives, but if you approach them together according to God's plan, your love and bond will grow only stronger.

### 15. **Exchanging of Vows;**

We are gathered together in the presence of Almighty God and these witnesses to join **Philip and Alicia** in the holy bonds of matrimony. Marriage is a **joyous occasion?** It was sanctioned by an inspired Apostle to *"be honorable in all,"* as well as by our Lord Jesus Christ in Cana of Galilee. **Therefore,** if you have appeared before me at this present time for the purpose of being united in Holy Wedlock, will you so **signify by JOINING RIGHT HANDS!**

Philip, Alicia is going to be your helpmeet. In other words, one that meets your needs in help and love. You are to take the lead in the home, both spiritually and financially, not neglecting your responsibility. In most instances the home will only be as successful as the husband works to make it so. However, do not ignore her input in serious matters, as God gave her an ability to see things from a different, though somewhat emotional, perspective.

**1.** Remember, the Bible says, "*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.*" (Ps. 110:10). So, seek Him for guidance first!

**2.** And you are to take the **lead in love**. The Bible says you are to love her as much as Christ loved the Church. That love began with **Christ dying for his Church!**

illus.—you will sometimes have to make church decisions that may be in conflict with responsibilities with your wife.

**Philip**, will you **repeat** these words after **me?**

**I, Philip Nathanael Lydick take Alicia** to be my lawful and wedded wife, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better or for worse, for richer or for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death do us part, according to God's holy ordinance, and thereto I pledge thee my faithfulness.

And you **Alicia** are the help. You are to **encourage and comfort Philip** as well as rejoice with him as blessing occur.

**1.** You are to be **submitted** to him in all things, and to yield to his decisions and advice.

2. And if he always makes advice and decisions **out of love for you**, you will be thankful for the position God has placed you in.

-most difficulties in marriage result from these areas out of kelter.

**Alicia**, would you **repeat** these words after me?

**I, Alicia Jane Gascoigne** take **Philip** to be my lawful and wedded husband, to have and to hold, from this forward, for better or for worse, for richer or for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, and to obey until death do us part, according to God's holy ordinance, and thereto I pledge my faithfulness

16. **Exchanging of rings** (Bro. Farinella)

17. Lighting of unity Candle

18. Kneeling bench

19. Song—Renee

20. Prayer

21. Kiss the Bride

22. Presentation of Bride and Groom

23. Recessional