

# *Vow Renewal Ceremony*

## *for*

### *Izaak and Seema Shahdin*

January 3, 2016

#### **Statement of Purpose**

Ladies and Gentlemen, we are gathered together this evening for two purposes. First, we wish to honor Izaak and Seema and to celebrate with them their anniversary of 30 wonderful years of marriage. Secondly, we are here to witness as they re-commit themselves to each other by renewing their wedding vows.

It is one thing to commit yourself to another person when you are young, and in some cases, you know very little about the other person. It is quite another thing to re-commit yourself to that same person after spending thirty long years with them.

Izaak and Seema have chosen to do just that.

Izaak and Seema, thirty years ago before God and before many witnesses you publically declared your consent to enter into the covenant of marriage. My question to you this evening is this: Do you still have this same desire?

#### **Declaration of Consent (Pastor Erickson)**

**Izaak Shahdin**, will you still have this woman to be your wife, to live together in the holy covenant of marriage? Will you continue to love her, comfort her, honor and keep her, in sickness and in health, and forsaking all others, be faithful to her so long as you both shall live? If so, say I will.

(Answer – I will)

**Seema Shahdin**, will you still have this man to be your husband, to live together in the holy covenant of marriage? Will you continue to love him, comfort him, honor and keep him, in sickness and in health, and forsaking all others, be faithful to him so long as you both shall live? If so, say I will.

(Answer – I will)

**Congregation**, Will all of you witnessing these promises do all in your power to uphold these two persons in their marriage? If so answer we will.

(Answer – We will)

### **Exhortation to the Bride and Groom**

We live in a time and within a culture that does not view the marriage bond as seriously and as sacredly as it was intended by God. People today will easily abandon their vows, and will quickly dissolve the holy marriage covenant that was intended by the Creator to be a lifelong commitment.

*"The Pharisees also came unto him, tempting him, and saying unto him, Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause? And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder. They say unto him, Why did Moses then command to give a writing of divorcement, and to put her away? He saith unto them, Moses because of the hardness of your hearts suffered you to put away your wives: but from the beginning it was not so." (Matthew 19:3-*

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God intends that those who enter into the covenant of marriage do everything in their power to be faithful to their vows, and work hard to keep them.

One reason that God takes marriage so seriously is because God uses earthly marriage to paint a picture of the Lord Jesus Christ and His Bride – the Church.

*"Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church: For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church. Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband." (Ephesians 5:22-33)*

This is why Satan attacks marriage the way that he does. Because marriage pictures the unconditional covenant between Christ and those that place their faith in Him. If you are saved here today, you are part of Christ's Bride, the Church. Christ loves you unconditionally, even though you haven't always been faithful to Him. Yet, the Bible promises that He will never leave you or forsake you. He says that He will be with you always, even until the end of the world.

The love that you have for each other must picture the love of Christ.

The word of God tells us what love is like and what love does. In Paul's letter to the Corinthians, the word charity is used. Charity is a deep, abiding, unconditional love. It is not merely affection. This is the love of God; the love that God is; the love that Christ demonstrated when He died on the cross

for sinners such as we. And this is the kind of love that you are to continue to have for each other.

*Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. Charity never faileth:*

Izaak and Seema – your covenant with each other, your commitment, your bond, your love, must endure until the Lord takes you home to Heaven.

### **The Marriage Vows**

Our Lord Jesus taught us that at the beginning God “made them male and female. For this cause a man shall leave his father and mother and shall cleave to his wife; and the two shall become one flesh. Consequently they are no longer two, but one flesh.”

Thirty years ago the two of you came together before God, and witnesses, to be made one flesh - husband and wife. Would you be willing to repeat the vows that you once made to each other?

I, **Izaak**, take you, Seema, to be my wife, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, until we are parted by death; as God is my witness, I give you my promise.

I, **Seema**, take you, Izaak, to be my husband, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, until we are parted by death; as God is my witness, I give you my promise.

### **Prayer for Bride and Groom**

Our Father, we come today asking your blessing upon these two lives and this home being established. You have made us so that we are incomplete

without the other so that we yearn for someone whom we can love and whose love we can receive.

We are thankful for the love that we see here, and even more, for the love you have for us of which this marriage is a wonderful picture. May we never take your love for granted.

We pray your love, your Word, and your Spirit will continue to be the shield and stay for Izaak and Seema; when joy comes, may they share it together. When sorrow threatens, may they bear it together. In gladness or in tears, in sunshine or shadow, may they ever draw closer to each other and nearer to You.

Grant them patience, gentleness, forbearance, and understanding. O Father, protect their home from evil and from those who would break it apart.

We ask for health, for long life, for the fulfillment of every good dream. May their love continue through life and finally blend into the life eternal.

Through Christ we pray, amen.

### **Pronouncement of Marriage**

You have come before us and before God and have expressed your desire to reaffirm your commitment to be husband and wife. You have shown your love and affection by joining hands, and you have made promises of faith and devotion, each to the other; and just as importantly, to God.

It is with pleasure that I conclude the ceremony of renewing the vows of marriage that joined you and forever binds you as husband and wife. Please celebrate this renewal of vows with a sign of affection.... You may kiss!.

### **Presentation to Congregation**

Ladies and Gentlemen, May I present to you once again Mr. and Mrs. Izaak and Seema Shahdin