Dear friends,

 Happy wedding day! It is such an honor to be here and to witness to your joyous love for one another. We all think we know what love is. We all know because we think we have experienced it, in romance and in friendships. But, have you ever stopped to consider if you ARE love? Do you embody a faithful, undying devotion to one another?

 I see that here today, in the two of you...like Christ and the Church (*The Four Loves, Eros*). You two are making sacrifices for one another and you make one another lovely (*The Four Loves, Eros*). Oh, and speaking of Christ, there is no one that loves their neighbors as themself like you (Matthew 22:34-39). You both exemplify exactly what it means to be generous, fair, and kind in your actions towards one another. You are permanent neighbors now...use this wisely and treat each other exactly the way you want to be treated.

I once learned that love has two components. These components are here to make love last. To make love meaningful. To make the most out of the love you have for one another. When you two met, dated, and fell in love you had desires. The first desire you experienced, and attributed to love, was the desire for the good of the beloved (Love, By All Accounts). This desire is not dependent on anything. Your character cannot, will not, and should not be changed in this marriage, because your lover will always desire good for you regardless. Secondly, you desire union (Love, By All Accounts). This union happened by law and your hearts today. This union, however, does not end here. You will consistently desire union with one another for the rest of your marriage. This is because this desire is dependent. This desire depends on your character and your traits. Your lover will desire union with certain traits and certain parts of you at certain points in time. Cherish the union and cherish the changes, they may keep your love alive.

I know you know this already, because it doesn’t take marriage to figure this out. But, forgiveness is key. There will be a time where you no longer need to forgive your boyfriend or girlfriend, but your husband or your wife. This marriage is serious and rooted in deep love. That makes the need and call for forgiveness even more crucial than before. You might fight, and it might be as simple as loading the dishwasher (Dr. Blincoe), but you need to forgive. This forgiveness should not be a problem, as long as love is present. How do you know if love is present? Well, if you desire good and union for and with one another, then you have the gracious power to forgive your lover (Love, By All Accounts.)

Again with the unsettling, frightening parts of marriage...you might not ever understand your love. You can understand your desires, you can understand forgiveness, and you can understand the Eros you share. But to understand your love, well that's a different story. Your love is what binds all of these intimacies together. Not understanding this can lead to many surprises in your marriage, but don't let it overwhelm the desires that secure your love (Love in the Dark, p. 46-48).

Marriage can be tricky. I can’t tell you a lot about what marriage is, and clearly I can’t fully understand love either. I can tell you what marriage isn’t. I can tell you that our society and culture has turned marriage into something with less love and more politics. Marriage is not the “sphere that protects your common sexual interests and economy” as some have described (Keywords for American Cultural Studies, p. 162). Some counter this with faithfulness, elimination of fear, and tenderness for one another (Harmony of Hearts, p. 152). I look forward to watching you prove the negative statistics of marriage wrong with your genuine love.

Cheers!

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