

Your Wedding--Magic or Magical?

By: J.P. Reynolds

I officiate over 50 weddings a year—non-denominational weddings; inter-faith weddings; cross-cultural weddings. I'm privileged to be with so many different people during such an intimate moment in their life together.

I calculate that since the time of my ordination I have officiated at over 500 weddings! And I am now convinced that **the** question every couple needs to explore and answer before you can even begin planning for your wedding day, is this:

What does your wedding day mean to you?

I know--this probably strikes you as an odd question. Everybody knows what a wedding means—or at least what it is *supposed* to mean.

Often, in the hub-bub and chaos (yes—chaos!) of planning for your wedding day, it is easy to lose sight of just what the day means to you and your partner.

I approach each wedding from the belief that a wedding celebrates what already exists. If you are not “married” the night before your wedding, then I have no mojo that will suddenly, with a “puff,” make you married!

Who you are the night before your wedding, who your partner is the day before the wedding, is who you will be, who they will be, the day after your wedding.

What delighted you about the other will remain. . . what annoyed you about your partner will remain. And the rituals and routines you have developed for dealing with all that delights and irks you, also will remain.

A wedding can be a magical celebration, but it doesn't cast magic, resolving all that was unresolved before you walked down the aisle.

So, if a wedding doesn't patch problems, what does it do?

I believe that a wedding celebrates the life you and your partner have created and cheers on the life that you pledge to continue to create.

You say to family and friends, “come celebrate the great good we have found in each other, and bear witness as we pledge our life to each other—in the presence of your love and loyalty.” And, if you so believe, in the presence of God.

It really is that simple—and that profound (and scary—and thrilling!).

Keep this close to your heart while you plan your wedding day and you will create a day that truly will be magical.

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