



# Traditional Wedding Ceremony Outline

Wondering how to plan out your wedding ceremony? The great news is that most ceremonies follow a similar format, so if you've been to (or been in) a few, you've probably got an idea of how the wedding order of service usually flows. Of course, different cultures and religions will incorporate other elements or swap things around, but if you're planning to create a ceremony of your own, this is a great place to start

## The Wedding Ceremony Order of Events

### 1. The Processional

First off, the processional. This is when members of your immediate family and wedding party head down the aisle and either find a seat or take their places on either side of the altar. (See Chart)

### 2. Words of Welcome and Opening Prayer

### 3. Opening Remarks and Introduction

Next, the officiant will offer an introduction and some thoughts on marriage. This could be a brief recounting of your love story, words on what marriage means to you, or a statement about the ceremony to come and what it represents.

### 4. Readings/Song

### 5. Remarks What God and His word (The Bible) has to say about marriage.

### 6. Exchange Vows

I, \_\_\_\_\_, take you, \_\_\_\_\_,  
to be my lawfully wedded (husband/wife),  
to have and to hold,  
from this day forward,  
for better, for worse,  
for richer, for poorer,  
in sickness and in health,  
until death do us part.

### 7. Exchange of Rings

I \_\_\_\_\_, give to you \_\_\_\_\_, this ring,  
as a symbol of my commitment,  
to love, honor, and respect you.

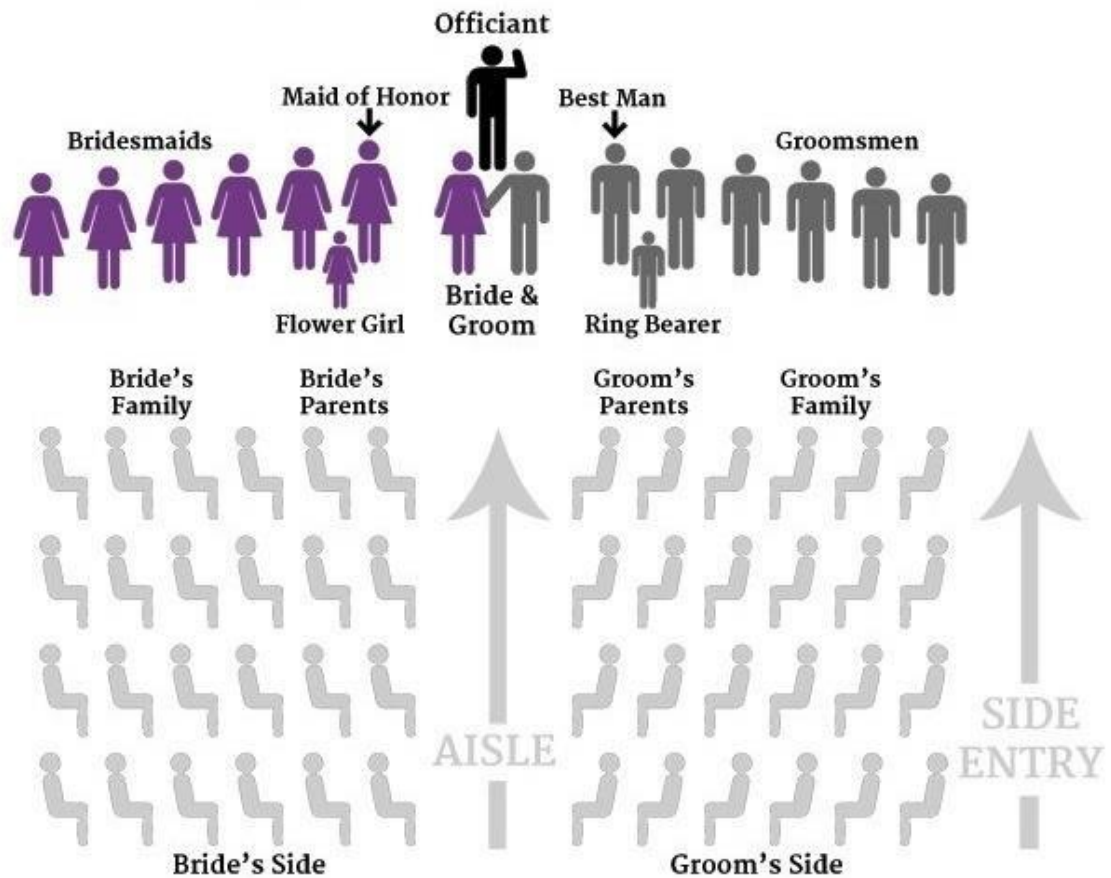
## 8. Unity Candle

## 9. Final Blessings

## 10. The Kiss

## 11. The Recessional

Introduce the married couple for the first time. Then, the bride and groom lead the recessional. (See Chart)



### ENTRANCE ORDER (PROCESSIONAL)

1. Grandparents of the Groom
2. Grandparents of the Bride
3. Officiant, Groom, Best Man, and Groomsmen  
(from side entry if desired)
4. Parents of the Groom
5. Mother of the Bride
6. Bridesmaids
7. Maid of Honor
8. Flower Girl and Ring Bearer
9. Bride / Father of the Bride

### EXIT ORDER (RECESSIONAL)

1. Bride and Groom
2. Maid of Honor and Best Man
3. Bridesmaids and Groomsmen  
(in pairs when exiting)
4. Flower Girl and Ring Bearer
5. Parents of the Bride
6. Parents of the Groom
7. Grandparents of the Bride
8. Grandparents of the Groom
9. Officiant
10. Wedding Guests