

10 questions to help you craft a truly meaningful wedding ceremony

Ritualist

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Hi there.

Isn't it strange how most couples spend the least amount of time planning the actual wedding part of a wedding?

We obsess over every detail around the venue and guest list, but then expect the ceremony to just kind of...sort itself out.

I get it.

With so much to do, it can feel like such a relief to simply follow a script inherited from your religion or culture, or these days, found on a wedding blog.

But you're missing out on the full potential of what your wedding ceremony can be.

It can be a truly authentic expression of who you are and what you value most in the world.

It can blend your unique cultural legacies in a way that feels creative, respectful, and joyful.

It can be a powerful rite of passage that shapes the future of your marriage and transforms your relationships with friends and family.

I hope these questions help guide the way there.

With love, always.

**EZRA BOOKMAN,
RITUALIST FOUNDER**

About Me

I'm a ritual designer, artist, facilitator, and founder of Ritualist, the first ever creative studio specializing in the design of secular ritual. My work has been featured in the NYTimes, The Atlantic, VICE, and ABC News.



How To Use

No matter what kind of wedding you want - religious or secular, traditional or experimental, formal or casual - these questions are for you.

The best first step on this journey is individual introspection and reflection on your core values, followed by an honest conversation together as a couple, ideally over a glass of wine (or two).

If you're looking for a step-by-step recipe where I tell you exactly what to do, this isn't it. This is just a framework for a good conversation. How good depends on how deep you're willing to go.

I think the most important question is #2. All you need to get married is a piece of paper, so what's the whole ritual for? **Getting really clear on your why will help illuminate the what and how.**

My only real advice, taught to me by my friend (and expert officiant) Bill Hulleman, is this:

The most important function of a wedding is that at the end you feel married. For some people that might be a white dress, and for others it might be certain special words, but no one gets to decide that for you. You are the world's best expert in what will be meaningful for you.

A Few Tips

Take your time

Write first, share later

Answer what feels true,
not what sounds correct

01

VALUES

What are the three most important values that guide your life individually? As a couple?

02

WHY

Why is it important for you to have a ceremony, or ritualized gathering, to mark your marriage?

03

IMPACT

With this ritual, what shift or change do you want to experience in yourself? Between you and your partner? Your family? Your guests?

04

PURPOSE

What other needs or desires do you have for your wedding? Which two feel most important?

05

BEYOND

Where do you find meaning in your life? What are you connected to that feels bigger and beyond you?

06

TRADITIONS

List any traditions, rituals, or customs without which your wedding would feel incomplete. Why are they important to you?

07

BOUNDARIES

List any traditions, rituals, or customs from your family or culture that don't align with your values. How do they conflict?

08

OBSTACLES

What obstacles, both internal and external, are you nervous might get in the way of success?

09

PARTICIPATION

Who will be present and how might they meaningfully contribute? *Extra credit: Consider the difference between the role of witness vs. spectator. How might everyone present feel their presence is necessary?*

10

ESSENCE

Describe your wedding in three words.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO THIS ALONE

Email me to explore
options for consultation,
design, and officiation

Design Consultation

*A one time 90 min session to review
your answers, clarify your desires, and
practice my original framework for
meaningful and memorable design*

Design Lab

*A multipart coaching process guiding
you step-by-step through the brainstorm
and design of your ceremony*

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**LITERALLY
THE MOST
MEANINGFUL,
PERSONAL,
ENJOYABLE,
CEREMONY
WE’VE EVER
EXPERIENCED**
“

DAVE & JENNY, VERY HAPPY WEDDING COUPLE

RITUALIST ●

