



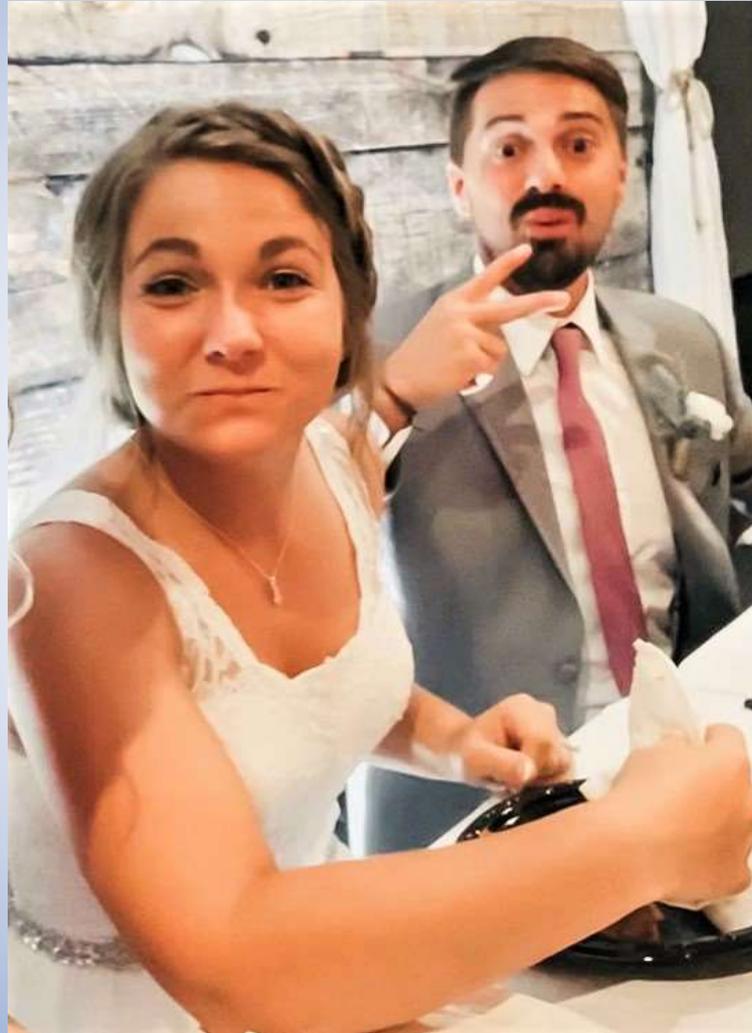
# Cross Purposes

# Cross Purposes



Jared and Kelsey: About to be married August 4th, 2019

# Cross Purposes



Caleb and Lauren: Married July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019

# Cross Purposes



José and Liz: Married June 29th, 2019

# Cross Purposes



John and Zolla: Married June 12th, 1999

# Why Marriage?



# Cross Purposes

## Why Marriage?

**Every other social convention exists because we live in a sin-fallen in the world.**

- **Government**
- **Civil Law**
- **Money**
- **Education**
- **Medicine**
- **Even...The Church!**

# Cross Purposes

## Why Marriage?

**But marriage was created before the fall.**

- **This demonstrates the primacy of marriage in the scope of human relationships.**
- **The principles we find in the marriage relationship have an eternal and heavenly quality.**

# Cross Purposes

## Why Marriage?

**The marriage narrative in Genesis shows us both the problem and the solution for the human condition:**

*“God said, ‘It is not good that the man should be alone. I will make him a helper fit for him.’”*

*(Genesis 2:18)*

*“Therefore, a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.” (Genesis 2:24)*

# Cross Purposes

## Why Marriage?

**Marriage was created to provide the most ideal picture of how humans are to relate to one another as they relate to God.**

*“When God [Elohim] created man [adam], he made him in the likeness of God [Elohim]. He created them male and female...*

*And when they were created, he called them ‘man’ [adam].” (Genesis 5:1-2)*

# Cross Purposes

## Why Marriage?

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# Cross Purposes

## Why Marriage?

So, one of God's chief purposes for creating marriage was...

**TO COMPLETE OUR PICTURE OF GOD**

**-and-**

**TO DEMONSTRATE THE DESIGN  
FOR IDEAL RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD.**



Why *We* Get Married

# Cross Purposes

## Our Purpose for Marriage

If we were really honest, many would admit that we see marriage as a way...

**TO GET OUR NEEDS MET.**

# Cross Purposes

## Our Purpose for Marriage

### A groom's (honest) vows:

“I need to feel important and like I'm *King of the World*. And I expect you to meet that need by submitting to my every decision, good or bad, by respecting me, no matter how I behave. And, I expect you to support me in whatever I choose to do. My goal in marriage is to find my significance through you.”

# Cross Purposes

## Our Purpose for Marriage

### **A bride's (honest) vows:**

“I have never felt as deeply loved as my nature requires. And, I’m expecting you to meet that need, through gentle affection, even when I’m cranky and growling. I expect you to be thoughtful and considerate, whether I’m sensitive to you or not. I want an accepting, romantic sensitivity to my emotional ups and downs. Sweetheart. My love...”

# Cross Purposes

## Our Purpose for Marriage

A bride's (honest) vows:

“Don't let me down.”

# Cross Purposes

## Our Purpose for Marriage

Ultimately, *our* greatest purpose in getting married is probably to satisfy our need for acceptance and belonging.

**But according to our own terms!**

# Cross Purposes

## Our Purpose for Marriage

**This motivation led to sin entering the world and to the ripple effects that come from the corruption of God's marriage ideal:**

- **Unhappy marriages, divorce.**
- **Breakdown in parent-child relationships.**
- **Dissolution of the family.**
- **The corruption of culture and society at-large.**

# Cross Purposes

Quality of  
Married-life.

Needs that  
drive unity  
or division.

**God's  
Purpose  
For Marriage**

# Cross Purposes



# Cross Purposes

## The Two Shall Become One

*“God said, ‘It is not good that the man should be alone. I will make him a helper fit for him.’”*

*(Genesis 2:18)*

**“Fit” is the Hebrew word, *Neged*.**

**It does not mean, “the same” or “suitable to my expectations.”**

**It means: “the opposite, in front of.”**

# Cross Purposes

## The Two Shall Become One

*“God said, ‘It is not good that the man should be alone. I will make him a helper fit for him.’”*

*(Genesis 2:18)*

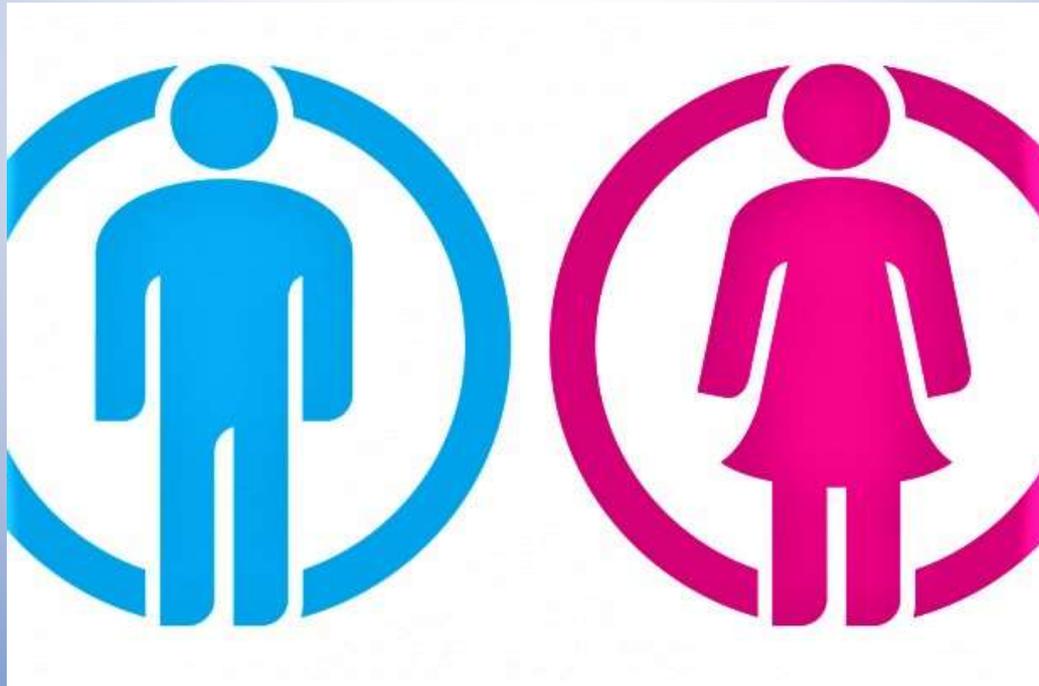
**You can only be truly “married” or unified with your husband or wife, when you come together...**

**AT YOUR POINTS OF DIFFERENCE!**

# Cross Purposes

## The Two Shall Become One

**When you get married...your differences are exposed!**



# Cross Purposes

## The Two Shall Become One

**When you get married...your differences are exposed!**

**So the only way to truly have a lifelong marriage of happiness and true belonging is to die to the selfish desire to only go your own way.**

*“Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.” (Ephesians 5:22)*

# Cross Purposes

## The Two Shall Become One

**When you get married...your differences are exposed!**

**So the only way to truly have a lifelong marriage of happiness and true belonging is to die to the selfish desire to only go your own way.**

*“Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.”  
(Ephesians 5:25)*

# Cross Purposes

## The Two Shall Become One

**When you get married...your differences are exposed!**

**So the only way to truly have a lifelong marriage of happiness and true belonging is to die to the selfish desire to only go your own way.**

*“The two shall become one flesh. This mystery is profound...it refers to Christ and the church.”  
(Ephesians 5:31-32)*

# Cross Purposes



# Cross Purposes

## Cross Purposes at the Heart of a Marriage



# Cross Purposes

## Cross Purposes at the Heart of a Marriage

*“In Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility.” (Ephesians 2:13-14)*

# Cross Purposes

## Cross Purposes at the Heart of a Marriage

**We all want acceptance. We all want to belong. But most often, there is a price that must be paid for that acceptance.**

**Christ paid that price over 2,000 years ago so we as his church could know and belong to God.**

**Through God's power and guidance, a husband & wife have the sacred opportunity to pursue unity *in the midst* of their differences and weaknesses.**

# Cross Purposes

## Cross Purposes at the Heart of a Marriage

Consider these general verses when applied to marriage:

*“[Jesus said], ‘This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.’”  
(John 15:12)*

*“Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.” (Ephesians 4:32)*

# Cross Purposes

## Cross Purposes at the Heart of a Marriage

Consider these general verses when applied to marriage:

*“If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose.”*  
(Philippians 2:1-2)

# Cross Purposes

## Cross Purposes at the Heart of a Marriage

**Consider these general verses when applied to marriage:**

*“[Jesus said], ‘The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.’” (John 17:22-23)*

# Cross Purposes

## Cross Purposes at the Heart of a Marriage

“Love is not breathlessness, it is not excitement, it is not the promulgation of promises of eternal passion. That is just being ‘in love’ which any of us can convince ourselves we are...”

– *Louis de Bernières, Corelli's Mandolin*

# Cross Purposes

## Cross Purposes at the Heart of a Marriage

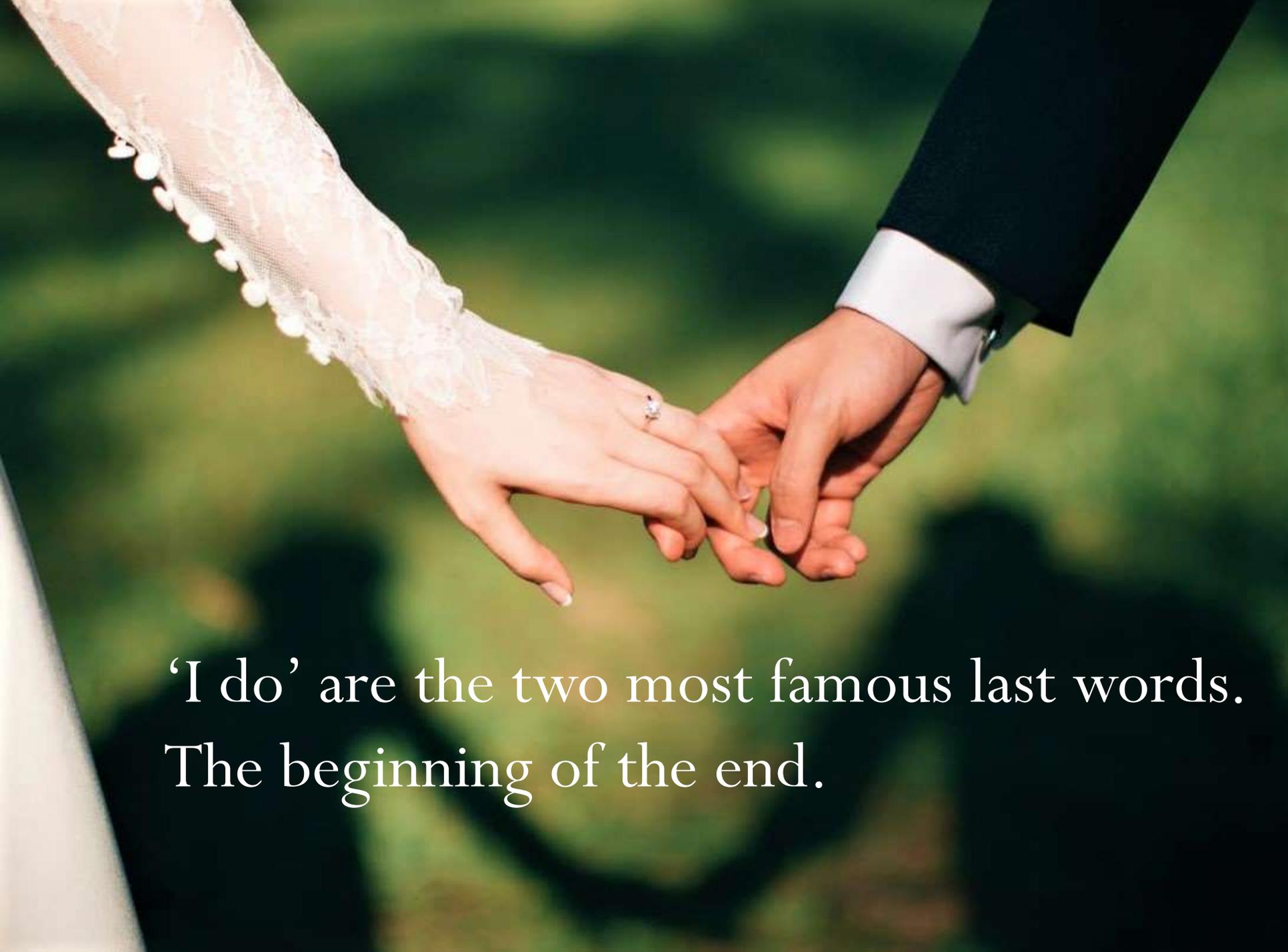
“Love itself is what is left over when being in love has burned away, and this is both an art and a fortunate accident. Your mother and I had it, we had roots that grew towards each other underground, and when all the pretty blossom had fallen from our branches, we found that we were one tree and not two.”

– *Louis de Bernières, Corelli's Mandolin*

# Cross Purposes

## Cross Purposes at the Heart of a Marriage

*“[Jesus said], ‘Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, “Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh”? So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.’” (Matthew 19:4-6)*



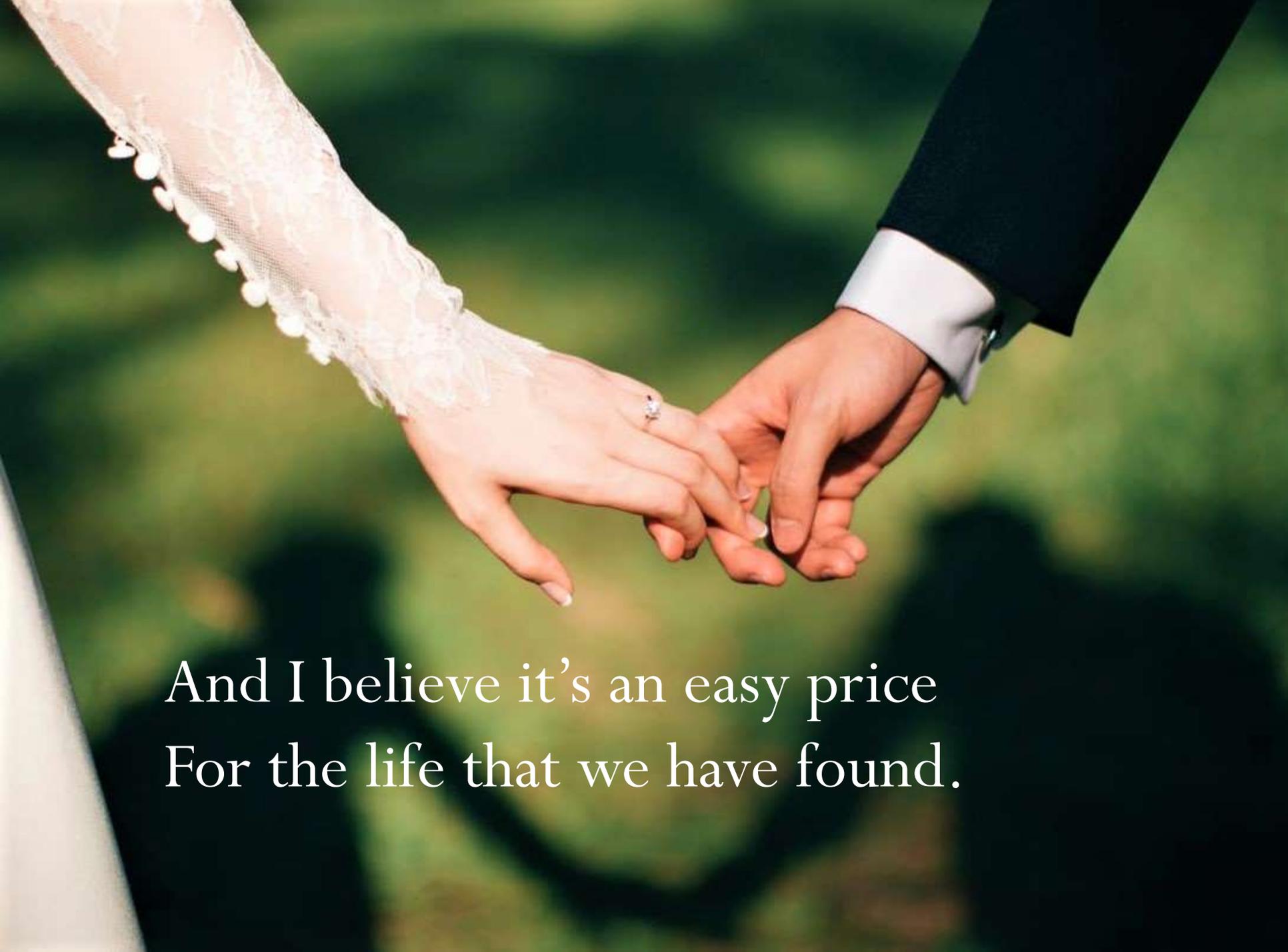
'I do' are the two most famous last words.  
The beginning of the end.



But to lose your life for another, I've heard,  
Is a good place to begin.



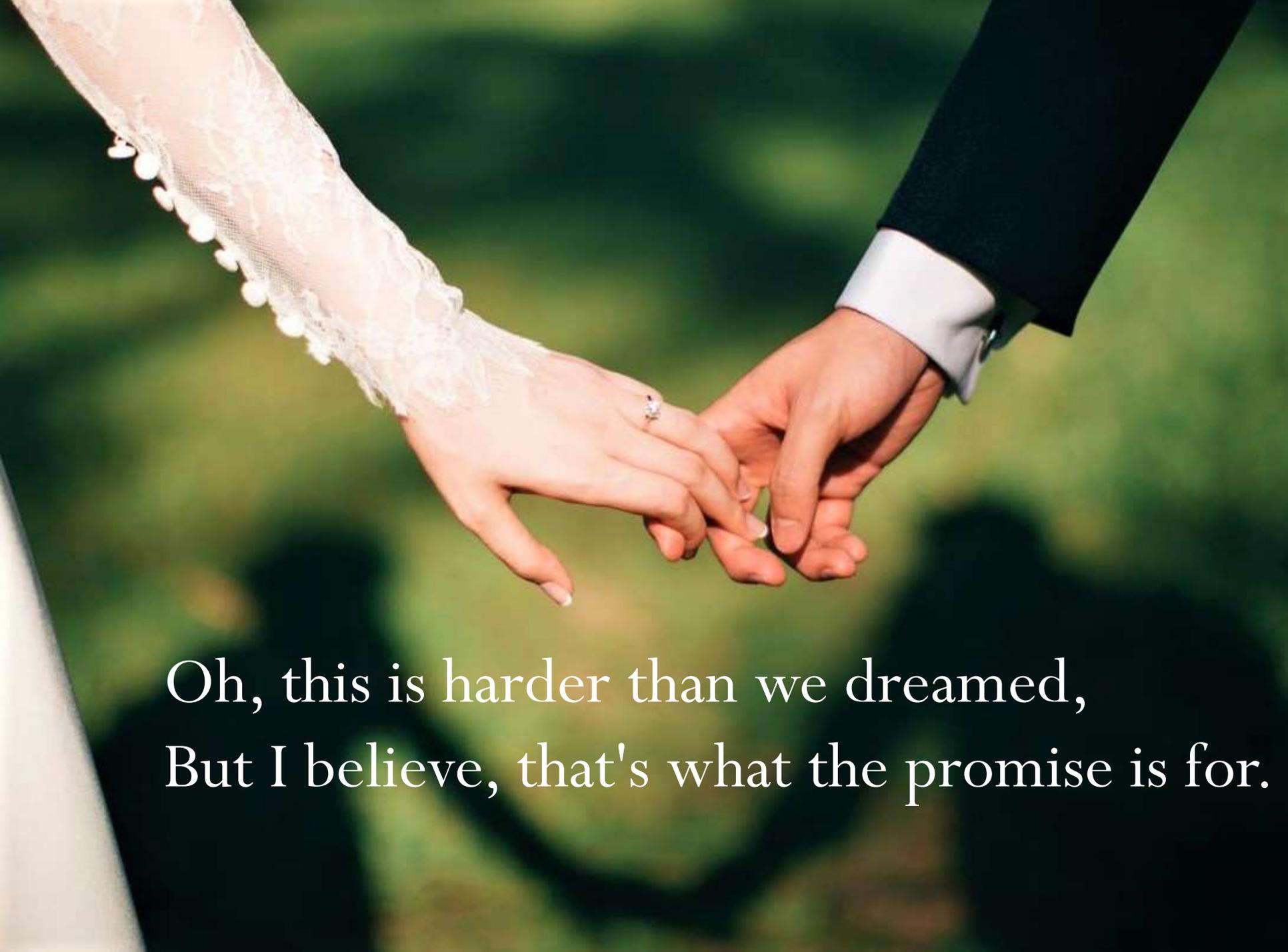
*Cause the only way to find your life  
Is to lay your own life down.*



And I believe it's an easy price  
For the life that we have found.



So let's go dancing in the minefields.  
Let's go sailing in the storms.



Oh, this is harder than we dreamed,  
But I believe, that's what the promise is for.



That's what the promise is for.



# Cross Purposes