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## **Your Wedding Ceremony: What Style is Right for You, Your Partner and Your Love? ©2008**

Congratulations: You're engaged! Now it's time to gather your community and make your promises. Before you get run over by the wedding industry truck, stop and consider what style wedding would make you and your partner really happy. Saying I love you, now and always, is nervous-making in the best of situations. So why not look and feel safe, attractive and focused on your loving relationship?

Pay attention to who you are! Just going along with current wedding styles can cause you unnecessary anxiety at this important occasion. Fairy tale weddings are all the rage. But fairy tales aren't necessarily the best metaphor for a wedding. "And they all lived happily ever after" doesn't honor the hard work and dedication that lasting marriage requires. Beautiful weddings don't require fairytale trappings.

Times are changing. The wedding day is no longer just the bride's "Special Day." People are finally understanding that it's the groom's wedding as well and that the best weddings reflect both partners. While rituals are "time outside of time" they also want to be congruent with the life you live. They should honor both of you.

Here are some things to think about before choosing a wedding style. Your answers may determine how you choose to be married. They should certainly be based on how you expect to live your life together.

- Who are you as a couple? What do you like to do together?
- How much do you really want to spend on a wedding?
- What's most important to you as you gather your community together?
- How intimate or how public do you want to be on that day? (size matters!)
- How formal are you? What kind of formality will your community expect?

Weddings should be more formal than the rest of your life. You are creating and committing to life-changing promises. This sacred activity requires solemnity. So, honor those promises and yourself at the same time. Be comfortable, focus your anxiety on the enormity of your commitment. Let your wedding celebrate your delight to be marrying one another.

You're not there to support the wedding industry — it's there to support you. Construct a wedding day and a wedding ceremony as a strong foundation for the life you will to lead. You and your love deserve to live happily and healthily ever after. That, I truly believe.

If you want to create a wedding that truly reflects who you are, sign up for the Wedding Style Tip Sheet at my website <http://www.annkeelerevans.org>