

YOUR WEDDING: MAGIC OR MAGICAL?



JP Reynolds

JPR Weddings

818-415-8115

jp@jprweddings.com

jprweddings.com

I officiate over seventy weddings a year—non-denominational, inter-faith, cross-cultural. 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've officiated over one thousand weddings! And I'm now convinced that the question every couple needs to explore and answer BEFORE you begin planning for your wedding day is this:

What does your wedding day mean to you?

Perhaps this strikes you as an odd question since everybody knows what a wedding means—or at least what it's supposed to mean.

However, often in the hubbub and chaos (yes, chaos!) of planning for your wedding, it's 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're not "married" the night before your wedding, then no officiant has the mojo that suddenly, with a "puff," will make you married!

Who you are the night before your wedding, who your partner is the day before the wedding, that is who you will be, who he/she will be, the day after your wedding. What delighted you about your partner will remain as will what annoyed you. And the rituals and routines you've developed for dealing with all that delights and irks you will also 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 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!

Remember this as you go about planning your wedding and you'll create a day that truly will be magical.

Cover photo: Ray Soemarsono of aperturaphoto.com