Wedding Vows written by Brian Clark and Sara (Carpenter) Clark recited in front of friends and family in St. Louis in May 2008 and in North Carolina in June 2008

Brian:

Mi esposa hermosa,
You are an individual.
You are a living, breathing, human being equipped with consciousness and free will.
You are not a prototype.
You are not a mold in which I will try to stuff the aberrations of your behavior.
I perceive you to be no other than yourself.
Loving what I know of you
And trusting what I do not yet know.
I respect your integrity as an individual.

I promise to encourage your compassion
Because that is what makes you unique and wonderful.
I embrace you with all your faults and your strengths,
As I offer myself to you with my faults and my strengths.
I promise to be your partner in all endeavors,
Not possessing you, but integrating my parts with yours to form a synthetic whole and working in unison toward a mutual future.

I love you. I am proud to be your best friend and your equal partner in life.

Sara:

Mi amor,
I come to you now, not from obligation or need, but from a passion for the future I see with you.
I pledge my love, not as a hope, not as an idea, but as a deep commitment to our relationship.
To be with you, is to share, is to be more, and to delight in the giving and receiving.

I promise to encourage your individuality,
Because that is what makes you unique and wonderful.
I embrace you with all your faults and your strengths,
As I present myself to you with my faults and my strengths.
I didn't know it was possible to find a partner that fits so well,
but we have known since we first connected.
Brian, I love you, I am proud to be your best friend and your equal partner in life.

[Purple read together, blue is Sara, red is Brian]
Together, through the various circumstances of life, we will dream and live as one synergistic, reciprocating system, committed to respecting each other's integrity, intently listening to each other, constructively communicating with each other, defining and working toward our mutual goals, and sustaining each other's individual goals. Our journey together will range from adversity to prosperity. When times are prosperous, the realization of our dreams will be effortless. But when difficulty leaves us depleted, we must restore each other. When a challenge causes one of us to stumble, the other will provide support and comfort. Other moments will fall somewhere in the middle. And it is here in this gray area, not clearly marked by the polar extremes, that it will be imperative to remind each other of our passion ~ for one another, for our dreams, and for our future. "We are both complete, yet together, we can find a greater whole, a greater purpose, a greater joy, and a life filled with love."