

Romans 6:4

Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

When a single man (or woman) meets or sees someone that they are interested in, one of the first things they do is look down his or her's left arm, down to the left hand and at the ring finger on that left hand. If they see a ring, then all bets are off, stay away because she (or he) is not available because she (or he) is married. And we all know that's what it means to wear a ring on the left-hand ring finger.

Now if he or she has a ring on their pinky, middle finger, index finger or even their thumb, just because it's on the left hand does not mean she is married. Once again everyone knows this and young (or older) single men and women, you better make sure you are checking before you make any attempts to win that man or woman's heart.

But you know what, the rage used to be that there was a single diamond solitaire engagement ring that a woman would wear, then there was what is called a wedding band, which usually had smaller diamond chips in it or very small diamonds. Then after the wedding, the two rings (Engagement and wedding band) would be soldered together to form one ring. That was one way that the ring would be displayed, and it was so beautiful that it was obvious that it was a wedding ring, and that the woman was married. But today, it's not like that. In a lot of cases, the woman's ring is a diamond ring, but with fashions now-a-days, it's not always what we would think of as a wedding ring.

Some don't have much money so they will buy a gold or even silver wedding band, which could cost as little as fifty bucks.

Even more so in these times, there are couples who will have a ring tattooed on their wedding finger instead of wearing a ring.

But think about this, does the cost, or look of a wedding ring determine how married someone is?

Is the woman wearing a five-thousand-dollar wedding ring more married than the woman wearing a fifty-dollar wedding band?

Does a single man look at the ring on the woman's wedding finger and think, "*Wow, that looks like an expensive wedding ring, I better not mess with her because she is 'really married'.*"

But on the ring finger of the woman with the silver wedding band does he think, "*She can't be 'that married' because of that ring, so she is free to pursue.*"

No, in both cases, it not the ring that makes a woman married or more married, but rather its the vows that she made to her husband that makes her married, the ring is just a symbol of those vows.

Now think about baptism, we know that baptism does not save us anymore than a woman wearing a ring on her left-hand ring finger makes her married.

But like the ring the woman is wearing, it's a symbol of the vows and commitment she made to her husband. Baptism is like that wedding ring, where we are testifying to everyone that we have chose to repent of our sins and give our life completely over to Jesus, just as a man and woman made vows to give their life to their spouse.

That's what baptism is like, it doesn't save you, it's a symbol of your commitment to Jesus, and as we read in today's verse that we will now "*walk in newness of life*" just as marriage you walk in a newness of life with your spouse.

† **2 Corinthians 5:17** *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.*

† **Revelation 21:9** *Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls filled with the seven last plagues came to me and talked with me, saying, "Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb's wife."*