

The Engagement Ring (Ephesians 1)

Engagement rings come in all types and shapes. Some have beautiful, expensive diamonds, others not so expensive diamonds and some no diamonds at all, just a wedding band, depending on the culture and custom of the individual. They are, however, a dream of all girls. We eagerly wait for our prince, who will give us a ring that seals our relationship “until death us part”. God created us to belong to someone and to be part of someone’s life, especially in the bond of love; love that bonds two as one as God intended. When God created Adam, He saw that it was not good for him to be alone; so He created a woman to be his companion. But Love has been the most misinterpreted feeling between a man and a woman. “Love at first sight” is sometimes not love at all, but just a sexual attraction. This sexual attraction is called infatuation; the person infatuated is carried by unreasoning passion of the moment, which is short lived. This is just carnal love at its best. Love is much more than the sexual attraction, for we do know that when the perfection takes in the imperfection (after years of marriage), and the attraction is no longer there, love goes through the testing of time, and in many cases without success. Only the true love will endure the hardship of the relationship.

When two persons unite under the law of marriage, in agreement with the Word of God, they become one in the flesh, and they no longer should live for self, but for each other. God commands the man to love his wife to the extent that YAHSHUA loved His church and gave His life for her. When man takes his spiritual position in the home, everything falls into place; the wife will submit and respect him and the children will obey their parents. This harmonizes God’s plan for the family. What is the significance of an engagement ring? It is a seal. When a man gives a ring to a girl, he sets her apart for him only. She is chosen to be his wife. The ring being a circle shows its completeness in bonding together the bride and the groom. It is a symbol of love and it means togetherness “Until death us part”.

But the most beautiful ring ever given is the one in the spiritual realm with meaning too deep for everyone to understand. This ring is the HOLY SPIRIT; the believer is given Him as a seal, marking her for the day of her redemption and her wedding with the Lamb of God – YAHSHUA. With the seal of His Holy Spirit, the bride is secured in His promise of salvation and it is her official mark of identification; she is under the authority of whose stamp is on the seal: (1) security (Matt. 27: 62-66); (2) authenticity (1 King 21: 6-16) (3) ownership (Jer. 32:10) and (4) authority (Esther 8:8-12). The Holy Spirit is given as His pledge of the believer’s future inheritance in glory (2 Cor. 1: 21) (John MacArthur). When the believer was sealed with the HOLY SPIRIT, to him/her was given all the privileges of blessings of a bride. He was given to stay with her forever; and He has made her His own; as the believer is engaged to Him, she is set apart for Him; in Him she has the anticipation of his full redemption and her acquiring complete possession of it (Ephesians 1:14). YAHSHUA described the HOLY SPIRIT the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth; He is our intercessor, helper, advocate, strengthener, He is our teacher and He is in close fellowship with us. The life we have is from Him; YAHSHUA told Nicodemus, I tell you, unless a man is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. What is born of the flesh is flesh; and what is born of the Spirit is spirit; marvel not at My telling you, You

must all be born anew (John 3: 5-7). As our intercessor He comes to our aid and bears us up in our weakness; for we do not know what prayer to offer nor how to offer it worthily as we ought, but the Spirit Himself goes to meet our supplication and pleads in our behalf with unspeakable yearnings and groaning too deep for utterance (Rom. 8:26). He encircles us with His love, sealing us as the ring of engagement for the day when we will be presented to the Son- YAHSHUA, a bride sanctified, without spot and faultless. *By Him we are developing spiritually until we will attain unity in the faith and in the comprehension of the knowledge of the Son of God, so that we mature in the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ and the completeness found in Him* (Ephesians 4:13).

Paul admonishes us not to offend or vex or sadden the HOLY SPIRIT by Whom we are sealed and secured for the day of redemption. He said, Let all bitterness and indignation and wrath and resentment and quarreling and slander be banished from you, with all malice (Ephesians 4: 30, 31). These and all sins are causes to grieve Him and impair our relationship with Him. We must present our body to Him as a living sacrifice, worthy of His presence. The HOLY SPIRIT does not deserve a dirty temple to dwell in. Let's clean our closets where we accommodate and hide our sinful habits, limiting His freedom to be Lord and let's give Him complete freedom of His temple. We are sealed with His righteousness to live accordingly. This way we, the bride of Christ, will be found worthy of God's seal of His Spirit, or His engagement ring. We were reconciled to God and His rightness imputed to us to be holy as He is holy. When the prodigal son returned home from the world of sin, his father, who had been waiting him, dressed him in the best robe, gave him a ring, and sandals for his feet (Luke 15:22). This well represents the acts of our heavenly Father when we come back to Him with a broken heart. The robe, for example represents His righteousness imputed on us; the ring represents His Holy Spirit sealing us, setting us apart for the day of salvation, and the sandals represent firm-footed stability for promptness. So grieve not the HOLY SPIRIT of God; He is the seal that guarantees you your salvation; He is your engagement ring that separates you from the world to be His and His alone.

THINK ABOUT IT!