

STRANGE MARRIAGE!

The wedding was over. Joe and his bride were alone at last. As the car pulled away from the curb, the bride moved over to the far seat and said, "Joe, take me home!"

"Home?" Joe exclaimed. "But we haven't started our honeymoon yet!"

"Joe," the bride said, "I'm glad we're married. We belong to each other and I can use your name as mine, but please, I want to go back to my old apartment. Now that we're married, I'll try to see you once a week. But as far as living together with you is concerned, nothing doing! I'm going back to my old occupation, my old friends, my old pastimes. Oh yes, I do love you! I've accepted you as my husband, haven't I? I belong to you forever. But I refuse to let you interfere with my life. Of course, if I'm sick or if I need money, I'll call you at once, because, after all, I accepted you as my husband. In the meantime, thank you for loving me. Thank you for being my husband, but just keep (your) hands off of my life!!!"

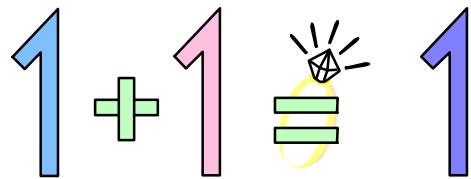
What do you think of this article? Marriage? hardly. And yet there are many who call themselves Christians

whose attitude toward Jesus is exactly the same as this bride's to her groom. They say in effect, "Lord, I have accepted you as my Savior. I thank you for saving me. Now leave me alone! I'm going back to my old way of life.

I'll expect you to help me if I need it since you are my Savior. But as far as living with you is concerned, nothing doing! Of course, when I die I want to come and share the home you are preparing. But I hope that will not be for a long, long time!"

In Romans 7 we see what is involved in becoming a true Christian. Paul, using marriage as an illustration, says that the Christian is espoused to the Christ who died for our sins and rose again in triumph from the tomb. He then says that, being dead to what we were before, we must now serve the one to whom we are wed in newness of the Spirit.

In the moment you came up out of the waters of baptism you were "married to another, even to Him who is raised from the dead" (Romans 7:4).



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(Article Edited)