

Wearing Engagement Rings

Answered by Shaykh Uthaymeen

Shaykh Uthaymeen: The Dibla (دبلة) is an expression for a ring; a ring that a man gives his wife. And there are some people who place the ring on her finger when they want to marry her or when they marry her. This custom was not previously known to us. And Shaykh Albani, may Allah give him success, mentioned that this custom has been adopted from the Christians. The pastor gathers the two spouses at the church and the woman puts the ring on her fourth finger (ring finger) or her middle finger, I do not know the method in which it is done, but he said it is taken from the Christians. Therefore there is no doubt that avoiding this is more befitting, in order that we do not resemble other than the Muslims.

In addition to this, some of the people associate a belief with this practice. The husband will engrave his name on the ring he wishes to give his wife and she will engrave her name on the ring she wishes to give her husband. And they believe that as long as the ring is on his finger and his wife's name is on the ring and as long as the ring is on her finger and her husband's name is on the ring, they will not separate. This belief is a type of shirk (polytheism). And this is from Tiwalah; which is something the wife attaches to her husband and he attaches to his wife (believing that it will cause them to love each other). Thus if this practice is connected with this belief it is not permissible.

Thus there are two issues concerning this. The first issue is this practice is taken from the Christians. The second issue: if the husband believes this is the reason for the connection between him and his wife then it becomes a type of shirk. For this reason we see that it is better to leave this.