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## Four Widows on Finding an Enduring Connection with Their Deceased Husbands and Moving on with Life

Each one of four widows dealt with her wedding ring in a different way after her husband died. One removed her ring and put it away in her jewelry box. “We were married until death parted us,” she said. “Now I am no longer married to him.” She did not mean that she no longer loved her former husband, but she wanted to emphasize through her actions that death had separated them and that the separation was a permanent one.

A second widow continued to wear her wedding ring on the third finger of her left hand. She knew her husband was dead, but she wanted to emphasize that she still felt connected to him. She felt very content with the legacy of her long, happy, and fulfilling marriage, and she did not intend to look for another husband or a new relationship with another man.

A third widow moved her wedding ring from the third finger of her left hand to her right hand. She did not want to take it off completely or hide it away because it was an important heirloom from her grandmother. Also, she sought an outward sign both to show that she thought of herself as no longer married while also maintaining some tangible indicator of a continuing bond with her deceased husband.

A fourth widow removed her husband’s wedding ring before his body was buried. She had a jeweler refashion it, along with her own wedding ring, into a new piece of jewelry, a pendant that she wore around her neck every day. She said, “Now I have a new relationship with my deceased husband, and my lovely pendant symbolizes that new relationship.”

*Source:* Based on Corr, 2001a.