

Man with 2 Wedding Bands

Reader's Digest recently published an article about a man named Patrick Cooney entitled *Why I Wear Two Wedding Bands*.

Cooney said that he has worn two wedding bands for more than a dozen years. When he is asked about them, he responds, "I have two wives." He's kidding, of course.

One day, a stranger would not let him off with this glib answer about why he wears two bands. So, Cooney spilled the whole story.

He explained that his father died in 1999. As they were saying their final farewells at his father's funeral, his mother – who had been married to his father for 50-plus years – removed his father's wedding band and handed it to Patrick.



Surprised, he placed the gold band on his left middle finger, next to his wedding band. There it remained. He told the stranger that he wears his father's wedding band to honor his father and his parents' marriage. He also wears it to remind himself to be the son, brother, husband and dad that his father wanted him to be.

Cooney is now 60 years old and has been married for 30 years.

The stranger walked away, then turned back and said, "Sir, you know I have my father's wedding band in my sock drawer at home, and beginning today, I am going to start wearing it."

That's a powerful story. But isn't it true of all of our relationships – what they are or ought to be?

It's important not only to be faithful and attentive to our spouse, but to our children, our parents, and our friends as well.

It's imperative in our professional relationships, too. Life Care and Century Park are companies built on relationships. They are our business – relationships with residents, with their families, with our associates, with hospitals in our service area, with senior centers, with state surveyors, with churches and other organizations from which we draw volunteers. In short, with everyone.

More importantly, God desires a close relationship with us:

See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are (1 John 3:1 ESV).

– Beecher Hunter