

Patriarchs' Journal™

Dedicated to the restoration, support and encouragement of biblical family structure.

Volume 1
Issue 2

Divine Sustainer

by — Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

The LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a help meet for him" (Genesis 2:18).

This single verse from Genesis reveals to the observant student of Scripture the most amazing role of the wife to her husband. As we shall see, the significance of this passage, as well as the divine role that the Lord has give to the wife, is truly astounding.

This passage is so rich in truth regarding the husband-wife relationship, but in this particular study we shall go to the very crux of the matter.

Here we see the wife in her role as companion, helper, co-laborer and assistant; but now we shall see her in her largest and most significant role: that of *sustainer*, for this is truly the heart of the matter concerning God's use of the word "help."

As we shall see, Eve was made – by divine design – to be Adam's sustainer. A careful study of the Hebrew word for "help" is where we will learn the very core of who God made the woman to be. The Hebrew word is "ezer." Outside of the context of Eve, the word is used 19 more times in the Old Testament. Of these 19 times the vast majority (at least 16 of them) are a direct reference to one of God's attributes. It is in these passages where we will gain our real understanding of this Hebrew word that is translated "help" here in Genesis chapter two.

The verses that follow here are those that have our English word "help" translated from the Hebrew

word 'ezer – referring to a divine attribute.

"The God of my father," said he, "was mine help" (Exodus 18:4).

Hear, LORD ... be a help to him from his enemies (Deuteronomy 33:7).

There is none like unto the God ... Who rides upon the heaven in your help (Deuteronomy 33:26).

O people saved by the LORD, the shield of your help (Deuteronomy 33:29).

(see SUSTAINER, page 19)

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Loving Large

Editorial

A SPECIAL NOTE TO THOSE WHO ARE SINGLE

I recognize that the family and households of our society are profoundly dysfunctional. There are those of you who operate the best that you can without the support of a biblical family in your life.

Dear ones, I want you to know that I love you and my heart is burdensome for you. I want to encourage you, too. The *Patriarch's Journal* is not in any way intended to belittle or demean you. I trust that you understand this.

The fact is, you are very precious to God! I encourage you to walk as best as you can in the light that God has given to you. God truly understands, more than

any other, the situation of circumstances that has you living single. I know it may be a difficult burden for some of you to bear, and you may long for the missing family life.

One day, perhaps you will find a spouse. Or, possibly you will find a precious family of which you can graciously become a part. Many who are single have never considered the option of joining a godly family and making it their own. Nor have those with the precious gift of a biblical household considered expanding their loving and caring to others.

Children without homes are seriously considered for "adoption," but rarely are the needs of adults without a household considered in such a way. What a precious ministry extended family could become – something that was so very common in biblical days.

Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

Patriarchs' Journal™

Volume I, No. 2 – June, 2013

Patriarchs' Journal is a periodical dedicated to the definition, defense, support and encouragement of the God-ordained family as an autonomous, sovereign entity that existed before civil governments and religious organizations, and is independent of their approval and direction.

Patriarchs' Journal is <i>NOT</i> about ...	Patriarchs' Journal <i>IS</i> about ...
Celestial Marriage	Biblical Marriage
Child Brides	Genuine Love
Underage Marriage	Honoring God
Mormonism	Providing for Women & Children
Arranged Marriage	Self-Sacrificial Living
Dishonesty	

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We will attempt to take an honest, fresh look at the subject of the family from a Biblical perspective, and to recover truth that has too long remained hidden under the veils of traditionalism, prejudice, misunderstanding, and fear (Mark 7:7, 13). Readers are encouraged to be as the Bereans and search the Scriptures (Acts 17:10-11; I Thessalonians 5:21). This publication is not intended to provide personal or legal advice.

Minor changes to punctuation and grammar may have been made to articles for better reading.

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SUSTAINER (continued from front page)

The LORD hear you in the day of trouble; the name of the God of Jacob defend you; send you **help** from the sanctuary, and strengthen thee out of Zion (Psalm 20:1-2).

Our soul waits for the LORD: He is our **help** and our shield (Psalm 33:20).

O God: You are my **help** and my deliverer (Psalm 70:5).

Then You spoke in vision ... I have laid **help** upon one that is mighty (Psalm 89:19).

He is their **help** and their shield. O house of Aaron, trust in the LORD: He is their **help** and their shield. Ye that fear the LORD, trust in the LORD: He is their **help** and their shield (Psalm 115:9-11).

I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence comes my **help**. My **help** comes from the LORD, which made heaven and earth (Psalm 121:1-2).

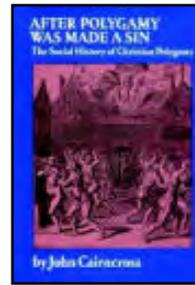
Our **help** is in the name of the LORD, Who made heaven and earth (Psalm 124:8).

Happy is he that hath the God of Jacob for his **help**, whose hope is in the LORD His God (Psalm 146:5).

O Israel, thou hast destroyed yourself; but in Me is your **help** (Hosea 13:9).

We notice from our examination of ‘ezer in these passages, that God’s own role of “help” to Israel as defined by its usage is that of a rescuer, a deliverer, a life-saver – in a word, He is sustainer. His work in this regard is certainly no small matter. ‘Êzer is a word that describes one who actively intervenes.

Robert Alter confirms what we learn from the usage of ‘ezer in the Old Testament. “‘Êzer’ elsewhere connotes active intervention on behalf of



After Polygamy Was Made a Sin

The Social History of Christian Polygamy

by — John Cairncross

260 pp., PB. \$30

Cairncross contends in this fascinating historical analysis that it was when the Church became centered in Rome that “polygamy” became a “sin.” Based on rigorous research he demonstrates however that there is a strong underground polygamous Christian tradition, including support from such prominent figures as Milton, Newton, Spinoza and others.

(see order form on back page)

someone ...” — *Genesis: Translation and Commentary*, W. W. Norton & Co. (1996)

That God would use the exact same word “help” as the description of the woman is very significant. God describes Eve with the very same word that He describes Himself. He committed to her one of His attributes. He gave to her one of His very own roles, so that she may be to her husband a divine vessel of sustenance.

The wife has been designed by God Himself as her husband’s sustainer. She is not merely a “helper” in the sense that she just assists him in lifting the other end of his tool chest, or assists him in balancing the checkbook (although she may do these things). No, she is his divine helper, his divine sustainer, his divinely designed life-saver.

The husband’s sustenance actually comes from God Himself – He is his sustaining source – but God has divinely appointed that His sustaining provision be supplied through the instrumentality of the wife. She is God’s chosen vessel of His sustenance to the husband. She provides her husband with divine sustenance. She has been given to her husband to be God’s channel of divine enablement to him.

(see **SUSTAINER**, page 21)

Equity, Not Equality

by — Dr. Haraymiel Ben Shaleahk

In maintaining his responsibilities towards his wives, a man is to treat them equitably. Equity is an essential ingredient to have ... where there is more than one wife. It should be understood that we are talking about equity and not about equality. To the uninformed I say, there is an important difference between the two. ...

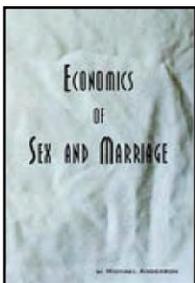
Equality means that everything is done on an even basis or the same thing in the same way for each wife. For instance, if a husband gives one wife flowers he will give each wife flowers. If he takes one to the movies, he will take each of his other wives to a movie. Equity on the other hand, means that each wife is dealt with according to her particular needs and requirements in a loving, fair and just manner ...

Sometimes wives or husbands will expect equality to exist in their marriages. Whenever this is the case, that marriage will suffer unnecessary stress and strain. A husband who feels that everything done for

or with one wife must be duplicated with each of his other wives is inviting hardships into his life. In addition to placing himself into an untenable position, since he cannot realistically maintain such a regimen, he is also teaching his wives to have unreasonable and improper expectations.

This kind of thinking inevitably leads to a mentality in some wives to live by comparison. Therefore, they will judge the value of their lives based on what is occurring with others, rather than what is occurring with them. They will seek to ensure that whatever another wife receives they also receive, and when they don't, they will feel deprived or abused. This mentality will, in time, breed jealousy, envy and strife between wives who are taught to expect equality rather than equity. **U**

Without Pretense: The Final Resolution of the Multiple Wife Controversy
2004, pages 164-165



Economics of Sex and Marriage

by — Michael Anderson

86 pages, PB

We can look all around us and observe many things about human behavior regarding sexuality and marriage.

Using the logical deductive approach of the Austrian economists, this book attempts to provide a unified theory explaining some of the major phenomena of human mating relationships. The seemingly “pro-polygamy” conclusions presented here are bound to make this work controversial, but this was certainly not the author’s intent.

These conclusions follow inescapably when the basic principles of economics are applied to human sexual behavior.

(discontinued)

Statistics

Russia has about 8,000,000 more females than males.¹

USA has about 4,800,000 more females than males.²

New York City has about 1,500,000 more females than males.³

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1. Official Russian Census, 2010: <http://www.perepis-2010.ru/>
 2. Wikipedia: Demographics of USA
 3. Wikipedia: Demographics of NY City

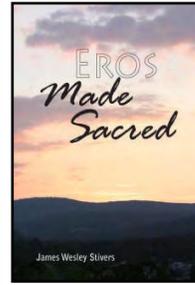
We've Been Brainwashed

Polygyny (one male, many females) is the best mating system for women ... When will women realize this? Forget any preconceived notions that you may about polygamy: we have been brainwashed.

- In polygyny, women have more power in choosing their mate.
- All women get a man, but only some men will get women.
- Women don't have to compete with each other anymore.
- Men would be in competition with each other ... Right now, women hate each other, they compete with each other for the best man, which is how men have been able to oppress us for so long.
- A woman can get a better quality mate (sharing a high quality man is better than having a low quality man to yourself).
- Women are pressured to look and act perfect to attract and keep a man. It would be the opposite in polygyny: men would be competing for us.
- In a polygynous society, there will always be PLENTY of men to choose from. 

“Amy”

Yahoo Answers Fellow Feminists
Social Science Gender Studies
(Abridged)



Eros Made Sacred: or The Biblical Case Made for Polygamy

by — James Wesley Stivers
(originally published in 1991)
74 pages, PB. \$13

This book presents a clear biblical justification for polygamous marriage as sanctioned by the Holy Scriptures. The issue of polygamy is used to contrast current moral biases with those found in the Bible. First published more than 15 years ago, this thoughtful work has gone unrefuted. Provocative, instructional, challenging, edifying. The book chapters are:

- Polygamy: A Biblical Custom
- Objections Answered; In Favor of Polygamy
- The Ministry of the Patriarch
- Polygamy as a Tool of Christian Dominion
- Feminism, Monogamy and Witchcraft

(see order form on back page)

SUSTAINER (continued from page 19)

So God's design in the husband-wife relationship is ultimately a spiritual one, and for us today, husband and wife are the closest members of Christ's body to each other.

From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplies, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, makes increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love (Ephesians 4:16).

By God's design, the husband-wife relationship is the very closest joint within the body of Christ. Who could be more "fitly joined together"? Thus there is an "effectual working" between the two of them – she being his designed sustainer, in the likeness of God's very own role. 

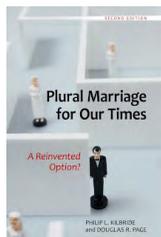


Clyde has been an active Bible student and teacher for 40 years, and has 19 published books. He resides in Windber, PA enjoying the greatest roles of his life: husband, father, and grandfather.

Interview

with Douglas R. Page

Co-author (along with Phil Kilbride) of *Plural Marriage for Our Times*



What prompted you to write *Plural Marriage for Our Times: A Reinvented Option? 2nd Edition*? What “message” do you want to communicate?

My involvement co-authoring this book came about because I wrote an article about changing family structures for a local parenting magazine in Massachusetts, called *Bay State Parent*.

As I was researching the article, I realized, given the popularity of the show *Sister Wives*, that we needed something about plural marriage, often referred to as polygamy. I conducted a “Google” search for polygamy experts and came across Phil Kilbride.

I called Phil’s office and left a message. A day or two later, I called him back and we talked at length about

his research into plural marriage, the first edition of his book, and where marriage and divorce stand today.

I was very impressed with Phil. He had great energy and loved the topic. I also came away with the impression that this was a man who loved to teach.

The article appeared in the February 2011 edition of the magazine and I sent Phil a link to the article so he could read it.

And read it, he did!

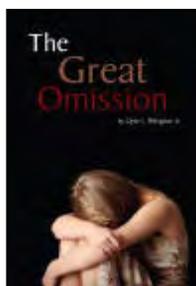
He also printed it out and used it in some of his classes, he told me. At about the same time, he contacted me and inquired if I’d be interested in joining him as the co-author on his book.

Part of my interest in this topic stems from the fact that I witnessed my parents’ divorce when I was 21. Theirs was a marriage that, on the surface, seemed perfect. There was never an argument, and they appeared to love one another dearly. Little did I know that there were some long-simmering problems between them.

Their divorce left an indelible mark on me. I’ve been married now for more than 20 years, but I continue to think about my parents’ divorce. Divorce is one the most detrimental events any child can experience, especially when they’re young but even when they’re into their adult years. For any child, I believe, divorce is as traumatic an event as the death of a parent.

So when Phil mentioned his thesis – allow adults a plural marriage option instead of forcing them to divorce when things aren’t going well in the marriage – I thought he was onto something.

Our opinions and thoughts on marriage and divorce often come from wives, husbands, marriage coun-



The Great Omission: *Christendom's Abandonment* *of the Biblical Family*

by — Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

204 pages, PB. \$15

This book presents twenty years of study, taking a candid look at the issue of multiple wives in Scripture and society. The book chapters are:

- The Problem: The Sad, Ignored Epidemic
- The Divine Provision
- The Marital Gift
- The Old Testament Scriptural Precedent
- The New Testament Scriptural Precedent
- The Religious System’s Destruction of the Biblical Family
- The History of Its Practice
- The Cultural Issue
- The Benefits of Plural Marriage
- Who Is Immoral?

This book also has 14 appendixes.

(see order form on back page)



selors and the clergy. But the voices of the people most impacted by divorce – children – are rarely heard from if ever at all. In fact, if you think about it, they're pretty silent.

Phil had also experienced divorce. I'm not sure how long he and Janet were married but their union produced a daughter. While I never met Phil face to face, based on our many telephone calls, I came away with the impression that he was upset about the breakup. I think what bothered him the most was that he felt he'd let down his daughter. I'm also under the impression that, in spite of their differences, Phil and Janet made their daughter their priority and made it known that she was very much loved and accepted by both of them.

We live in a society that's very different from the one I knew as a kid back in the 1960s and 1970s. It's easy to look around a high-income suburb in the United States and see society as it's always been – filled with stay-at-home moms, dads at the office and rarely a fractured family.

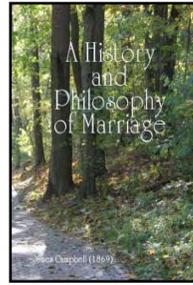
But if you travel not far from where I live in Massachusetts, to, say, Framingham, or parts of South Boston, you see a very different society, one that's often filled with young, single mothers and, sometimes, a father nowhere to be seen.

Or, sometimes, we read about, as we did earlier this year in *The New York Times*, women in their 20s giving birth even though they have no intention of marrying their child's father.

If the children of these unions never see their mothers marry, will they marry themselves? What impression will they have of love and commitment if their mothers and fathers remain single?

This is what we need to consider. How will today's babies born to mothers and fathers who remain single view childhood, marriage, love and commitment?

These situations – and the many more we wrote about in the book – made Phil and I ask if the current laws prohibiting plural marriage in the United States serve the nation's children well. As we see it, they don't.



A History and Philosophy of Marriage:

Polygamy and Monogamy Compared

by — James Campbell
(originally published in 1869)

142 pages, PB. \$20

A reprint of the Christian Philanthropist James Campbell's classic work originally published in 1869 in Boston, Massachusetts.

(see order form on back page)

Marriage is about more than just love. It's also about money, jobs, healthcare, property rights, inheritance, living conditions, children, extended family members, religion, schools and likely much more. It's also about the kind of society we want, not only today but, with our children, well into the future.

So if this book has a message it's this: Plural marriage is a way to augment family life in America, care for our kids so they can come to know and understand marriage, help women, especially mothers, and, hopefully, put a dent on the number of fractured families. This is not – let me repeat – not a sexual system.

What was the highlight of your research? In the course of your research, what discovery surprised you the most? What surprises readers/others the most about your research?

There were four things: First, reading the many legal arguments that will likely be made on behalf of plural marriage, especially when "Sister Wives" reality television star Kody Brown and his wives challenge the constitutionality of Utah's laws prohibiting polygamy in Salt Lake City's U.S. District Court in January 2013; second, the material I read and interviews I conducted about African American family life. Many of the problems associated with African American family life can be attributed to slavery and racism; third, the data on marriage and family life from the U.S. Census Bureau, which shows traditional families on the decline; fourth, the fact that many Native American tribes, well before they saw their first European settlers, engaged in a variety of family structures, including plural marriage.

(see *INTERVIEW*, page 25)

Gospel Parenting

by — Stephen Hill

Within minutes after my first child was born, I knew that parenting would be one of the most challenging endeavors of my life. I looked at my newborn daughter (and 17 months later, my son), and realized that they knew nothing apart from the instinctive urge to feed. My wife and I would be responsible for teaching them everything. The sudden realization was overwhelming, to say the least. No task could be as important (or difficult) as raising a child in a sinful world, and it is a task we parents simply can't afford to neglect.

Parenting has existed on earth since Adam and Eve, and one may expect to obtain valuable insight from examining their record. When we do, the results are not as appealing as we might expect. On the contrary, the first parents have a dismal record with one of their sons killing his own brother.

Yet maybe the failure of the first parents is due to nothing more than their lack of experience. Maybe humanity has discovered more effective ways to parent over the many centuries since Adam and Eve. After all, this only seems logical.

However, when we look at parenting over the entire course of history, we discover that it has *not* improved overall and, if anything, has only gotten worse. The parenting problem is so widespread that even the world has attempted to solve it. Countless studies have been done to determine the most effective ways to raise respectful, law-abiding children who will contribute to society as adults. As with every issue, the world claims to have all of the answers when it comes to parenting; but the world's answers are continually proven wrong when the results leave much to be desired.

So what *is* the answer? How can believing parents fulfill the weighty obligation of raising their children in godliness in the midst of so much sin and worldly pressure?

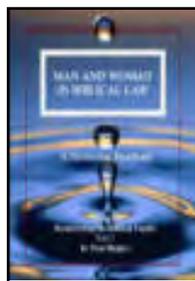
The answer: We can begin in the Bible.

In John 1:14-17, John refers to Jesus as “*the Word*” Who “*became flesh ... full of grace and truth.*” He goes on to say that “*the law through Moses was given; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.*”

Jesus, the Word made flesh, is the epitome of *grace and truth*. John contrasts the strict requirements of the law of Moses with the grace provided through Christ. In short, the grace made possible by Christ has brought a radical transformation. For us now, *everything* can be examined through the lens of grace and truth, and God's Spirit equips us with both the *ability* to decipher the truth and the *power* to act upon it.

While parenting is never easy, the ability to filter our parenting decisions through the standards of *grace and truth* as the foundations of our evangel arms us with a priceless advantage. There is no dilemma for which we cannot find an answer in God's Word. Even when the Bible doesn't seem to provide a crystal clear answer, we can generally arrive at the solution by looking at the world's answer and doing the opposite.

(see *PARENTING*, page 26)



Man and Woman in Biblical Law

by — Tom Shipley

268 pages, PB. \$30

The goal of this book is to lay the foundation for the establishment of a truly biblical social order, especially within the community of Bible-believing, Christ-honoring families. The subject matter is patriarchy. The biblical exposition contained herein is devoted to establishing the proposition that it is patriarchy which was and is mandated by God ever since the original creation of man and woman. The scriptural discussion on polygamy here serves as a supporting role to the fundamental proposition of God-ordained and mandated patriarchy.

(see order form on back page)

INTERVIEW (continued from page 23)

These issues seem to surprise some of the people I've spoken to who have read the book. How did your research change your outlook on the subject?

Phil's research gave me a better appreciation and understanding of the "wife-in-law" or "husband-in-law" trap that sometimes second wives and husbands experience. I've seen some of this with my dad who has remarried twice since divorcing my mother. I've also had friends and colleagues share their experiences of being the "wife-in-law" and also have to weigh in on how children are brought up. My father, for that matter, has experience in bringing up the children of his two other wives.

How have people reacted to your book and/or the ideas you set forth? Is it what you hoped for, or is there more work to be done?

So far the reaction has been positive, but I'm sure someone will take us to task over what we wrote. After all, we've taken a very provocative yet nuanced stand toward plural marriage.

Let me also make something clear: It would have been much easier to write a book that dismisses the arguments for plural marriage. In other words, intel-

lectually speaking, it would have been, I believe, very easy to say plural marriage doesn't work in the United States for a variety of reasons and here they are. I believe, and Phil did, too, that it was much harder for us to prove our point, which is that plural marriage can be an option. If the U.S. Supreme Court is ever given the opportunity to rule on plural marriage – and let's say they rule that it's a constitutional right – then it wouldn't be the first time the United States has changed its marriage laws. **H**

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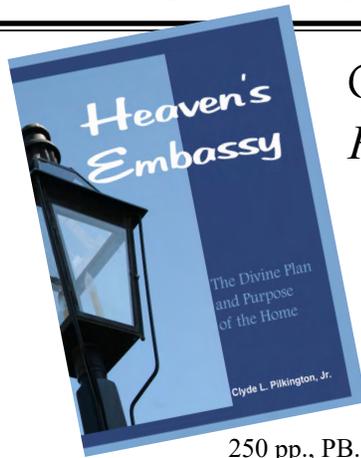
October 23, 2012

Douglas is a freelance writer and reporter. His work has appeared in the *San Francisco Chronicle*, *The Journal-Gazette*, *News & Tech*, and *Bay State Parent*.



Tragically, co-author Philip L. Kilbride died about two weeks after the book was released. He came down with cancer back in August and died four weeks later in mid-September. He was 70 years old and left behind a wife and three children.

Phil's passing is a profound loss not only for Bryn Mawr College, where he taught for more than 40 years, but also for the worldwide anthropology community. He was a terrific man, great teacher, great dad and, as one of his colleagues said, "intellectually fearless."



Heaven's Embassy – The Divine Plan & Purpose of the Home

by – Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain who build it (Psalm 127:1).

This book represents many years of work. The author believes that it is one of the most important books that he will ever be privileged to write, simply because it is about one of the most vital scriptural subjects that could ever be addressed.

The home is central to all of God's dealings with man throughout the course of time. It is His Divine "institution" and "organization" on the earth; and for the believer, it is the *Embassy of Heaven*. An embassy is **"the residence or office of an ambassador."** Since the believer is an ambassador of the Lord Jesus Christ (II Corinthians 5:14-21), his home is thus the *Divine Embassy* of heavenly ministry.

Pauline ministry is centered in the homes of believers. This is even the true sphere of the Body of Christ; for this reason our apostle speaks of *"church in thy house."* This book doesn't focus upon the *external* specifics of the ministry of *Heaven's Embassy* (such as *hospitality*); that will be saved for another volume. Instead, it looks at the inner-workings of the *Embassy* itself, focusing upon its very nature and *internal* purpose and function.

(see order form on back page)

THE FELLOWSHIP INN

At
Pilkington
Abbey

The Fellowship Inn presently is comprised of three houses built in 1895, located in Paint Borough adjacent to Windber, PA. These structures provide ample space for dedicated guest lodging. *The Fellowship Inn* is not a business venture, but the hospitality ministry extension of Pilkington Abbey; there are, therefore, no guest charges.

A large part of the Pilkington family passion has always been hospitality. Father has placed this in their makeup. The website www.FellowshipInn.com is an online calendar that will assist you in coming for a visit. It will allow you to see our family activities and who's scheduled to visit us. Hopefully this will make it easier for *you* to make your plans

to come, and let you know how serious we are about having you visit us.

"If you need fellowship, or sound teaching, or counseling, or you just plain need a break from life and want to come to a place of palpable peace and lovely love for a day, or a weekend, or a week, come here. It's free. Just bring yourself, as you are. Go to the website and make a reservation. Find out when we're all going to be here, and come here and taste for yourself what God has produced in the middle of nowhere." – Martin Zender

PARENTING (continued from page 24)

When a child is bullied, the world's answer is, "Don't you ever start a fight son, but if someone else starts it you be sure to finish it!" The gospel answer, based in grace and truth, is, "Love your enemies and turn the other cheek." When a child is a victim of theft, the world's answer is, "Steal it back because it's rightfully yours!" The gospel answer is "give them more." When a child is severely wronged, the world's answer is, "You don't need to love that person if he hates you." The gospel answer is, "Don't claim credit if you only love those who love you in return." When a child doesn't fit in with the popular crowd, the world's answer is, "Let's change your image with new clothes and hair so you'll be accepted." The gospel answer is, "Find your identity in Christ, not the world."

Of course, even when raising our children in grace and truth, they will inevitably require discipline. Sadly, one of the biggest mistakes parents make is neglecting to discipline their children. Parents fear that their children will become rebellious or view them as mean if they correct them when they "miss the mark." In reality, there is no greater mistake a parent can make. God – the perfect Father – frequently

disciplines His children, and He doesn't do it to be cruel. Rather, He disciplines us all in order to train us in righteousness (Hebrews 12:11). The key with discipline is to act out of love instead of frustration. Paul instructs us to not vex our children (Ephesians 6:4), because when they feel unloved they will not respond with openness and trust to our guidance.

Parenting is never easy, but the *perfect* Father has provided us with an invaluable tool to simplify the process greatly. By filtering every decision in raising our children through the standards of grace and truth, opposing the world's ways and lovingly disciplining our children when necessary, we can be confident as parents. Commit to gospel parenting and rest assured that your children will grow up following God rather than the world. **H**

The Word on the Word



Stephen is an author of Bible study books. When not writing, he enjoys making music, traveling and enjoying the outdoors. He lives in western PA with his wife and children where he attempts to fulfill his greatest roles as husband and father.

The Delights of the Sons of Men: Musical Instruments, or Wives?

by — Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

Some men have the gift of having multiple wives. This is their *need* and *delight*. We can see this from the book of Ecclesiastes.

Let's look at the verse first in the *King James Version*:

I gathered me also silver and gold, and the peculiar treasure of kings and of the provinces: I got me men singers and women singers, and the delights of the sons of men, as musical instruments, and that of all sorts (Ecclesiastes 2:8).

The translators were diligent, for whatever reason, to hide the plain meaning of this passage of Scripture. They lead us to believe that the *delights* of the sons of men were all sorts of musical instruments. Don't count on it! Even for men who are taken by musical instruments, this is *not* the *delights* of their lives. This is just not commonly the case!

The two phrases, (1) "*as musical instruments*" and (2) "*that of all sorts*," consist of only two words in the Hebrew text; *actually* one word repeated *twice*.

Strong's Exhaustive Concordance

This single word that is repeated twice is *Strong's Hebrew Lexicon* #7705, *shiddah*, which interestingly enough Strong defines as "a wife."

Brown Driver Briggs Lexicon

Here it is defined as "Concubine, wife."

We can see a more straightforward translation of this word in other versions.

The luxuries of the sons of man – a wife and

wives (*Young's Literal*).

The delights of the sons of men, a wife and very many wives (*Modern KJV*).

The luxuries of the sons of men, and a wife and wives (*A Conservative Version*).

The delights of the sons of men, a wife and wives (*Rotherham's Emphasized Bible*).

The delights of the children of men, a wife and concubines (*J.N. Darby Transaltion*).

That these translations are correct is verified by the *Jamieson–Fausset–Brown Commentary*, which says,

One regular wife; ... other secondary wives.

Summary:

The *delight* of the sons of men is NOT "*musical instruments, and that of all kinds*."

Their delight is the female – God's crowning creation. 



Restoring the Foundations: Essays in Relational Theology

by — James Wesley Stivers
(originally published in 1995)
94 pages, PB. \$13

A companion book to *Eros Made Sacred*. This is a study of the Christian Man's relation to God, woman, his children, his firstborn, social order, etc.

(see order form on back page)

Workers and Lovers

by — David M. Carr

The first thing that the creator God does with the man is not put him in relationship, but places him in the garden to “dress it and to keep it” (Genesis 2:15). God creates the woman not only as an answer to loneliness, but as a helper in this garden work (Genesis 2:18). Thus, the first humans in the garden are two things intertwined, workers and lovers ...

This part of the story can prompt us to consider how erotic love and work might be deeply intercon-

nected. For although many find themselves lost in the grind of meaningless jobs, there can be a deep erotic dimension to work that coincides with what is deepest in ourselves ...

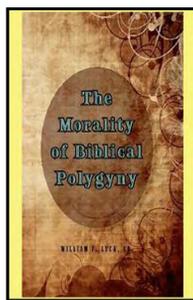
Genesis 2 preserves the vision that work *can* come from our core. Many of us find ourselves caught at least sometimes in oppressive or addictive work ... Indeed, the garden of Eden story sets the first human erotic relationship in the context of just such work. God begins the process of creating the woman by saying, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make an help meet for him” (Genesis 2:18) ... First and foremost, the man and woman in Eden’s garden share in working the ground from which they were made ... It is in the context of such sharing of our deepest vocations that our relationships can become sacred and joyful ...

For Genesis 2 does not envision humans just in joyful embrace of one another, but also as joined in common work; and society does not just shut down humans sexually, but it also forces people to engage in crushing work that alienates rather than enlivens them ... This is the way that we are alienated, day by day and hour by hour, from our core passions and dreams. We may be tempted to assume that this is just the way things are, that we just need to grin and bear it. Yet this ancient text at the outset of the biblical tradition suggests otherwise; it suggests that the God of the cosmos originally formed us for another destiny – for shared work and love. 

The Erotic Word (2003) pp. 34-38



David is professor of Old Testament at Union Theological Seminary.



The Morality of Biblical Polygyny

by — William F. Luck, Sr.

28 pages, PB. \$5

This is an amazing, courageous, contemporary work. William Luck is the son of Moody Bible Institute’s Dr. G. Coleman Luck, Sr, Chairman of the Department of Theology, and a capable biblical scholar in his own right.

“God didn’t ask me my opinion about the issue. He expected me to represent His. I’ve tried. If you can prove I’m mistaken, I’ll be the first to thank you. But I’m not holding my breath in the meanwhile.” – the Author, from the Introduction

“To date [over twenty years after its original publication], I find the arguments ‘pro’ quite superior to those ‘con.’” – the Author, from the Conclusion

- The Background
- Laws That Imply the Moral Propriety of Polygyny
- Passages That Appear To Prohibit Polygyny
- The Association of Polygyny with Other Evils
- Alleged Prohibitions of Polygyny
- The Implications of “Adultery” in the “Vice Lists”
- Questions Concerning the Possibility of Moral Polygyny

(see order form on back page)

Conflicts in the Marriage

by — Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

So you have problems in your marriage? Not to worry. This does not mean that you don't have a "good one." Neither does it mean that it is destined to fail. God has carefully designed everything about life to be an important lesson in our development. Marriage is by no means an exception. In fact, it is one of the greatest of such lessons; and being so it is subject by divine plan to be laden with difficulties. All normal, all in course; so much so that C.S. Lovett wrote:

Marriage and the home is the center of all life on earth ... It is a complete laboratory with all the stresses and strains, trials and pressures packed under one roof ... *Everything* needed to produce Christlikeness in us can be found in the home.

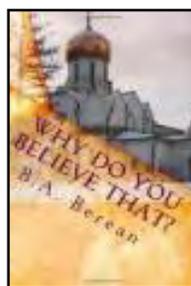
Paul E. Billheimer, in his book *Don't Waste Your Sorrows*, expounds specifically on this point.

Most newlyweds have not yet learned the true meaning of unselfishness. ... The stresses of marriage and the home are designed to produce brokenness, to wean one from self-centeredness, and to produce the graces of sacrificial love and gentleness.

Because so few people understand the nature and purpose of marriage, when unexpected stresses and strains develop they are tempted to feel that they have made a mistake and perhaps have married the wrong person. The next step is to seek a way of escape by one means or another, sometimes through a professional marriage counselor or, more often, the divorce court.

If the marriage counselor is a professional and works for pay, his services, based as they are on Freudian principles, are probably worthless or worse. Except where there is organic difficulty, the root of all conflicts in the home is not mental but spiritual. Psychology and psychiatry are usually totally irreverent. A spiritual problem always has a spiritual cause and requires a spiritual solu-

tion. Many counselors, even some who are Christians, have been so influenced by Freud that they are totally unprepared to deal with a spiritual problem in a scriptural way. Many spiritually discerning persons are quite convinced that psychiatry is Satan's substitute for the biblical remedy for disturbed relations. Many psychiatrists seek to help the person under stress by relieving him of personal responsibility for his difficulty – which only compounds the trouble. The origin of the conflict, except in organic cases, is almost invariably spiritual. The ego is inflated. Love is lacking.
(see **CONFLICTS**, next page)



Why Do You Believe That?

by — B.A. Berean.
148 pages, Paperback

This well written, easy to read book is designed to provoke the reader lovingly to examine why they believe what they believe, while at the same time encouraging and equipping readers to study the Scriptures for themselves. Hold on tight, as aim is taken at a couple of the most sacred cows in the church today: traditional marriage and monogamy. It is done in an effort to help you see that what you've been told the Bible "says" may not actually be what the Bible teaches. Hailed by some advocates of polygamy, plural marriage, polygyny, etc. as the best "under the radar" educational tool available to introduce the masses to Biblical marriage and the options it provides beyond those presented in religious tradition. If you are pro-polygamy, part of the biblical families movement, or simply a truth seeker, you will enjoy reading this insightful book. The Bible study helps presented within these pages are well worth the price of admission. You will want to read it again and again and share it with others.

(discontinued)

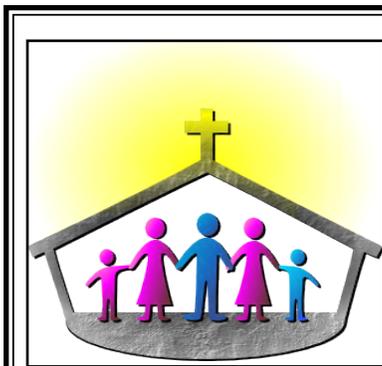


I have been reading your book *The Great Omission* and have been VERY pleased with it. – NC

Every societal downturn I see becoming increasingly worse is directly linked to the breakdown of the family, and in particular absent or neglectful fathers. The Patriarch's Journal will be one of the most important works of our time as I see it, and I'm thrilled you decided to do it. – PA

I agree with everything you teach in *The Great Omission*. You are truly gifted by God on your understanding of scripture and you are a gift to me and others when you spread such truths. – TN

Congratulations on the vision for a free monthly periodical promoting the truth of Biblical Marriage. – FL



Biblical Families

Biblical Families is a ministry dedicated to encouraging and strengthening Biblical marriages, including, but certainly not limited to, plural marriage. We see plural marriage as a good, and caring, option for believers – ensuring that no one need be left without a family.

www.Biblical Families.org

Biblical Families places a strong emphasis on fellowship and supporting each other, as per the New Testament, and organizes national retreats and regional meetings.

Our website includes many helpful resources:

- Online Articles
- Discussion Boards
- Newsletters
- Retreat Information
- Local contacts
- Links to other helpful resources

CONFLICTS (continued from previous page)

This is entirely a spiritual problem. The way out is not through separation or divorce. That would frustrate God's purpose and only aggravate the problems ... Much marriage counseling is oriented toward the here and now. The primary goal is to heal the endangered marriage in the interest of the present happiness of the partners ... Until they understand that life and marriage is an apprenticeship for the practice of agape love in preparation for rulership where the law of love is supreme, they are in danger of loss ...

All of the efforts by psychologists and psychiatrists to bring about a reorientation and reintegration of personalities in marriage without dealing with the basic spiritual problem are in vain. It is sad to see the church and the ministry forsaking the Biblical way of soul healing for a massive satanic delusion. It is one of the most lamentable tragedies of recent history."¹

1. Paul E. Billheimer, *Don't Waste Your Sorrows*, pp. 89-96.

First Century Jewish Polygamy

Q: Was polygamy accepted during the first century? How common was it in the first century?

A: The best record we have, from a traditional Jewish perspective, on first-century life would be the Talmud, the first stages of which were published around the year 200. Any legal matter pertaining to marriage very clearly accounted for the possibility of more than one wife – e.g. the Talmud discusses how to divide an estate between multiple wives, or how levirate marriage works if there's more than one wife. There is one mention of a limit of 4, just as a practical matter of how much, um, "physical attention," a normal guy can be expected to provide to all these women.

Jewish Life & Learning

Questions about Polygamy in Jewish Law and Culture
Isaac E. Moses, Editor

Joseph, the Husband of Mary: A Polygamist

by — George M. Lamsa

The Jews were polygamist like many other Oriental peoples. Men of wealth and nobility married several wives and this custom was also followed by men of the poorer classes. In some cases the Jewish law made it mandatory. For instance, if a brother should die before leaving a wife and no posterity, his brother must mate her and bring a child to his deceased brother. Thus, even those who were content with one wife were often forced by circumstances to take another.

The family unity of Easterners is centered in the father. The mother's side is unimportant. In a family there is only one father, many mothers and the children of all the mothers. In every case, in biblical genealogies, the name of the mother in polygamous families is given with that of her son. This fact explains why the name of the mother is often mentioned in connection with the kings of Israel and Judah. Even today in many Eastern countries where polygamy is still practiced, whenever a son is mentioned, reference is made to his mother as the one who gave birth to him, to distinguish her from other mothers of the family.

There is no doubt that Joseph had other wives. Matthew traces the genealogy of Jesus from Abraham to Joseph. The reference to Mary is to show that Jesus was born of her and not one of the other wives of Joseph. The brothers and sisters of Jesus who are mentioned in the Gospels were not Mary's children, but children of Joseph



Bible Polygamy

Biblepolygamy.com features the straightforward teaching ministry of Brian Kelson. Here is a sampling of many topics found:

- Why teach the truth of Polygamy?
- Why is truth suppressed?
- Polygamist men and women in the Bible
- Early church and Martin Luther
- By the power vested in me?
- Fear & Hypocrisy

When the apostle Paul wrote to the Galatians he had been painted in a negative light by those opposing him. His apostleship had been put in question, his gospel had been ridiculed and his person had been defamed.

Paul's vigorous appeal to his friends was ultimately ignored and in his last letter to Timothy we read that "all in Asia had turned away from him." ... This very Paul warned that in the last days, sound doctrine would not be endured and Christians would ever learn but never acknowledge the truth.

Many attempts will be made to discolor the truth of polygamy, but this site appeals to all readers to examine the Word of God against popular theology.

by other wives. If they had been the children of Mary, Jesus being the eldest son would have asked them to take care of her. Instead, Jesus placed His mother in the care of John. **H**

Gospel Light: Comments on the Teachings of Jesus (compiled and adapted from pages 5, 6, 97, 98, 129)

A.J. Holman, Bible Publishers, 1939



George (1892-1975) was an ethnologist and Aramaic language expert. A native Aramaic speaker, he translated the Syriac Peshitta Old and New Testaments into English.

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