

Patriarchs' Journal™

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

Volume 1
Issue 5

The Divine Provision for Women Who Can't Find Love

by — Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

We should not assume that our ways are normal, and that God's ways are an abnormality which needs vindication. — Greg Bahnsen, *Theonomy in Christian Ethics*, page 580

God has wisely and graciously designed a most marvelous provision for the scores of precious women who cannot find love and marriage within man's system of forced monogamy. Tragically, there has been a wholesale abandonment of this divine design by most of those who profess to represent Him. Not only so, but they have also vigorously opposed and shamed His wise provision.

One of the courageous souls of the past, James Campbell, wrote in 1869,

It is disrespectful to our Creator, and dishonorable to man, to require that love should be suppressed because marriage is inconvenient, and still more dishonorable and disrespectful to require any one to be deprived of the rights of love on account of the impossibility of marriage; for marriage ought to be possible to all ...

We may waive our rights, and live in celibacy, if we prefer to; but no one who loves and who wishes to marry ought to be compelled to remain unmarried. It is, therefore, demonstrated that any form of society which fails to provide for the marriage of all is a defective system, and opposed to the natural, inherent and inalienable rights of man.

There are very many persons, especially many women, who are neither married nor have an opportunity to marry. By some means they have been deprived of their rights. The fault is not

theirs; they would, in almost every instance, prefer wedded life if it were in their power to attain it; but it is not. They possess the same susceptibilities of love, the same yearning for intimate companionship, that others do, but these tender sensibilities they are obliged to repress.

The fault is not in nature, nor in the laws of God, but it is in the tyrannical laws and fashions of the artificial system of social life which now obtains among us. This system must be at fault, for it does not and it cannot provide for the marriage of all. Many who desire to marry are forever deprived of husbands and homes, while the system of polygamy *does* provide for all, and is, therefore, the *only* system which is in harmony with divine and natural laws. This proposition is further demonstrated by the simple fact that the number of mar-
(see PROVISION, page 67)

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Loving Large

Editorial

Dear Ones,

By God's grace it's our privilege and joy to come to you for another month.

For those of you who are practicing polygyny we trust that our labors through the *Patriarchs' Journal* are an encouragement to you. We know that this life is not an easy one. It is our desire to be to you a drink of refreshing, cool water in a dry, desert place.

We welcome our readership to assist us in this monthly endeavor. How can you help us?

Recommend It

Do you know of others who would appreciate receiving the *Patriarchs' Journal*? Perhaps someone who already lives plural marriage? Or, someone who is open to investigating this forgotten aspect of the biblical family?

If so, why not recommend the *Patriarchs' Journal* to them? It could have an impact on their lives. They can sign up for a

free subscription at:

www.patriarchsjournal.com

Submit Material

As you know, the *Patriarchs' Journal* carries both biblical and secular articles, practical as well as scriptural studies, book reviews and excerpts, testimonies, and related news items.

Have you written any material on these themes? Or, have you read anything from other sources that has been a benefit to you?

You can submit material for possible use in future issues by contacting us at:

info@patriarchsjournal.com

My love to each of you.

Until next month,
Grace and Peace,

Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

Patriarchs' Journal™

Volume 1, No. 5 – September, 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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PROVISION (continued from front page)

riageable women always exceeds the number of marriageable men ...

As it now is, there is not a man for every woman; and either some women must remain unmarried and “waste their sweetness on the desert air,” and be entirely deprived of their birthright, and denied all matrimonial advantages, or they may, several of them, agree to share those advantages in common with each other, by having a single husband between them. Polygamy does not compel them to do this: it only permits them to do it in case they have no opportunity to do better.

On the other hand, it does not compel a man to marry even one woman, much less to have more; but, if the intensity of his passion urges him to such lengths that he must have and will have more than one, it requires him to take them honestly and honorably, and to support them and be a true husband to them.¹

Another author writes of Christian women specifically,

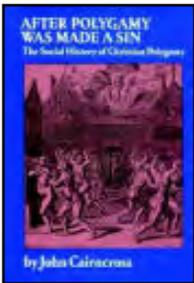
Plural marriage allows women, who love God and who are serious about the family values in the Bible, an opportunity to marry good Christian men ... men who are prepared to take a stand for family values. Men who read the Bible, filled with the Spirit, looking to discover what God has to say to them instead of seeking to impose their thoughts on God. Men offering today’s Christian women the solution that has always been in the Bible – the solution the Church forgot.²

THE REMEDY: PLURAL MARRIAGE

Attorney Adriana Blake advocates the remedy:

We must look at an alternative system that can solve this problem. This book presents the arguments for a return to plural marriage as the solution to the problem of a shortage of marriageable men.

1. James Campbell, *A History and Philosophy of Marriage: Polygamy and Monogamy Compared*, pp. 30-31, 42.
2. Taken from an internet article at: polygamy.com.



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)

What we propose is a revolution in our social structure for the benefit of women and children. Plural marriage is a system that is pro-family, pro-woman, and pro-child.

If plural marriage were practiced, the rate of divorce would be decreased because divorce would no longer be necessary. Men would not have to abandon one wife to take another.

If plural marriage were practiced, there would not be the unnatural phenomenon of single women competing for spouses. Women who wished to marry could do so ...

If plural marriage were practiced, fewer children would grow up in fatherless homes. The father would remain in the home, and the new woman in his life would augment the family rather than destroy it ...

It is time to return to the ancient custom of plural marriage, a social system which allows women to share a husband.

It was a custom that provided that no woman had to live outside of the mainstream of society.

It was a custom that ensured that no woman lived alone unless by choice.

It was a custom that protected women and children and sustained the family.

It was a custom mentioned throughout the Old Testament.

It is still practiced in many societies ...

Plural marriage is for the woman, of whatever age, who doesn't want to live alone, who wants to be a part of a family, who wants a man in her life ...

The alternative to plural marriage is overwork for the single parent, fatherless children, and loneliness.³

One author shares a couple of thoughtful scenarios with us,

A married man and a single woman meet each other at work and become friends. As time passes, their friendship deepens and they develop strong feelings for each other. The man has very strong feelings for his wife at home and has no desire to leave her. He honestly confides in his wife about

this woman at work, and even arranges for them to meet each other, hoping they will become friends.

The wife truly loves her husband. Caring for his happiness, she voices no objection to his other relationship, and actually looks forward to a deep friendship and camaraderie with her.

A strict monogamy tradition prevents close friendships between women, creating contention between them. In monogamy women compete for men, a process that degrades women from their celestial natures to carnality.

Consider two young women, best friends forever from their childhood, who find themselves attracted to the same young man. Their strict monogamy tradition forbids both of them a family relationship with him, so they are immediately in competition, at odds with each other in something that involves their deepest natural drives and attractions. In the spirit of contention they say and do hurtful things, breaking each other's hearts and destroying their friendship.

In the process, the young man is reduced in both of their minds to the status of a prize, a piece of physical property to be won and possessed by one or the other.⁴

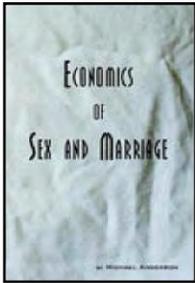
3. Adriana Blake, *Women Can Win The Marriage Lottery: Share Your Man With Another Wife (The Case for Plural Marriage)*, pp. 23-36, 189, 223.

A HIGHLY HONORABLE UNDERTAKING

Providing love, care and headship for a woman in marriage is a highly honorable undertaking. To expand this to an additional wife is indeed a most noble cause. Without a doubt it should be the opportunity of every woman to be cherished and loved by a husband.

When a young bachelor sets out to find a wife, he is regarded with admiration and respect from all around him, for the desire to become a family man is recognized to be one of virtue, a determination to embrace responsibility for others.

4. Ben H. Szymanski, *The Naked Polygamist: Plural Wives Justified*, p. 41.



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)

But when this same young man, grown older and wiser, sets about to embrace responsibility for a second wife with her children while maintaining his responsible roles in the lives of his first family, the world reviles him as a sexual pervert and a tyrant.

Why is this?

I have openly defended the plural family principle for more than fifteen years, and have often been accused of being immoral. Yet I am led to wonder, *who is immoral*: the person who defends family relationships between men and women, or the ignorant accuser who seemingly cannot comprehend anything in the relationship of a man and a woman beyond a penis and a vagina? ...

Polygamy – plural *wives* – **is family**. It is founded in liberty, and bonded by that love which is expressed in the pure giving and receiving of self.⁵

THE SUPREME SACRIFICE

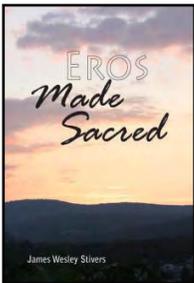
We have all heard of instances where soldiers, in the heat of battle, sacrificed their lives to save comrades ... Yet we do not need to die to obtain this state of existence. There is even a greater love than the supreme sacrifice of death.

Which is greater, to *die* for others, or to *live* for them?

Think about it.

To make the decision to give your life to save another's is instantaneous. There is no time to weigh two sides of the question. You act upon impulse, an impulse provided by love, by that energy within you that tells you that someone else is more important to you than *you* are.

To give your life in the service of others is not so simple or instantaneous as to suffer death for them. Giving your life is an everyday decision, a decision recurring from every moment to every moment. It is not simply one gigantic gift. It is one gift, one sacrifice after another for the rest of your life.



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)

The celestial person does not simply sacrifice his life once. He makes the decision to throw himself on a grenade every day of his life.⁶

THE STABILITY OF PLURAL MARRIAGES

Attorney Adriana Blake again offers some wonderful insight:

There exists today in the United States a surplus of women. These women need to be accommodated in stable marriages and families ... Plural marriages make sense.

Plural marriages would be more stable than monogamous marriages because they would be less susceptible to divorce.

The single woman in her search and need for a husband and father for her children won't find it necessary to displace the present wife in order to secure her objective.

5. *Ibid.*, pp. 29, 31.

6. *Ibid.*, p. 35.

Those men who do not treat women well will do without. There would be no reason for a woman to stay in an abusive and punishing relationship.

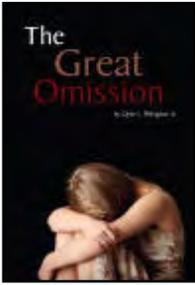
She could leave, free to find a household that would welcome her.⁷

Professor Patricia Dixon adds,

Whatever the case may be, I believe that the only way that our relationships, families and communities will be mended is if polygyny is practiced openly. As an alternative marriage and family form, polygyny can eliminate the potential for dishonesty and deceit (which is divisive) as the basis of relationship formation, provide a larger pool of men for women to select from, avoid women being reduced to their sexuality, potentially hold men accountable to all women with whom they enter into sexual relationships, and provide a mechanism for women and men to work together to build our relationships, families, and communities.⁸

7. Adriana Blake, *Op Cit.*, p. 115.

8. Patricia Dixon, Ph.D., *We Want for Our Sisters What We Want for Ourselves*, p. xi.



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)

“LET THE SURPLUS OF WOMEN BE TAKEN CARE OF BY MARRIAGE”

Physician Phillip Von Hohenheim (1493-1541):

God ordained that marriage be sacred, but He did not prescribe the number of wives, neither a high nor a low one. He commanded: thou shalt be faithful to thy marriage vow, and though shalt not break it. Now it so happens that God has always created many more women than men. And He makes men die more readily than women. And He always lets the women survive and not the men ... And if there is such a surplus of women, let it be taken care of by marriage, so that the meaning of God's commandment may be heeded ... If this cannot be achieved by giving each man one wife, he should have two, or whatever number may be required to take care of the surplus.⁹

As we have stated before, the simple fact of nature is that there are more women than men of marriageable age. This appears always to have been the case. God in His great wisdom has planned it this way, and He has graciously furnished a marital answer for these women by making provision for men to have more than one wife.

Marriage IS honorable in all (Hebrews 13:4).

Marrying an additional wife *is* marriage; and marriage *is* honorable in all!

Excerpt from Clyde L. Pilkington's book,
The Great Omission



9. Cited by George H. Williams, *The Radical Reformation*, p. 509.



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.

Elders: The Forgotten Ministry of Patriarchal Grandfathers

by — James Wesley Stivers

Remember the days of old, consider the years of many generations: ask thy father, and he will shew thee; thy elders, and they will tell thee (Deuteronomy 32:7).

Parents are parents for life, and the covering they provide for their offspring grows ever larger ... The honor due them by their children is one which includes their legacy ... As men grow older, they become exalted fathers, the fathers of fathers.

In ancient Israel, each allotment of land had a village – a cluster of houses where there lived an extended family group (3-5 generations), with their servants, hired hands and their families. Each man was the head of his respective household, but the over-all magistrate for that estate and of all who lived upon it was the leading male member. Generally, that male was the oldest father who was the heir to the land. His word was final. It was he who went to the city gates to convene with the other elders as the family spokesman. Of course, the Grandpa was not to be a tyrant or a despot. If he was, biblical laws had ways of dealing with his sins. He did not meddle in the affairs of his grown children or of residents, as a rule. He supervised the affairs of the estate. He had eminent dominion. Primarily though, he was there for consultation and to sit as a judge in family disputes. The goal of Hebrew education was to train children for dominion over their own estates. The training did not end at age 18. It was a gradual process of transference of power.

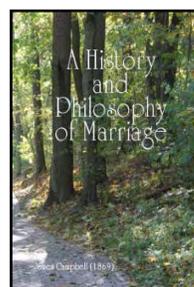
Grandpas had appellate jurisdiction within the family structure and they were the spokesman and elector for the family at the city gate. The village eldership was not subservient to the city eldership. Much like the equal suffrage of the several States in

the United States Senate, they each stood on equal footing, irrespective of the populations of their constituent bodies ...

The link between the private government of the family in the home and on the family estate with the outside world is the eldership of the grandfather. This is the forgotten ministry. 

Except from:

Restoring the Foundations
(See ad on page 75.)



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)

A Woman's Perspective

by — Mary Ben David

There are many who would ask, I imagine, why a woman would choose polygamy? It might be a good deal for a man, many might suppose, but why would a woman choose to share her husband with another woman or women and choose to be a polygamous wife? Why settle for the imagined subjugation, exploitation and degradation?

There are many myths and untruths about the polygamous lifestyle, and there are many different forms and practical applications of the theory. There is no *Rule Book for Polygamous Marriage* that lays down the structure and form of the practice. The only guide we have is the Bible, the Holy Word of God, which should guide and enlighten each of us as we strive to be obedient to God's will for our lives.

It is, historically, a form of marriage which has been practiced all over the world, and which is much more prevalent than monogamy. It is also a form of marriage which has taken on a particularly bad connotation in Western European culture, especially in the United States. What is it about this lifestyle that raises such emotion and criticism?

One of the problems is the untruths and misconceptions that form our popular cultural idea of what polygamy is. Speaking as a woman and a polygamous wife, I have not found that women are exploited or subjugated. Rather the opposite is true. Women achieve more freedom and expanded horizons than in monogamy. Why? There are two or more to share the housework, the cooking, the childcare, freeing each one to have more time to herself to pursue independent goals and objectives. Women are as free as they choose to speak their minds. If women are kept silent, that is the problem of the individuals involved, women as well as men, not the form of marriage.

Exploitation and subjugation may occur in some

situations, but that also occurs in monogamous marriages. The form of marriage is not the problem – the individuals involved in the marriage and their attitudes are the problem. A polygamous marriage based on biblical truths and precepts, as all marriages should be, should meet the same standards as any monogamous marriage. Husbands should love their wives, and wives should be submissive to their husbands, based on biblical principles.

Polygamy is not for everyone. But for some it is God's calling and God's special blessing.

To those who would argue that polygamy makes women dependent, I would say from experience that just the opposite is true. A woman married to a man with other wives is forced to have a very strong sense of who she is, what she's doing, and why she is doing it, and must maintain her own sense of identity. There is free time and energy to spend as one chooses. There is a built-in set of companions and friends for fellowship, for sharing work as well as play, and for help and caring. God brings people together in a family



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)

for reasons that are beneficial to each person, and so out of every relationship in the family we can learn and grow.

As long as every individual gets the time, energy, caring and compassion he or she requires, what is the problem with a man having more than one wife? As our society has encouraged women to make independent choices, and individuals to fulfill their own unique potential, if a woman chooses polygamy, does anyone have the right to tell her she cannot make that choice? Abuse and exploitation should not be tolerated, as they should not be tolerated anywhere in our society. Polygamy is not abuse. It is a lifestyle ordained by God for some people.

Examine the Bible. There is nowhere that polygamy is preached against. It was not only common in the Old Testament, it was a common practice in Jewish culture at the time of Christ. Monogamy was brought to the Jewish world only by Roman civilization. Yet if such a common practice was wrong, why did Christ not preach against it, as He did against all the other wrongs of His day? Polygamy is not for everyone, but for some it is God's calling and God's special blessing. It must be based on biblical principles and lived in obedience to God's will, as any monogamous marriage must be. It certainly has its problems and pit-

falls, as does any marriage – particularly when it is not a lifestyle that we are trained to live in this culture. It is a lifestyle that provides much love, fellowship, support and growth in one's walk with the Lord. To those whom God has called, it is a special treasure. **H**

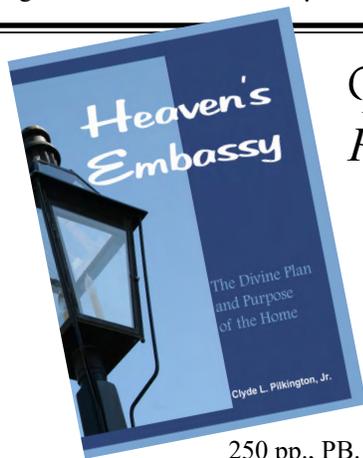
From *A Woman's Place: The Case For Polygamy*



Thank you, I am impressed by the bravery it takes to stand up and put out a periodical like this. I believe whole-heartedly that polygyny is the way of God. I look forward to reading the articles. – **OR**

Thanks for the initial issue of the *Patriarchs' Journal*. I read it cover to cover. I am re-examining the entire issue of polygamy, so please keep me on your mailing list. – **NC**

I don't know how you got my address, but I'm sure glad you did! Thank you for the *Patriarchs' Journal*! – **PA**



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

God (continued from page 79)

tradition is unwittingly suggesting God is a sinner, falling short of His own "perfect" will.

Misinformed missionaries in polygynous cultures demand that men put away wives and all turn to monogamy. It is doubtful they would demand the same of God who clearly said:

*Behold, the days come, says Jehovah, that I will cut a new covenant with **the house of Israel**, and with **the house of Judah**, not according to the covenant that I cut with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which covenant of Mine they broke, although **I was a husband to them**, says Jehovah (Jeremiah 31:31, 32).*

How plain can it be, God says He was "*a husband to them.*" "*Them*" means more than one.

The Lord was a husband to the two sisters as he declared in Ezekiel 23; the house of Israel and the house of Judah;

*Behold, the days come, says Jehovah, that I will cut a new covenant with **the house of Israel**,*

*and with **the house of Judah** (Jeremiah 31:31).*

The New Covenant passage is addressed to the two (figurative) sister wives of God.

God did not engage in wickedness because he applied the "permissive will" to Himself. *If polygyny was wickedness God would not have stooped to embrace it even figuratively.* The fact that God had two wives in a figure certainly would shock the foundations of the local "born again" assemblies most of whom claim to be "New Covenant Christians."

If you as a Christian feel some sense of betrayal by those you trusted to teach you accurately, then we understand. But every day is an opportunity for each of us to rightly divide the Word of Truth and avoid shame in that Day (II Timothy 2:15).

God is not a monogamous God, our God has two wives in His relationship with the two kingdoms of Israel. **H**



Brian is an author and Bible teacher. His website is www.biblepolygamy.com

Polygamy: The Ultimate Feminist Lifestyle

by — Elizabeth Joseph

I've often said that if polygamy didn't exist, the modern American career woman would have invented it. Because, despite its reputation, polygamy is the one lifestyle that offers an independent woman a real chance to "have it all."

One of my heroes is Dr. Martha Hughes Cannon, a physician and a plural wife who, in 1896, became the first woman legislator in any U.S. state or territory. Dr. Cannon once said,

You show me a woman who thinks about something besides cookstoves and wash-tubs and baby flannels, and I will show you nine times out of ten a successful mother.

With all due respect, Gloria Steinem has nothing on Dr. Cannon.

As a journalist, I work many unpredictable hours in a fast-paced environment. The news determines my schedule. But am I calling home, asking my husband to please pick up the kids and pop something in the microwave and get them to bed on time just in case I'm really late? Because of my plural marriage arrangement, I don't have to worry. I know that when I have to work late my daughter will be at home surrounded by loving adults with whom she is comfortable and who know her schedule without my telling them. My eight-year-old has never seen the inside of a day-care center, and my husband has never eaten a TV dinner. And I know that when I get home from work, if I'm dog-tired and stressed-out, I can be alone and guilt-free. It's a rare day when all eight of my husband's wives are tired and stressed at the same time.

It's helpful to think of polygamy in terms of a free-market approach to marriage. Why shouldn't you or your daughters have the opportunity to marry the best man available, regardless of his marital status?

I married the best man I ever met. The fact that he already had five wives did not prevent me from doing that. For twenty-three years I have observed how Alex's marriage to Margaret, Bo, Joanna, Diana,

Leslie, Dawn and Delinda has enhanced his marriage to me. The guy has hundreds of years of marital experience; as a result, he is a very skilled husband.

It's no mystery to me why Alex loves his other wives. I'd worry about him if he didn't. I did worry in the case of Delinda,

whom I hired as my secretary when I was practicing law. Alex was in and out of my office a lot over the course of several months, and he never said a word about her. Finally, late one night on our way home from work, I said,

(see *LIFESTYLE*, next page)

Why shouldn't you or your daughters have the opportunity to marry the best man available, regardless of his marital status?



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)

LIFESTYLE (continued from previous page)

“Why haven’t you said anything about Delinda?”

He said,

“Why should I?”

I said,

“She’s smart, she’s beautiful. What, have you gone stupid on me?”

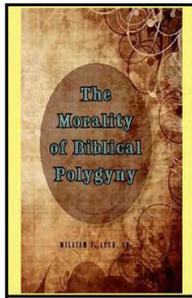
They were married a few months later.

Polygamy is an empowering lifestyle for women. It provides me the environment and opportunity to maximize my female potential without all of the tradeoffs and compromises that attend monogamy.

The women in my family are friends. You don’t share two decades of experience, and a man, without those friendships becoming very special.

I imagine that across America there are groups of young women preparing to launch careers. They sit around tables, talking about the ideal lifestyle to them in their aspirations for work, motherhood, and personal fulfillment. “A man might be nice,” they might muse. “A man on our own terms,” they might add. What they don’t realize is that there is an alternative that would allow their dreams to come true. That alternative is polygamy, the ultimate feminist lifestyle. **H**

*Creating a Dialogue:
Women Talking to Women*
National Organization for Women Conference
May 1997



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)

I Timothy 3:1 & Polygamy

by — Dr. William F. Luck

Is it conceivable that a Church built upon the foundation of the prophets (Ephesians 2:20) and blessed in Abraham (Galatians 3:29) could not allow David or Abraham to function in the position of a [bishop or a] deacon? Some may insist upon it, but I cannot. ... I am convinced that the polygamist is not excluded. ... In this Greek phrase [husband of one wife], the word *one* is put forward, showing emphasis, but it is also *anarthrous* (without the definite article “the”). The net result of this structure is to stress the singleness of devotion rather than the number of wives.

Except from:
The Morality of Biblical Polygyny (See ad on this page.)



Luck has served as:
– University Lecturer, *Probe Ministries International*
– Professor of Bible & Theology, *Moody Bible Institute*
– Pastor, *Itasca Evangelical Free Church*
– Officer, *Evangelical Theological Society*
– Founder & President, *Evangelical Philosophical Society*
– Founder & President, *LodeStar Ministries International*

Common Misconceptions of Plural Marriage

Part 1

One Flesh

Misconception:

“A man cannot be one flesh with more than one woman!”

Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh (Genesis 2:24; Matthew 19:5-6; Ephesians 5:31; Mark 10:8).

What? Know ye not that he which is joined to an harlot is one body? “For two,” saith He, “shall be one flesh” (I Corinthians 6:16).

- How do you become one flesh with someone?
- Does I Corinthians 6:16 not apply to married men?
- Can a man be one flesh with both his wife and a harlot?
- Can a man be one flesh with both his first and second wife?

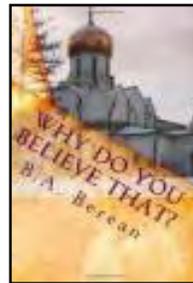
Sexual intercourse joins a man and a woman as one flesh, whether they are married or in sin. I Corinthians 6:16 shows that a man, married or not, can be one flesh with a harlot. If married, the man is not only one flesh with his wife, but also with the harlot. Therefore a man can indeed be one flesh with more than one woman.

But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit (I Corinthians 6:17).

This does not mean he is married to the prostitute as in I Corinthians 6:16. Marriage requires a covenant and consummation.

Notably, Moses penned Genesis with the words “*the two shall be one flesh.*” Moses himself had two wives, Zipporah the Midianite (Exodus 2:16-21), and an Ethiopian wife (Numbers 12:1). 

www.BiblicalFamilies.org



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)

God Himself Has More than One Wife

by — Brian Kelson

That God Himself has more than one wife (in a figure of course) comes as an earth-shattering shock to most Bible-believing Christians. It is a shock because they have not been taught the truth. They trusted their pulpits, but most pulpits fail when it comes to polygyny.

God is polygynous in His relationship with Israel; “*I was a husband to them, says the Lord.*” Perhaps the Word has a mistake after all?

The God of the Baptists, the Methodists and any other denomination we can name, is polygynous. Watch out for the falling stained glass windows; take cover friends. All those who claim to be standing on the

Word might need to rethink.

Such folk assume that God ordained monogamy, and only had one “marriage” relationship as the Lord (husband) of Israel. This position exposes terrible ignorance of the Word of God, and is another example of the lengths to which some Christians will go to avoid facing the truth. Denying God’s Word is not an option.

God is not a monogamous God, and the Scriptures plainly show that He was in a “marriage” relationship with *two sisters*; and the consistency of this figure is so often in the prophets that we are amazed that it is ignored or suppressed.

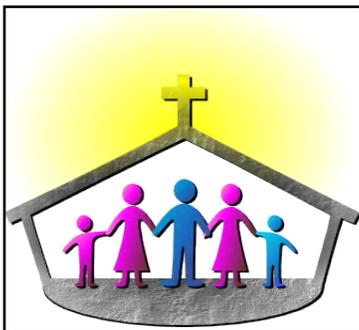
In Ezekiel 23 the Lord speaks of the divided kingdom of Israel as two wives who had committed adultery.

The Word of Jehovah came again to me, saying, “Son of man, there were two women, the daughters of one mother. And they fornicated in Egypt; they whored in their youth, their breasts were handled, and there their virgin nipples were worked. And their names were Oholah, the oldest, and Oholibah, her sister. And they were Mine, and they bore sons and daughters. And their names: Samaria is Oholah, and Jerusalem is Oholibah.” ... And Jehovah said to me, “Son of man, will you judge Oholah and Oholibah, and declare to them their abominations, that they have committed adultery ...” (Ezekiel 23:1-4, 36-37).

These two sisters “were Mine,” says the Lord, and “they bore [Him] sons and daughters.”

If polygamy is adultery, as the traditions avow, then God is an adulterer, which is an abhorrent suggestion.

Biblical Families



www.BiblicalFamilies.org

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.

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

Notice **they** committed adultery, not God who was husband to **both of them**. They turned away and broke their marriage vows. Married people commit adultery, not single people.

God does not hesitate to speak of having two wives which, though in a figure, demonstrates that polygamy is not the grave sin as some avow, unless God uses the language of sin and in a figure embraces it. Does God engage in wickedness? Of course not; but tradition calls polygyny wickedness, and in so doing are contrary to God, His Word and His actions.

If polygamy is adultery as the traditions avow, then God is an adulterer which is an abhorrent suggestion and it is tradition which needs to re-examine its falsehood that polygamy is adultery.

If polygamy was adultery then any sons or daughters of one or both of God's wives would have to be illegitimate according to tradition. But of course we have to acknowledge that the Saviour came through Judah, the southern Kingdom; one of God's wives.

Let us note the consistency of the prophets in the matter of God's two wives by reading Jeremiah;

They say, If a man puts away his wife, and she goes from him and will be for another man, will he return to her again? Would not that land be greatly defiled? But you play the harlot with many lovers; yet come back to Me, says Jehovah (3:1).

The Lord through the prophet is addressing the northern Kingdom of Israel as this verse shows:

*Jehovah also said to me in the days of Josiah the king, Have you seen that which **backsliding Israel** has done? She has gone up on every high mountain and under every green tree, and has fornicated there. And I said after she had done all these things, Turn to Me! But she did not return. **And her treacherous sister Judah saw it.** (3:6, 7).*

As in Ezekiel, Jeremiah speaks of these two sisters as playing the harlot against their husband, God.

*And I saw, when for all the causes for which backsliding **Israel committed adultery**, I sent her away and gave a bill of divorce to her, yet her treacherous **sister Judah** did not fear, but **she went and whored, she also** (3:8).*

If polygyny was wickedness God would not have stooped to embrace it even figuratively.

Through ignorance, Christians, who call polygamy sin or adultery, implicate God in wickedness. Did God permit Himself to act below His own high standards here?

Does God have a "permissive" will for Himself?

Sin is that which falls short of the will of God, if polygamy is falling short of God's "perfect" will, then

(see **God**, page 74)



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.

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