

Patriarchs' Journal™

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

Volume 1
Issue 8

The Old Testament Scriptural Precedent of Plural Marriage

by — Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

The Torah¹ neither legislates monogamy nor prohibits polygamy, a fact which often comes as a surprise to middle class Westerners. – Raymond J. Lawrence, Jr.²

There is a great *hush-hush* of Bible reading and study when it comes to some subjects. One of the greatest of them is the subject of a man having multiple wives. The Bible is literally filled with such accounts. They were a very common style of family life in biblical times. In fact, many of God's greatest servants were clearly presented as having multiple wives.

Is polygamy a sin? I have asked many students of the Scriptures about this – bringing the question into a modern setting. What would they do if they were in a society that openly allowed for multiple wives, say an African tribe? What if they were to lead a native man with many wives to trust in Christ? What would they instruct this new believer in Christ to do regarding his many wives? Would they instruct him to divorce and abandon all of his wives except for the first one, along with all of their children? Would not such a requirement be absurd? Those Bible students with whom I have spoken have agreed that it would be ridiculous.

The law of God given to Moses did not forbid multiple wives. The law did regulate almost every area of life, and having multiple wives was no exception. If having multiple wives was a sin, God would have forbidden it, rather than giving laws for its honorable practice. Be assured that God has no problem communicating His disapproval of anything!

A man having multiple wives clearly is a *social* issue, not a *sin* issue.

1. Torah is the Law and consists of the first five books of the Hebrew Scriptures.
2. *The Poisoning of Eros: Sexual Values in Conflict*, page 18.

ACCEPTED FORM OF MARRIAGE

James Stivers writes,

In the Hebrew Scriptures, we find both monogamy and polygamy as accepted and even expected forms of marriage. Commentators, embarrassed by the polygamy in the Bible, try to mute the subject by insisting its practice was rare and abnormal. The record does not stand up to that assumption. Polygamy was a custom practiced extensively among God's people ...

Israelite society was a polygamous society ... If polygamy is immoral at all, it is immoral always. If it

(see *PRECEDENT*, page 115)

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Loving Large

Editorial

The Patriarchs' Journal and Privacy

Dear friends,

Because of social and cultural mores, for many, the study and practice of plural marriage is a very private matter. Some, while not specifically trying to hide your faith and practice of this important aspect of scriptural family life, are not seeking to flaunt it either. *Patriarch's Journal* respects that choice. To assist in that approach we do three things:

- (1) We do not share our mailing list with *anyone*.
- (2) We mail the *Patriarch's Journal* in a plain envelope so that the contents are not known.

(3) We do not make the *Patriarch's Journal* available in an electronic format. We want to encourage as much personal sharing within the pages of the *Patriarch's Journal* as possible – folks telling their own stories, experiences, journeys, etc. – publishing only in printed format, *without* the open exposure that internet searches of electronic formats create. It would be a far easier and less expensive method to do the *Patriarch's Journal* electronically, because much time and money would be saved in printing and mailing costs. Yet, to foster such openness – with a greater degree of discreteness – provision is made for an exclusive print format.

My love to each of you.

Until next month, I remain your servant,

Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

Patriarchs' Journal™

Volume 1, No. 8 – December, 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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PRECEDENT (continued from front page)

happened only once in Scripture, with God’s approval, then we are dealing with an ethical system utterly foreign to modern moralism. Moral absolutes cannot have exceptions, or else they are not absolute.

The regulation of polygamy is prominent in Biblical law; thus, we may interpret that fact as indicative of its pervasiveness as a social custom.³

A FEW EXAMPLES OF PROMINENT BIBLICAL CHARACTERS WHO HAD MULTIPLE WIVES

Abraham

Abraham, the first Hebrew, and ancestor of all Israel, the father of all who believe (Romans 4:11-12), had three wives: Sarah, and her servant Hagar (Genesis 16:3), and Keturah (Genesis 25:1), as well as a number of concubines (Genesis 25:6).

Jacob

Jacob was an important descendant of Abraham. His name was changed by God to “Israel” (Genesis 32:28). He had Rachel and Leah, who were sisters, as his wives (Genesis 29). He was also husband to their servants Bilhah and Zilpah (Genesis 30:4, 9). From Jacob’s multiple wives came 12 sons, whose lineage became the 12 Tribes of Israel. **Without these four wives there would be no Israel!** Plural marriage is at the foundation of God’s establishment of the nation Israel.

Moses

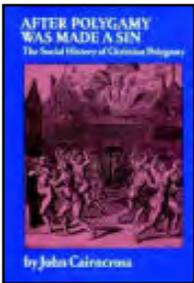
Moses was married to Zipporah (Exodus 2:21; 18:2-5), a Midianite (Numbers 10:29), and an unnamed Ethiopian (Numbers 12:1). This means that the Pentateuch – the first five books of the Bible – were written by a polygamist.

Gideon

Gideon, a mighty man of God and judge of Israel, who defeated the Midianites, and whose name is now used by an organization to distribute Bibles worldwide – “The Gideons” – had 70 sons (and how many daughters?), because he had “many wives” (Judges 8:30).

And Gideon had threescore and ten sons of his

3. James Wesley Stivers, *Eros Made Sacred*, pages 15-16, 39.



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)

body begotten: for he had many wives (Judges 8:30).

Samuel

Samuel, the last of the judges and the first of the prophets, was born to a father who was a polygamist. His father Elkanah had two wives, Hannah and Peninah (I Samuel 1:2). Hannah gave birth to the prophet Samuel.

David

King David, a man after God’s Own heart, had plenty of wives. God gave David all of his wives and said if he wanted more, He would have given them to him (II Samuel 12:8).⁴

Philo Thelos shares a striking thought concerning David. I adapt it for our use here:

Every generation recognizes the Psalms as the epitome of a holy man’s communion with God. David, a “man after God’s Own heart,” wrote and worshipped God with these Psalms. But David had more than one wife. Could David spend a different night with each wife, and then get up early the next morning to awaken the dawn with praise and worship? Certainly! Did God accept it? Definitely! Was David holy even when

4. It is amazing the gems that are concealed in those Scripture passages – or parts of those Scripture passages – that we tend to ignore because they are overshadowed by others which are more “important” for our momentary purposes. Nathan’s exposé of David’s crime of adultery and murder carried with it an endorsement of David having multiple wives – and therefore of plural marriages in general.

he woke up with a different woman to write Scripture? Obviously! Ponder that the next time you enjoy your meditation from a Psalm of David.⁵

Solomon

Solomon had 700 wives and 300 concubines (I Kings 11:3). He wrote the Song of Solomon, a celebrated poem about marital love, to his 61st wife (Song of Solomon 6:8). Solomon's problem was that he ended up marrying ungodly foreign wives who worshiped false gods and turned his heart from the Lord. Nevertheless, go easy on Solomon: some men have committed this *same sin* while married to only *one wife!*

Joash

Joash took the throne in Jerusalem at the age of seven, and He reigned as a godly king for forty years (II Chronicles 24:1). The reason for this was that the priest Jehoiada had taken him under his wing. The Scriptures say that he,

*did that which was **RIGHT** in the sight of the LORD all the days of Jehoiada the priest* (II Chronicles 24:2).

Interestingly, the *one specific* thing mentioned in the next verse about Jehoiada's godly influence over Joash was that he (as a proxy father) provided the king with "two wives" – and it was in this context that King Joash "did that which was right in the sight of the LORD."

*And Joash did that which was right in the sight of the LORD all the days of Jehoiada the priest. And Jehoiada **took for him two wives; and he begat sons and daughters*** (II Chronicles 24:1-3).

Having multiple wives is clearly "right in the sight of the Lord!"

GOD HIMSELF HAD TWO WIVES

Amazingly God, in the Old Testament, was a polygamist! In Ezekiel 23:2-4 God portrays Himself as being married to two sisters, Jerusalem and Samaria (also see Jeremiah 3:6-10; 31:31-32, noting the phrase, "I was a husband unto **them**").

Why would God use the analogy of multiple wives for Himself if it was somehow sinful?

THE LAW REGARDING MULTIPLE WIVES

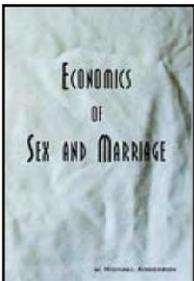
The Law had rules regulating plural marriages and limiting its application in a couple of circumstances. For example, a man was not to marry his wife's sister, *unless* he had his wife's approval (Leviticus 18:18). A man was not to marry both a woman and her mother (Leviticus 20:14), as that would have presented confusing family ties. The very fact of these two specific proscriptions shows that Mosaic Laws supported plural marriage.

Exodus 21:10 tells us that if a man marries an additional wife he must not deprive the first wife of her food, clothing and sexual pleasure. In other words, a man should not take more wives than he could provide for adequately.

Just like monogamy, plural marriage surely had its fair share of problems, and the law intervened to make sure that the children received the inheritance to which they were legitimately entitled (Deuteronomy 21:15-17). This aspect of the law actually validated the equality of additional wives (and their children). Although they were *second*, in the order of time, they were surely not *secondary*.

Plural marriage was practiced without criticism in the Scriptures. It was legal, moral and clearly within the

5. Philo Thelos, *Divine Sex: Liberating Sex from Religious Tradition*, pages 171-172.



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

(discontinued)

blessings of God. Indeed, two laws actually would have required some men to become polygamists.

The first law required a man to marry the wife of a deceased brother in order to ensure that the family line continued (Deuteronomy 25:5-6). This would have actually *required* such a man to have more than one wife, if he was already married, and the possibility that the living brother was already married was extremely likely in Israel's culture.

The second law was much like the first. It required a man who had sexual relations with an unbetrothed virgin to marry her. Again, this would have *required* such a man to have more than one wife, if he was already married.

In neither of these two laws are exceptions given for men already married. This is because the issue of men having multiple wives was one that was common to Israel, and the law of God.

A "NEW" WIFE

Polygamy was biblically an acceptable form of marriage, thus the Scripture's expression,

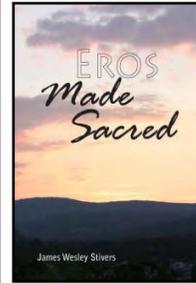
When a man has taken a new wife ... (Deuteronomy 24:5).

When a man marries for the first time he is not said to take a "new" wife. The word "new" here is in contrast to "old," obviously a reference to the taking of an "additional" wife. The word "new" is translated "fresh" by the King James Version in Job 29:20 (*chadash* – Strong's Hebrew Lexicon #2319).

- o - 0 - o -

Whoso finds a wife finds a good thing, and obtains favor of the Lord (Proverbs 18:22).

The principle of plural marriage is firmly established in the pages of the Hebrew Scriptures. Plural marriage was clearly God-honored, just as monogamy was. God in His great love and wisdom has planned it this way, and He has graciously furnished a marital answer for the surplus of women by establishing and blessing the practice of men having more than one wife. Marriage is the union of a man and a woman. Polygamy is simply the duplication of that blessed act.



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)

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

In God's economy, marrying an additional wife *is* marriage; and marriage *is* honorable in all!

Jesus answered and said to them, "You do err, not knowing the Scriptures ..." (Matthew 22:29).

It has been the purpose of this chapter to demonstrate that,

PLURAL MARRIAGE IS A SCRIPTURAL PRECEDENT OF OLD TESTAMENT TIMES!

Excerpt from Clyde L. Pilkington's *The Great Omission* (see ad on page 118).



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.

Common Misconceptions of Plural Marriage

Part 2 Gender Mutuality

Misconception:

If the husband can have more than one wife, then a wife should be able to have two husbands!

Unto the woman He said, "I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee." And unto Adam He said, "Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee,

saying, 'Thou shalt not eat of it': cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life" (Genesis 3:16-17).

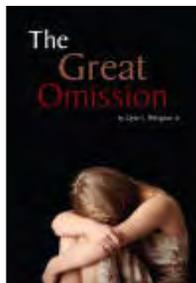
And if a woman have an issue, and her issue in her flesh be blood, she shall be put apart seven days: and whosoever toucheth her shall be unclean until the even (Leviticus 15:19).

And the LORD spake unto Moses, "saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, 'If a woman have conceived seed, and born a man child: then she shall be unclean seven days; according to the days of the separation for her infirmity shall she be unclean. And in the eighth day the flesh of his foreskin shall be circumcised. And she shall then continue in the blood of her purifying three and thirty days; she shall touch no hallowed thing, nor come into the sanctuary, until the days of her purifying be fulfilled. But if she bear a maid child, then she shall be unclean two weeks, as in her separation: and she shall continue in the blood of her purifying threescore and six days'" (Leviticus 12:1-5).

For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and He is the Saviour of the body. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing (Ephesians 5:23-24).

- Do men menstruate or give birth to children?
- Did girls and boys have different ceremonies done for them at birth?
- Is the wife the head of the husband?

(see MISCONCEPTIONS, next page)



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 appendices.

(see order form on back page)

Why Is Polygamy Illegal?

by — Wendy Kaminer

So why is polygamy illegal? There's a short answer to this question but not a very good one: polygamy is illegal and unprotected by the Constitution because the Supreme Court doesn't like it. Over one hundred years ago, the Court held in *Reynolds v. U.S.* that polygamy was "an offence against society." The *Reynolds* decision upheld the criminal conviction of a man accused of taking a second wife in the belief that he had a religious duty to practice polygamy, a duty he would violate at risk of damnation. The Court compared polygamy to murders sanctified by religious belief, such as human sacrifice or the burning of women on their husbands' funeral pyres.

"Polygamy encourages child abuse," people say, citing instances involving the marriage of older men to underage girls. Assuming for the sake of argument that this is true, it still doesn't justify categorical prohibitions on polygamy. Alcohol consumption may encourage sexual violence; it's often blamed for date rape. Should we prohibit its use, as members of the Women's Christian Temperance Union demanded

over one hundred years ago? Or should we prosecute alcohol-fueled violence whenever we find it?

We rightly prohibit violence, not drunkenness, even though some drunks are violent; we should prohibit child abuse, not polygamy, even though some polygamists are abusers. To do otherwise is to court worse abuses than we seek to prevent. **H**

Edited & Abridged



Wendy is a lawyer and social critic. A former Guggenheim fellow, she is the author of eight books on contemporary social issues. She served as a national board member of the ACLU (1999–2006). Her articles and reviews have appeared in numerous publications, including *The New York Times*, *The Atlantic Monthly*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and *Newsweek*. She is a columnist for *Free Inquiry*. Her commentaries have aired on National Public Radio's *Morning Edition*.

MISCONCEPTIONS (continued from previous page)

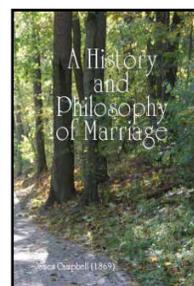
- Does the Scripture ever differentiate between male and female?

Obviously men and women are different in many ways. They also have different roles according to God's Word. Feminism wishes to say otherwise and define equality as meaning equal roles. This contradicts Humanist Magazine's quote from the Feminist movement, "Feminism is humanism on its most advanced level." Femininity, on the other hand, is the biblical movement of wives taking the intended marriage role and being who they are.

Biblically, the husband is the head of the wife just as Christ is Head of the church, not the other way around – and certainly not both ways. A body does not have two heads. When the Scripture speaks of males or husbands, it is specifically referring to males or husbands. When the Word of God speaks of

females or wives, it is specifically referring to females or wives. Gender mutuality is a popular belief, but not a biblical one. **H**

www.BiblicalFamilies.org



A History and Philosophy of Marriage:

Polygamy and Monogamy Compared

by — James Campbell
(originally published in 1869)
142 pages, PB. \$20

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

(see order form on back page)

The Husband's Role in Love

by — Dwight H. Small

The husband is to take the initiative in love; he is made responsible for married love. He is the lover. The command is: “*Husbands, love your wives*” (Ephesians 5:25)! One will seek in vain to find such a command for wives! It never says: “*Wives, love your husbands.*” Some would suppose that this is unnecessary because husbands are such loveable fellows anyway! But hardly! Rather, the whole mystery of creative and reciprocal love is embodied in this principle. It is the logical counterpart in marriage to the love relation between Christ and the believer. It is love creating its own response. In loving his wife, the husband causes her to love him in return.

This design of God is not meant to be reversed. Whenever the wife must be the one who initiates love and the husband only reciprocates, there is a deep fault in the relationship, sufficient in fact to bring it to an end.

Paul proceeds to set forth just exactly how husbands are to love their wives. It is “*as Christ loved the church.*” The fullness of Christ’s love for the church suggests five major characteristics for the husband.

Christ Loved the Church *Realistically*

He was under no illusions when He sought us in love! He knew us just as we were: sinful, unlovable, and unreasoning - “*while we were yet sinners Christ died for us*” – in love!

Christ Loved the Church *Sacrificially*

He “*gave Himself for it*” (:25). How costly is love! The very life of love is to spend itself for the sake of another. Husbands must love their wives sacrificially. They must be willing to give up all that is required to fulfill the life of the beloved. This may involve giving up some of their interests, their time, their pleasures, their ambitions, their friends. It means nothing shall have priority over their responsibility to fulfill the needs of their wives. There is no substitute for the giving of oneself! A mink coat can never substitute for a husband’s love!

Christ Loved the Church *Purposefully*

His purpose was “*that He might present it to Himself a*

glorious church ... holy and without blemish” (:27). So it is not enough for the husband to sing: “Take my *wife* and let her be, consecrated Lord to Thee”! He must love her purposefully. This will take time and thought, prayer and work, patience and persistence!

Christ Loved the Church *Willfully*

The mind, the heart, and the will must cooperate in loving. Very few young people seriously consider to what a large extent love is dependent upon the action of the will.

Christ Loved the Church *Absolutely*

His love for us was without limit, without condition, and without reserve! Ephesians 5:28 reads, “*So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself.*” **H**

Design for Christian Marriage
Fleming H. Revell, 1959 pp. 78-79
Edited & abridged

— Dwight served as a pastor for the past 27 years, authoring dozens of books about biblical and family themes.



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)

The Fruit of the Womb

God's Heritage

by — Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

Children are a heritage of the LORD, the fruit of the womb is His reward (Psalm 127:3).

Children are God's "heritage," an "allotment" (CV¹) entrusted to parents. By divine design the father is delegated with authority over them (cf. Joshua 24:15; I Timothy 3:4).

The father's responsibility of trusteeship includes physical provision (I Timothy 5:8), education (Deuteronomy 6:6-9; 11:18-19; Proverbs 22:6; Ephesians 6:4), discipline² (Deuteronomy 8:5; Proverbs 3:12; 13:24; 19:18; 22:15; 23:13-14; 29:17) and bringing them up,

In the nurture and admonition of the Lord (Ephesians 6:4).

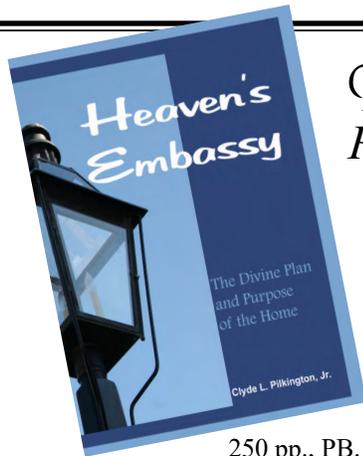
Children are in turn to honor their parents (Ephesians 6:1-3). This honor extends to older children providing and caring for their elderly parents (I Timothy 5:4); thus completing the divinely ordained cycle of life.

Time on earth is very limited; but with a skillful archer's hand, fathers can aim their children into the future, where God's heritage continues to soar to its intended target.

As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth (Psalm 127:4).

Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it (Proverbs 22:6). 

1. Concordant Literal Version
2. Discipline is not so much something we do TO our children as it is something we do FOR them.



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 is presently 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

8 Things I Learned About Love from a Polygamous Family

by — Nate Bagley

Most of us monogamous folks have some extreme assumptions about plural marriage. Particularly in the case of polygyny (when a man is married to more than one wife), these descriptions aren't uncommon:

- Misogynistic.
- Exploitive.
- Unethical.
- Manipulative.
- Distasteful.
- Selfish.
- Sexist.

However, I recently sat down with a polygamous family to talk to them about their marriages, and I have to tell you, I believe these people know more

about what love really is than most of us monogamous folks. Here are eight lessons about love that I learned from a polygamous family.

1. Commitment shouldn't change based on your happiness level.

Happiness is an emotional state, and emotions are volatile, unstable beasts. If you're willing to stay committed only as long as it makes you happy, you turn into a love addict (that's a real thing).

It's easy to bounce from relationship to relationship in an effort to chase down happiness. We forget that happiness isn't something that's found; it is a product of love – a love that is built over time, on a strong foundation of communication, trust and respect – not erratic feelings.



2. It's more important to be trusted than to be loved.

A healthy relationship can survive for periods without "love," but it will quickly wither and die without consistent, ongoing trust.

Building trust requires more than limerence-inducing hormones and natural chemistry. Trust is built by consistently putting the needs of those you love over your own. It stems from patience, understanding, forgiveness and loyalty.

Trust allows you to experience a higher form of love. Trust-based love is "complete mutual acceptance for who you are and who you're not." It's a love devoid of ego. It's the kind of love that strengthens over time as couples sojourn together through extreme hardships and challenges.

3. You need others to come to know yourself.

Have you ever heard someone say, "I need to get to know myself before I can get to know someone else?"

I have.

It was me.

And I was wrong.

You cannot get to know yourself except through someone else.

How will you learn that you need to develop patience without having someone in your life to test your patience? You can't become a kind person unless you have someone to be kind to. Developing the characteristics that will make you a good partner, just like anything else, requires practice – and it's very difficult to practice selfless virtues on your own.

4. Jealousy is the cancer of love.

Jealousy eats away at the trust in a relationship. Jealous feelings come from distrust and are founded on speculation. Our inner crazy person starts reading into little things and makes up an outrageously creepy web of assumptions.

Be honest: crazy you is almost never right about what you assume, and typically the conclusions you reach when in jealousy mode only do damage to your relationships.

The best way to combat jealousy and defeat crazy you is to approach everything from a place of love. Remind yourself of the trust and love you've built over time with your partner. Lean on that confidence. If you need extra help getting into a place of love, write a love note. Perform an act of service. List the things that you love about your significant other. Always assume the best. [Most importantly], whatever you do, do it from your heart.

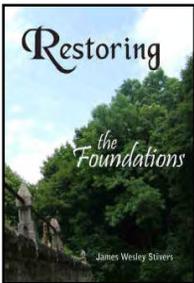
The more love you give, the more you get back. Love doesn't have boundaries or limitations. If you're spending your time and energy loving, there's no time or energy left to spend worrying, fretting, being insecure or being jealous.

5. You're never fully prepared for love.

Love is scary. Trust me, I know. If you look for one, there is always a reason not to commit: You don't have enough in common; you have too many things in common; she's too outspoken; she's too quiet and boring; her earlobes are weird; she snores; she has a goofy laugh.

The perfect person is the person you choose. The perfect moment for commitment is the moment you decide to commit. The odds will always be stacked against you – but only if you allow them to be.

When you decide to love someone, love them with



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)

everything you've got. Put your whole heart into it, whether you feel prepared or not. The challenges that come down the road will only strengthen your bond.

6. Money represents your competing values.

Money can be a tool used to help your relationship grow, or a weapon that will destroy it. Commit to being honest and make your desires and values clear. After setting expectations with your significant other, be willing to sacrifice when necessary.

Lasting happiness doesn't come from always getting what you want. It comes from making happy the people you love most in the world.

Money comes between love only when it comes before love.

7. Don't take your problems outside of your relationship.

Work out your relationship problems where the problem exists. When you take your troubles to family members or friends, they begin to make judgments about your partner while getting only one side of the story.

The fastest way to make everyone you love dislike your significant other is to complain about them.

Suck it up. Be mature. Talk it out. Work together to find a solution. Give each other a hug and a kiss. Say, "I love you." Then shut the door on the issue.

8. Romance doesn't make for a good relationship foundation.

We tend to build things backwards. We use erotic love and impulses to find a relationship. Erotic love isn't bad, but it makes for an unstable foundation for a long-term relationship. Think about your longest lasting non-romantic relationships.

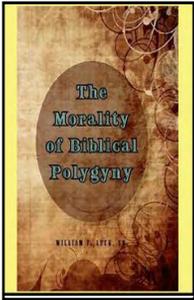
You probably don't have an erotic love for your siblings or your parents – and even though you might never get along, your love for them runs deep. You probably don't have a lust-filled love for your best buddies – but you'd still take a bullet for them.

These relationships are built on unconditional acceptance. You know that that person – despite all of the crap you're going to go through – is there for you. A romantic relationship built on unconditional acceptance rather than hormones will last through the ages. When you add erotic love to the picture, it can only enhance the awesomeness. **H**

Positively Positive
November 14, 2014



Nate is the creator of *The Loveumentary*, a project dedicated to capturing the most compelling love stories in America. Nate and his co-host Melissa Joy Kong travel across the country capturing amazing love stories. By highlighting the relationships that are working, their ultimate goal is to reinvigorate the country's faith in love, marriage and one another.



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)

Finding a Godly Husband

by – Brian Kelson

Therefore as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything (Ephesians 5:24).

Why would a Christian woman place herself under the headship of her husband without carefully considering him beforehand?

Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body (Ephesians 5:22-23).

Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as is becoming in the Lord (Colossians 3:18).

Many Christian families compromise, because this divine order sounds like authoritarianism; but we remind everyone that this Scriptural order is not a manmade order. It was not arranged by man, it cannot be altered by man, and it should not be enforced by man. In a Christian marriage both husband and wife have a life of submission before them. The husband submits to his Head, Christ; the woman to her head, her husband, as to the Lord. The husband must love his wife and the wife must “defer” to or “fear” her husband (Ephesians 5:33; Acts 10:2).

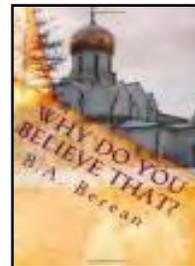
The wise woman will carefully consider that man she might marry. She will observe his spiritual caliber and depth for many months – her own spiritual wellbeing is so dependent on his dedication to Christ Jesus. She will ask questions about him of men and women. Does he live a life consistent with his profession of faith? Can the following verses apply to his walk: Ephesians 4:1-2; Colossians 3:12-17; 4:5-6? Does he exhibit the fruit of the Spirit in Ephesians 5:9?

A Christian woman will not hastily enter either a

monogamous or a polygamous marriage, and she will marry only “in the Lord.”



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



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)

Papua, New Guinea, Law Dean Argues for Keeping Polygamy

with — Dr. John Luluaki

The Dean of the *University of Papua New Guinea's* law school says polygamy is a tradition that should remain an option in modern societies.

Professor John Luluaki, who teaches family law, spoke at a law conference in Port Moresby, outlining arguments for and against the practice of having more than one spouse.

Professor Luluaki told Amelia Langford that polygamy serves a purpose.

JOHN LULUAKI: There are many cultures that have abandoned polygamy because of the influences of Christianity and modern demands and cash economies, that kind of thing. But there are still many societies in this country that continue to observe the practice of polygamy

because it is functional. It is functional because it is the best remedy for certain social crisis situations.

AMELIA LANGFORD: And what would those be?

JOHN LULUAKI: Widowhood, barrenness, particularly if the woman is barren she would, in some societies, promote the ideal of polygamy so that she can be able to assist her husband to have children. There are kinds of crisis situations that make polygamy functional in some societies and they wish to continue it.

AMELIA LANGFORD: So do you think polygamy does serve a purpose, a valid purpose?

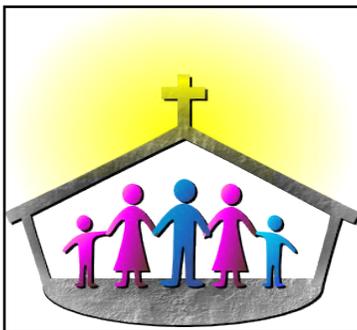
JOHN LULUAKI: It does, in traditional societies. And it is entirely up to those societies. But most importantly it is entirely up to women to reject it. If they reject it there's nothing men can do. If women reject polygamy that is the end of the story – polygamy simply dies a natural death, we move on.

AMELIA LANGFORD: It, obviously, was popular in traditional societies. Do you think it has a place in modern societies?

JOHN LULUAKI: I cannot answer that question the way you may want me to answer it. What I can say is I think the options must be available for women who may want to marry polygamously. If they wish to marry polygamously, what they need to know before they enter into such a contract are the likely consequences. That is why we need to talk about it, so they know what the options are and what the consequences are, rather than telling them "You can't marry a man who is already married." They must be given the choice. But they won't have a real choice unless they are advised of the likely consequences of marrying someone who's already married. 

Radio New Zealand International
November 11, 2013

Dr. Luluaki is Pro-Vice Chancellor, *University of Papua New Guinea*, and Dean of *UPNG School of Law*



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.BiblicalFamilies.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



I have loved reading *Heaven's Embassy* and *The Great Omission*, as well as the issues of *Patriarch's Journal*. In fact, these have truly been blessings to me. It is a gift from you to me in the form of articulating thoughts in print I feared might have been mine alone, so thank you for that! ... They have salvaged my sanity after years of fearing that my own biblical conclusions might be in opposition to God's will. Thank you for your contribution to my life. – **PA**

I just finished reading *The Great Omission*. What a beautiful job you've done bringing this subject into the light! I think it is such a simple and obvious truth that, like so many others, only the miracle of divine blinding conceals it. We know this human society must come undone at the very seams – Father's plan goes forward. It's just incredible to me to know of yet another wonderful blessing that He has provided for us, His love and generosity are truly boundless!

I certainly agree with you that not every man has this special gift. I count myself fortunate to be married to one who does. I know this is the quality I find most appealing in him, his great capacity to love and his genuine desire to care for the needs of others, most especially women and children. The things you brought out in your book validated so many of our experiences together as husband and wife, as partners, as lovers and lovers of love. I thank you so much for your dedication and work on this project. I don't think it could have come from a kinder, more loving hand than yours. – **AL**

I read your book *The Great Omission*. I am so very grateful to you for this this book, I know Father is blessing you for your labors. I am sure you have received a lot of backlashing about this and I ask Father to uphold you and your family with His love, grace and strength. – **NM**

Thanks be to you who dares to lead me in` your pathway through such a neglected and "dread taught" minefield of human tradition. As to Jacob in the "Old Testament" and his two wives, and their two handmaids that mothered the 12 tribes of Israel for him, I don't see where God criticized any of the 5 of them for the having of, or raising

the 12.

Like when I taught Japan Airlines future 747 captains, and we climbed on instruments through the Napa, California stratus layers until we had visual references for navigation to our assigned practice areas, I feel as though (in the Scriptures) I'm beginning to catch glimpses of the Sierra Buttes, Mt. Tamaulipas, and Mt. Diablo, and the blue sky up above! – **CA**

Thank you for your dedication and fine publication on behalf of the biblical calling of fatherhood in its purest form. Your *Patriarchs' Journal* is timely and well-done. ... I hope that there are many more issues in store for the future. – **ID**

Great job on the Patriarch's Journal; what a vehicle for truth and a fillip for friends. – **FL** 



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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