



January 24th, 2010
Evening Service

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Polygamy: Lies, Misery, and the Obvious

Whether we choose to ignore it or not, the polygamy movement is a growing adversary against the sanctity of marriage and is trying to appeal to conservative Christians. These polygamists are citing references in scripture on which they claim it is condoned in the Bible. They are correct in pointing out that Abraham, David, Solomon, and others had multiple wives at one time, but, is there any evidence that this behavior was blessed by God? Did polygamy work out well for Solomon, one of the most noteworthy polygamists in history?

If we look at the circumstances and the outcomes of these cited instances, we see a very different view of this purported Biblical polygamy. We must keep in mind that the Word of God was given to us as a teaching tool. In it are examples of great obedience and reward, as well as great sin and consequence. The Bible is not bashful when it comes to showing the sins of the most noted stalwarts. Moses committed murder in an attempt to gain support of the Hebrews. Given that, should we as Christians commit murder to show our dedication also? Certainly not!

Tonight's sermon will outline the lies used to justify polygamy, the misery caused by it, and the obvious conclusion.

King Solomon, perhaps better than any other, shows the destructive power of polygamy. He was one of the riches and wisest political figures the world has ever known, yet his Solomon would leave the love of God by the influence of his hundreds of wives and concubines.

The erroneous assumptions of polygamy

It has broad Biblical support

- Why is it never mentioned as a remedy for adultery then?
- It is noted when it occurs so that we may learn from the outcomes it procured.

It's not expressly prohibited in the Bible

- They use Leviticus 18:18 to show that the Bible just prohibits someone marrying their wife's sister, but the Hebrew word for sister used in this verse is a broad term that describes all of womanhood.

Polygamy will deter sin.

- It did not deter David, or Solomon

Polygamists are in the line of Jesus

- This is true, but it doesn't condone it. Instead it shows how truly great God's mercy is, that he would allow such a great event to come from sinful men.

It will stop adultery

- If this is true then why didn't Paul mention it? Why didn't Jesus instruct the adulteress to marry all those she had been with?

It's an advantage to the women in the family

- Consider the misery it caused Hanna, Rachel and others. Why was there weeping and infighting?

The Misery

Early on in Genesis we see the first polygamist relationship. Note the circumstances which it was formed and the outcome it produced.

- Lamech was from the line of Cain who chose to wander away from God.
- Cain's lineage was so apart from God they felt it necessary to build cities for protection. These were the first cities mentioned in the Bible.
- Shows how those who desert God lay themselves open to all forms of temptation. This temptation resulted into an accepted custom that would eventually ensnare the likes of Abraham, Jacob, and David.
- There are many examples of the disputes and infighting caused by rivalry among the children and wife in a polygamist family. Again, consider all David and Solomon lost because of polygamy.

The Obvious

While there is no direct approval or recommendation of polygamy in the Bible, there is ample references for the case of one man for one woman marriage all throughout the Bible. Consider the following:

- Jesus defined marriage as one woman for one man.
- The purpose of marriage is to raise Godly children, it's generational. Consider the generational strife and quarrelsome fighting connected with the polygamist families in the Bible.
- Polygamy destroys the sanctity of marriage.
- Polygamy defies God's construct of marriage. Why didn't God give Adam multiple wives? Wouldn't that have suited His needs better?
- Polygamy defiles the relationship Christ has with the Church. Christ only has one Bride.

Scripture References

1 Kings 11:1-13 Now King Solomon loved many foreign women along with the daughter of Pharaoh: Moabite, Ammonite, Edomite, Sidonian, and Hittite women, (2) from the nations concerning which the LORD had said to the sons of Israel, "You shall not associate with them, nor shall they associate with you, *for* they will surely turn your heart away after their gods." Solomon held fast to these in love. (3) He had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines, and his wives turned his heart away. (4) For when Solomon was old, his wives turned his heart away after other gods; and his heart was not wholly devoted to the LORD his God, as the heart of David his father *had been*. (5) For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians and after Milcom the detestable idol of the Ammonites. (6) Solomon did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, and did not follow the LORD fully, as David his father *had done*. (7) Then Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the detestable idol of Moab, on the mountain which is east of Jerusalem, and for Molech the detestable idol of the sons of Ammon. (8) Thus also he did for all his foreign wives, who burned incense and sacrificed to their gods. (9) Now the LORD was angry with Solomon because his heart was turned away from the LORD, the God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice, (10) and had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods; but he did not observe what the LORD had commanded. (11) So the LORD said to Solomon, "Because you have done this, and you have not kept My covenant and My statutes, which I have commanded you, I will surely tear the kingdom from you, and will give it to your servant. (12) "Nevertheless I will not do it in your days for the sake of your father David, *but* I will tear it out of the hand of your son. (13) "However, I will not tear away all the kingdom, *but* I will give one tribe to your son for the sake of My servant David and for the sake of Jerusalem which I have chosen."

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Leviticus 18:18 'You shall not marry a woman in addition to her sister as a rival while she is alive, to uncover her nakedness.

Genesis 4:19 Lamech took to himself two wives: the name of the one was Adah, and the name of the other, Zillah.

Matthew 19:4-11 And He answered and said, "Have you not read that He who created *them* from the beginning MADE THEM MALE AND FEMALE, (5) and said, 'FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH'? (6) "So they are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate." (7) They *said to Him, "Why then did Moses command to GIVE HER A CERTIFICATE OF DIVORCE AND SEND *her* AWAY?" (8) He *said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart Moses permitted you to divorce your wives; but from the beginning it has not been this way. (9) "And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for immorality, and marries another woman commits adultery." (10) The disciples *said to Him, "If the relationship of the man with his wife is like this, it is better not to marry." (11) But He said to them, "Not all men *can* accept this statement, but *only* those to whom it has been given.

Genesis 2:18 Then the LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him."

Ephesians 5:22-28 Wives, *be subject* to your own husbands, as to the Lord. (23) For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself *being* the Savior of the body. (24) But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives *ought to be* to their husbands in everything. (25) Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, (26) so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, (27) that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless. (28) So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself;

We are glad you have chosen to listen to this sermon and pray that it gives you strength, the want for obedience, and a desire to have God's abundant Grace mortify sin in your life. If you have any questions or comments please email chuck_ezell@yahoo.com.