

Marriage for Eternity & Polygamy

The following is a statement by Brigham Young, from pgs. 268-269 of the August 19, 1866 Journal of Discourses, Vol. 11: "**The only men who become Gods, even the Sons of God, are those who enter into polygamy.**" (PDF pg. 277)

Some people in the Old Testament did have more than one wife, but this practice was never condoned by God, and certainly never commanded by God. The leaders in the Mormon Church ignored the New Testament on this matter altogether.

1 Timothy 3:2

"An overseer, then, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, prudent, respectable, hospitable, able to teach..."

Timothy 3:12

"Let deacons be husbands of only one wife, and good managers of their children and their own households."

Titus 1:5-7

"For this reason I left you in Crete, that you might set in order what remains, and appoint elders in every city as I directed you, namely, if any man be above reproach, the husband of one wife, having children who believe, not accused of dissipation or rebellion. For the overseer must be above reproach as God's steward, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not addicted to wine, not pugnacious, not fond of sordid gain..."

Joseph Smith used the polygamous practices of David and Solomon as justification for polygamy. But this is a very direct contradiction to the teachings of the Book of Mormon.

The Book of Mormon also contradicts the Doctrine & Covenants.

(BOM) Jacob 2:23-24 (PDF LDS Scripture pg. 139)

“But the word of God burdens me because of your grosser crimes. For behold, thus saith the Lord: This people begin to wax in iniquity; they understand not the scriptures, for they seek to excuse themselves in committing whoredoms, because of the things which were written concerning David, and Solomon his son. Behold, David and Solomon truly had many wives and concubines, which thing was abominable before me, saith the Lord.”

D&C 132:1 (PDF LDS Scripture pg. 832)

“Verily, thus saith the Lord unto you my servant Joseph, that inasmuch as you have inquired of my hand to know and understand wherein I, the Lord, justified my servants Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, as also Moses, David and Solomon, my servants, as touching the principle and doctrine of their having many wives and concubines...”

D&C 132:39 (PDF LDS Scripture pg. 836)

“David's wives and concubines were given unto him of me, by the hand of Nathan, my servant, and others of the prophets who had the keys of this power; and in none of these things did he sin against me save in the case of Uriah and his wife; and, therefore he hath fallen from his exaltation, and received his portion; and he shall not inherit them out of the world, for I gave them unto another, saith the Lord.”

We have read that Brigham Young said that you have to practice polygamy to become a God. The Bible says a church leader should only have one wife. The Book of Mormon and Doctrine and Covenants contradict each other on the same subject! If you have to be married in the L.D.S. temple to reach exaltation, why, then, did Jesus say the following?

Matthew 22:30

"For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven."

Matthew 19:12

"For there are eunuchs who were born that way from their mother's womb; and there are eunuchs who were made eunuchs by men; and there are also eunuchs who made themselves eunuchs for the sake of the kingdom of heaven. He who is able to accept this, let him accept it."

I would think that Jesus would want me to reach exaltation. But according to His statement, I would say that He is either not concerned about this, or it is not true that I must be married in the L.D.S. temple to reach exhalation. Or, perhaps there is no exaltation.

Paul also said things that would seem to conflict with this Mormon concept.

1 Corinthians 7:8 "But I say to the unmarried and to widows that it is good for them if they remain even as I."

Corinthians 7:32-33

"But I want you to be free from concern. One who is unmarried is concerned about the things of the Lord, how he may please the Lord; but one who is married is concerned about the things of the world, how he may please his wife..."

Now, I know there is nothing wrong with being married, as Paul also said in this chapter. But the verses do seem to conflict with the idea that one must be married in the L.D.S. temple in order to reach exaltation. If a person must be married in the temple why would Paul say that it is good to be single, and able to focus more on the Lord?

It's true that the L.D.S. church no longer practices polygamy. I bring the topic up only to show that such "theology" came from a man who claimed to be a prophet of God. Likewise, the fact that the Book of Mormon and Doctrine and Covenants contradict each other is significant, because they too are regarded as the word of God to L.D.S furthermore the D&C also contradicts the Bible.

D&C 132:65 (PDF LDS Scripture pg. 839)

"Therefore, it shall be lawful in me, if she receive not this law, for him to receive all things whatsoever I, the Lord his God, will give unto him, because she did not believe and administer unto him according to my word; and she then becomes the transgressor; and he is exempt from the law of Sarah, who administered unto Abraham according to the law when I commanded Abraham to take Hagar to wife."

The Bible says nothing about God commanding Abraham to take Hagar to wife. Rather, we are told Abram listened to Sarai.

Genesis 16:2

"So Sarai said to Abram, 'Now behold, the LORD has prevented me from bearing children. Please go in to my maid; perhaps I shall obtain children through her.' And Abram listened to the voice of Sarai."

In verse 5 it is clear that Abram and Sarai sinned in this matter.

Genesis 16:5

"And Sarai said to Abram, 'May the wrong done me be upon you. I gave my maid into your arms; but when she saw that she had conceived, I was despised in her sight. May the LORD judge between you and me.'"

Although some of the kings in the Old Testament had many wives, the Bible itself condemned this practice.

Deuteronomy 17:17

"Neither shall he multiply wives for himself, lest his heart turn away; nor shall he greatly increase silver and gold for himself."

There is no mention of any of the Apostles practicing polygamy.¹ Timothy 3:2-12 and Titus 1:5-6 indicate that they should only have one wife. Just because some people are recorded in the Old Testament as practicing polygamy does not mean that the practice is right, in the sight of God.

When a book such as Doctrine and Covenants or Book of Mormon contradicts the Bible, rest assured that it is not the Bible that is wrong.

Journal of Discourses, Vol.11, pgs.127-128 (PDF pg. 136)

"Brigham Young, June 18, 1865

"The founders of that ancient empire were robbers and women stealers, and made laws favoring monogamy in consequence of the scarcity of women among them, and hence this monogamic system which now prevails throughout all Christendom, and which has been so fruitful a source of prostitution and whoredom throughout all the Christian monogamic cities of the Old and New World, until rottenness and decay are at the root of their institutions both national and religious. Polygamy did not have its origin with Joseph Smith, but it existed from the beginning. So far as I am concerned as an individual, I did not ask for it; I never desired it; and if I ever had a trial of my faith in the world, it was when Joseph Smith revealed that doctrine to me; and I had to pray incessantly and exercise faith before the Lord until He revealed to me the truth, and I was satisfied.

I say this at the present time for the satisfaction of both saint and sinner. Now, here are the commandments of the Lord, and here are the wishes of wicked men, which shall we obey? It is the Lord and them for it.”

(Does this sound like a prophet of God to you?)

Journal of Discourses, Vol.1, pgs.50-51 (PDF pg. 58)

“Brigham Young, April 9, 1852

“Now hear it, O inhabitants of the earth, Jew and Gentile, Saint and sinner! When our father Adam came into the garden of Eden, he came into it with a celestial body, and brought Eve, **one of his wives**, with him.”

This is a different story from that which is related in Genesis. According to the Bible, God created Adam and Eve.

Compare what Joseph F. Smith says in the next two statements to what Brigham Young said ("The only men who become Gods, even the Sons of God, are those who enter into polygamy." —Journal of Discourses, Vol.11, pgs.268-269). (PDF pg. 277)

Journal of Discourses, Vol.20, pgs.29-30 (PDF pg. 37)

“Joseph F. Smith, July 7, 1878

“If, then, this principle was of such great importance that the Prophet himself was threatened with destruction, and the best men in the Church with being excluded from the favor of the Almighty, if they did not enter into and establish the practice of it upon the earth, it is useless to tell me that there is no blessing attached to obedience to the law, or that a man with only one wife can obtain as great a reward, glory or kingdom as he can with more than one, being equally faithful.”

“Joseph F. Smith, July 7, 1878

“I understand the law of celestial marriage to mean that every man in this Church, who has the ability to obey and practice it in righteousness and will not, shall be damned, I say I understand it to mean this and nothing less, and I testify in the name of Jesus that it does mean that.”

I understand that some of these statements might seem offensive to you. I did not copy this to offend the reader, but rather to point out that Joseph Smith and Brigham Young are not prophets of God. I came to this conclusion because of their own statements. It is not wrong for me to point out L.D.S scriptures in contradiction with each other; all truth should be able to stand the test. The Bible has had numerous critics, and the truth of it shines even more. This will continue to be true, because the Bible is the Word of God.