

09-Aug-2011

Polygamy and Binding Ties

Dear Sister C _____,

You wrote a letter expressing the joy that you experienced in the past, July, 2011, Edmonton seminar as well as a concern of an elderly brother in the group.

“Brother J _____ walked out of the bible study meeting last week because he was frustrated. It is quite hard to pin point his exact concerns because they vary from time to time and situation to situation. The point where Br J _____ walked out was when polygamy was being discussed. The point about the 100 wives, Matt 19:28, 29 - really gets him upset when it is being discussed. He feels it is truth being stretched by some of the brethren in the group. The talks I have had with him in the past is he doesn't want a 100 wives especially as an older man. This thought doesn't bring him comfort, but he has been showing many signs of being lonely and is drawn to younger women. This to me shows he is not against having wives...”—Your E-mail, Saturday, 11: 31 PM, 30-Jul-2011.

Thank you for your appreciation pertaining to the recent seminar. We, both Vinnette and I, have lingering fond memories from the fellowship with the group as well. Regarding J _____'s concerns, I do not know if he listens to the bi-weekly studies or not; however, some answers to his concerns were therein expressed. Being old and alone is not a problem for any end-time, last-day believer. Having faith in the Lord's goodness may be since it was He who promised to the disciples eternal joy in the “man child's” advent. If the Lord has gratuities and graces to give to J _____ or any of us and we refuse them, then I am sure that the Lord will not force them upon us just like when, in the unlikely event, our children refuse to receive our offers of monetary help. If He gives to any of us men 100 wives, it could only mean that we need that much help for wives were created to be the man's helpmeet. Thus, to not have them would mean to become overworked—a very unsavory prospect to be heaped upon a man for an eternity.

I think of myself to attempt to discern J _____'s perspective. Although, I do find women to be quite alluring and charming, and this with my current level of testosterone, the levels of an aging man of 55, I likewise do not now have a sense that I could be happy with 100 wives. This is perhaps a reflection of the fact that the world is full of dishonorable and disgraceful women, people whom Christ did not have in mind when He made the promise. He said, *“**And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life**”*—Matt 19: 29. To be sacrificial to this extreme implies that the Lord would not reward such a faithful saint with women of the opposite demeanor. Brother Houteff had the following insight regarding this verse:

“In all diligence, therefore, give heed to any supernatural manifestation in the church of God, irrespective of source, whether it be human or brute, small or great, black or white, rich or poor. Unbiasedly compare its work with the Scriptures, and if it is in harmony with them, if it finds its foundation and predication there, makes men loyal to the law and to the prophets, and adds light to the present truth, accept it whatever the cost in money, property, position, friends, and relatives, for it is your very life. He who will prove faithful in this responsibility will receive a hundredfold for the sacrifice it has cost him to be true to the Lord's voice (Matt 19: 29).”—*IAnserer*, 46; parenthesis are central to quote and therein belong.

As I honor Christ and VTH's inspired commission to appreciate every word in the *Rod*, I can, along with VTH's above affirmation of the Lord's testimony, relate to you and to J _____ more of my own perspective. Before doing so, one might ask, Who needs 100 wives? The only answer is that the Lord—not we ourselves—will grace us with all our wants and needs! This He will do if we trust Him. Just as Adam could not fathom a wife before Christ designed her and introduced her to him, we likewise are obviously ignorant in the same, if not a greater, way. We cannot fathom our

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joy until the Lord gives it to us. Furthermore, rather than being vexed over the Lord's words of promise, why not analyze His graces to us more deeply and then ask the obviously commensurate question: Who needs 100 brothers or sister, fathers or mothers, etc? Is it possible that the Lord, with these gifts, has a formula for joy and delight that we ourselves have yet to discern or anticipate?

What about women!? Should they lament because such a commensurate promise, that of multiple husbands as a gift for "forsaking" their current spouse, has not been promised to them? Women were created with different impulses than were men. As should be glaringly obvious, it takes different gifts to bring them to happiness. Consider for example that, because of female—not male—objections, we cannot even share the same public rest rooms. Women fear that they would be spied upon by the men—and even more duplicitous, they presume upon male chivalry and power to enforce such delicate protections—but why do not men have the same dreaded vexation? Such may seem trite, but if pondered upon, all will see the glory of instinctive double standards and then realize the need for different rewards of positive behavior. More incite can be garnered by parent-child relations. Any parent who has raised both boys and girls well know that each require different gifts. Even as a child, this point has been hammered home: Girls were not encouraged to play like boys, and boys were certainly, perhaps by a multiple of ten, discouraged from playing like girls. If boys were ever seen conducting themselves like the girls, they were severely reprimanded with derogatory and highly offensive, gender-specific expletives. Such insults would come from everyone, their peers, their church, their teachers, and even both of their loving parents. It seems that everybody demands that men be men; none ever say to a man, "why don't you 'grow a pair' and act like a real woman?" Males are always degraded for self-conduct that violated the social expectations of testosterone-specific deportment. This is global, universal, and even biblical (as proven by *Matt 19*). Thus, before women become like Eve and commit the sin of covetousness, that of longing to acquire someone else's stature—someone's Peniel power—they must take stalk in the benefits which the Lord has graced to them. This should preclude them from beholding, with the eye of envy, their man's gifts from the Lord. Women don't have the same curses, why would they expect the same blessing. More can be said pertaining to this, but for now, such women should deploy their own intellectually explorative powers to find peace on this issue. They should not seek to steal away from men the Lord's promises of joy. As they do so, they should by faith discern that Christ does not dole out His rewards to harmonize with the inconsiderate, fickle, and thoughtless expectations of either men or women. Instead, He gives His gifts in accordance to His wisdom.

This counsel leads us back to J____'s concern. Being a man, my own personal perspective and experience may benefit: In my walk with the Lord, just as implied in *Matt 19*, I have been assailed because of my embrace of this light forcing me to make a choice. My election has always been to hold onto the Lord without regard to the angry and oftentimes vociferously expressed objections of many of my closest relatives; thankfully, my wife has never become one of those voices compelling me to forsake the Lord. An interesting question develops from this history: Does this fact, being a derivative of the specific criterion cited in *Matt 19*, disqualify me from receiving 100 wives? In this I cannot say. As you ponder this question, remember the above stated reasoning: the need for a helpmeet so as to ease one's burden. My wife has been loyal, but some of my children have placed challenges upon my dedication to the Lord requiring that I elevate Him above them. Forced to choose, I faithfully have chosen the Lord's work; thus, I can expect multiples of hundreds of children. This I say, not knowing the final status with heaven concerning my children—the grace under analysis here will come whether they make it to the Kingdom or not. The point is that I still have, in my work for the Lord, put His name ahead of them; consequently, I am qualified for His corresponding reward, His prize, new children. Like the variations of food, I cannot just eternally settle on one dish. Like health, it too comes in multiple dimensions: A strong heart is good, but its blessings are only fully beneficial if the other organs are also strong. Like the vast array of flowers and aromatic blossoms that decorate the field, who can put a limit on their numbers? Like the song bird's melody in the wooded meadow, should we only hear one tune? Like a gentle breeze on a

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summer day, like freedom from oppression and affliction, like Sabbath rest after a week of toil, like life, like so many things, diversity works well with them all. The same with children: I love them as well, and my happiness will be multiplied with each addition.

The all conclusive fact still remains and is now fortified: I have learned that there is no gift from the Lord over which I should lament —especially women. This I say because I know the overwhelming charm which righteous women can give. This coupled with the fact that I love creation and procreation, I look forward to my promised gift, and I imagine delighting in the eternal fellowship with my soon-to-be-received faithful children. But child rearing, when done in the Lord, can be quite a burden and a heavy task: one which requires help or a helpmeet. This burden cannot be placed upon Vinnette alone for why should she exhaust herself under such an eternal drain? Remember, she too is promised joy! Will we not both need help to raise and train them? Such help allowing me to meet my work can be fulfilled by the Lord's VTH-affirmed promise of multiple wives. The problem is that many have a mind that is totally fixated on sex. They seem to think that such is the only benefit of female companionship. As long as this is their central emphasis, they can never understand the full joy of females and the fun they bring to the work day especially when they see you as their "head". To such I admonish: Women are not merely sex objects; 'lift up your heads oh ye gates'; lift them higher and realize how women can make your day, as well as the day of your other companions, very interesting in many other ways.

In speaking with J____ in past phone and direct conversations, I cannot help but wonder if his consternation over the Lord's desire to bring everlasting joy to him results from a yearning to connect with his former wife and include her. I wonder if he feels that, to win her to his side, he needs to disdain the Lord's graces so as to pacify her. Does he want to insult Christ in order to protect her feelings or her former station by his side? Only he can answer this query. Until further consultation with him, I cannot determine his true feelings for sure; however, for those who do harbor such sentiments, they should remember the lesson of Adam and Eve. Adam was made —not more happy, but— more miserable by his higher regard for Eve's sensitivities. Adam's curse, hence the curse on humanity, came when he committed a similar offense against the Lord: He took Eve's side and honored her happiness above his own and above the expressed commands of the Lord. *Matt 19's* counsel was given to vilify and censure, among the faithful, this very inclination. The ties which bind us to the rebellious must be untangled. The Lord was attempting to show the disciples their duty: That is, instead of prostrating themselves with the hope that their wayward relatives will eventually swallow their pride and join or unite with us/them, He wants us to relinquish our deeply embedded, emotional ties to them and do so by anticipating the acquisition of new relatives.

In our most recent Friday-evening study, we saw from *Isa 65* how the Lord regards those who refuse this cry from His *mustard seed* which exclaims, "Behold me, behold me." The people of the church who ignore this plea, that study proved, reject Christ because they feel that they themselves are holier than He. He says that they are a "smoke in my nose!" That study closed with a ponderable that I compel all to mediate upon: That is, on whose side do you rest your loyalty? Do you side with Christ or with His ungodly detractors who have deluded themselves about their own holiness? Whenever the intricacies of His word are being explored and extolled, those on the Lord's side will find peace in that assembly; they will not walk out of meetings to express their objections. To do so is to display that same, "holier than thou" attitude.

If J____ or any others desire to talk with me, my number has not changed and my office is open around the clock.

Sincerely,

Derek