

A Scriptural perspective of Marriage in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints since its conception on April 6, 1830 was that a man should have only one wife and that Polygamy has never been a commandment from God!

Essay by Kenneth A Card ***(highlights and parenthesis added for clarity in this essay)***

Questions we should ask ourselves: Has polygamy ever been right? Will it ever be right? Did the Prophet Joseph Smith ever teach polygamy or live it? Absolutely Not in all cases! For these scriptural reasons:

“Thou shalt ***love thy wife with all thy heart***, and shalt ***cleave unto her and none else***. And he that looketh upon a woman to lust after her shall deny the faith, and shall not have the Spirit; and if he repents not he shall be cast out. Thou shalt not commit adultery; and he that committeth adultery, and repenteth not, shall be cast out. But he that has committed adultery and repents with all his heart, and forsaketh it, and doeth it no more, thou shalt forgive; But if he doeth it again, he shall not be forgiven, but shall be cast out.”

(Doctrine and Covenants | Section 42:22 - 26)

Revelation given February 9, 1831

This revelation was called “embracing the law of the Church”

“And again, verily I say unto you, that whoso forbiddeth to marry is not ordained of God, for marriage is ordained of God unto man.

Wherefore, it is lawful that he should have ***one wife***, and they twain shall be one flesh, and all this that the earth might answer the end of its creation; And that it might be filled with the measure of man, according to his creation ***before the world was made***.”

(Doctrine and Covenants | Section 49:15 - 17)

Revelation given March 1831

Note that ***“before the world was made”*** this law of marriage was ordained by God and it stated that a man was to have only ***“one wife, and they twain shall be one flesh”*** (D&C 49: 15-17), ***“and shalt cleave unto her and none else”*** (D&C 42: 21-26). If that wasn't enough clarity section 101 on “Marriage” was added to the Doctrine and Covenants in 1835 and accepted by competent assemblies and conferences of the Church as scripture, by ***“common consent!”*** And it was Signed

by: Joseph Smith, Oliver Cowdery, Sidney Rigdon, Fredrick G. Williams
(Presiding Elders of the Church).

<http://www.josephsmithpapers.org/paper-summary/doctrine-and-covenants-1835/9>

And all things shall be done by common consent in the church, by much prayer and faith, for all things you shall receive by faith. Amen. (Doctrine and Covenants | Section 26:2) **Revelation given July 1830**

The years following February and March 1831 when D&C 42 and 49 was received, some church members were pursuing the false doctrine of polygamy that had crept into the Church and the Prophet Joseph was continually fighting that corruption. He, never instigated it, as “true history” will declare. He knew well the “**pattern**” for marriage God had established from the beginning with Adam and Eve (one man one wife) and D&C 42 and 49 was reestablishing that **pattern**. Section C1 or (101) was put into the Doctrine and Covenants via “**common consent**” in 1835 and remained there until the 1876 edition under Brigham Young, who “claimed” he had found a revelation on polygamy that Joseph Smith had received. This was a lie. How could the Prophet Joseph Smith (32 years later) defend his character now that he was dead? Section 101 was canonized scripture and stated:

SECTION CI (101) MARRIAGE. (Page 251)

1. According to the customs of all civilized nations, marriage is regulated by laws and ceremonies: therefore we believe that all marriages in this church of Christ of Latter Day Saints, should be solemnized in a public meeting, or feast, prepared for that purpose: and that the solemnization should be performed by a presiding high priest, high priest, bishop, elder, or priest, not even prohibiting those persons who are desirous to get married, of being married by other authority. We believe that it is not right to prohibit members of this church from marrying out of the church, if it be there determination so to do, but such persons shall be considered weak in the faith of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

2. Marriage should be celebrated with prayer and thanksgiving; and at the solemnization, the persons to be married, standing together, the man on the right, and the woman on the left, shall be addressed by the person

officiating, as he shall be directed by the holy Spirit; and if there be no legal objections, he shall say, calling each by their names: “You both mutually agree to be each other's companions, husband and wife, observing the legal rights belonging to this condition; that is, keeping yourselves wholly for each other, and from all others, during your lives.” And when they have answered “Yes,” he shall pronounce them “husband and wife” in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and by virtue of the laws of the country and authority vested in him: “may God add his blessings and keep you to fulfill your covenants from henceforth and forever. Amen.”

3. The clerk of every church should keep a record of all marriages, solemnized in his branch.

4. All legal contracts of marriage made before a person is baptized into this church, should be held sacred and fulfilled. **Inasmuch as this church of Christ has been reproached with the crime of fornication, and polygamy: we declare that we believe, that one man should have one wife; and one woman, but one husband,** except in case of death, when either is at liberty to marry again. It is not right to persuade a woman to be baptized contrary to the will of her husband, neither is it lawful to influence her to leave her husband. All children are bound by law to obey their parents; and to influence them to embrace any religious faith, or be baptized, or leave their parents without their consent, is unlawful and unjust. **We believe that all persons who exercise control over their fellow beings, and prevent them from embracing the truth, will have to answer for that sin.**

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The Prophet Joseph Smith taught that if a person receives a message or revelation that contradicts a previous revelation you may know it is not of God but of Satan, who may appear as an angel of light to deceive.

The Prophet Joseph Smith wrote:

“There have also been ministering angels in the church which were of Satan appearing as an angel of light:— A sister in the State of New York had a

vision who said it was told her that if she would go to a certain place in the woods an angel would appear to her,— she went at the appointed time and saw a glorious personage descending arrayed in white . . . he commenced and told her to fear God and said that her husband was called to do great things, but that he must not go more than one hundred miles from home or he would not return; whereas God had called him to go to the ends of the earth; and he has since been more than one thousand miles from home, and is yet alive. Many true things were spoken by this personage and many things that were false.—*How it may be asked was this known to be a bad angel? . . . by his contradicting a former revelation.*” *Times and Seasons* 3 [April 1, 1842]: 747 (emphasis added).

The whole notion of a “plurality of wives” was never and has never been a commandment of God as stated in D&C 49: 16-17 from **“before the world was made.”** So where did the notion of having more than one wife come from? Answer: from the “carnal nature of man.” As far as the scriptures go the first mention of a “plurality of wives” came from the practice of a fallen people who had separated themselves from Gods true order and pattern for marriage. This people were descendants from the seed of Cain:

16 ¶ And Cain went out from the presence of the LORD, and dwelt in the land of Nod, on the east of Eden.

17 And Cain knew his wife; and she conceived, and bare Enoch: and he builded a city, and called the name of the city, after the name of his son, Enoch.

18 And unto Enoch was born Irad: and Irad begat Mehujael: and Mehujael begat Methusael: and Methusael begat Lamech.

19 ¶ **And Lamech took unto him two wives:** the name of the one *was* Adah, and the name of the other Zillah.

20 And Adah bare Jabal: he was the father of such as dwell in tents, and of *such as have* cattle.

21 And his brother's name *was* Jubal: he was the father of all such as handle the harp and organ.

22 And Zillah, she also bare Tubal-cain, an instructor of every artificer in brass and iron: and the sister of Tubal-cain *was* Naamah.

23 And Lamech said unto his wives, Adah and Zillah, Hear my voice; ye wives of Lamech, hearken unto my speech: for I have slain a man to my wounding, and a young man to my hurt.

24 If Cain shall be avenged sevenfold, truly Lamech seventy and sevenfold.
(*Old Testament | Genesis 4:16 – 24*)

And Lamech took unto himself two wives; the name of one being Adah, and the name of the other, Zillah.
(*Pearl of Great Price | Moses 5:44*)

Sadly, some of Ancient Israel inhabitation in the old world and in the new world got caught up in these fallen cultural traditions, including Abraham and Jacob, whom I believe both repented of the folly, hence their names were changed as part of the true covenant to have only one wife.

We shall now **search the scriptures** and discover that “in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.” (New Testament | Matthew 18:16)
God’s pattern of marriage has always been the same: “one man, one wife” from the beginning, it has never changed!

Witness # 1: God established his pattern of moral integrity (one man, one wife) with Adam and Eve:

¶ And the LORD God said, It *is* not good that the man should be alone; *I will make him an help meet* [singular] for him.

19 And out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought *them* unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that *was* the name thereof.

20 And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him.

21 And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof;

22 And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.

23 And Adam said, This *is* now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.

24 Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, *and shall cleave unto his wife:* [singular] *and they shall be one flesh.*

(*Old Testament | Genesis 2:18 - 24*)

Witness # 2: God established his pattern of moral integrity (one man, one wife) with Noah and his sons:

And Noah did according unto all that the LORD commanded him.

6 And Noah *was* six hundred years old when the flood of waters was upon the earth.

7 ¶ And Noah went in, and his sons, and his wife, [singular] and his sons' wives [singular] with him, into the ark, because of the waters of the flood. *(Old Testament | Genesis 7:5 - 7)*

In the selfsame day entered Noah, and Shem, and Ham, and Japheth, the sons of Noah, and Noah's wife, and the three wives of his sons with them, into the ark;

(Old Testament | Genesis 7:13)

Witness # 3: God established his pattern of moral integrity (one man, one wife) with Lehi and his sons:

1 AND now I would that ye might know, that after my father, Lehi, had made an end of prophesying concerning his seed, it came to pass that the Lord spake unto him again, saying that it was not meet for him, Lehi, that he should take his family into the wilderness alone; but that his sons should take daughters to wife, [singular] that they might raise up seed unto the Lord in the land of promise.

(Book of Mormon | 1 Nephi 7:1)

And it came to pass that I, Nephi, took one of the daughters of Ishmael to wife; and also, my brethren took of the daughters of Ishmael to wife; and also Zoram took the eldest daughter of Ishmael to wife.

8 And thus my father had fulfilled all the commandments of the Lord which had been given unto him. And also, I, Nephi, had been blessed of the Lord exceedingly.

(Book of Mormon | 1 Nephi 16:7 - 8)

How does the Lord “raise up seed” “unto the Lord?” It can only happen “in righteousness,” “in holiness,” “in virtue;” the eternal pattern of “the seed of the Lord” has always been the same and equates to moral integrity as we shall see.

Wherefore, this people shall keep my commandments, saith the Lord of Hosts, or cursed be the land for their sakes.

30 For if I will, saith the Lord of Hosts, raise up seed unto me, I will command my people; otherwise (meaning therefore) they shall hearken unto these things.

(Book of Mormon | Jacob 2:29 - 30)

Some people think “*otherwise*” is suggesting the Lord may approve the doctrine of polygamy sometimes. Sorry to disappoint, for that is not the **pattern** of God. That is not the **pattern** of godliness. That is not the **pattern** of holiness. That is not the **pattern** of virtue.

So, if the Lord should “raise up seed unto” Himself, how does He do it? He always commands his people to **follow the pattern** he established from the beginning... therefore “**they shall hearken unto these things.**” What are “**these things**” He was speaking about that “they shall hearken unto?” It is in the verses just before the one we just read, which reads:

Behold, David and Solomon truly had many wives and concubines, which thing was abominable before me, saith the Lord.

(Book of Mormon | Jacob 2:24)

Wherefore, thus saith the Lord, I have led this people forth out of the land of Jerusalem, by the power of mine arm, **that I might raise up unto me a righteous branch** (seed) from the fruit of the loins of Joseph.

26 Wherefore, I the Lord God will not suffer that this people (which includes latter-day Israel) shall do like unto them of old.

27 Wherefore, my brethren, **hear me, and hearken** to the word of the Lord: **For there shall not any man among you have save it be one wife; and concubines he shall have none;**

28 For I, the Lord God, delight in the chastity of women. And whoredoms are an abomination before me; thus saith the Lord of Hosts.

(Book of Mormon | Jacob 2:25 – 28)

“And now it came to pass that the people of Nephi, under the reign of the second king, began to grow hard in their hearts, **and indulge themselves somewhat in wicked practices, such as like unto David of old desiring many wives and concubines**, and also Solomon, his son.”

(Book of Mormon | Jacob 1:15)

How plain and simple to understand Jacob 1, 2 and 3).

For a more understandable version of Jacob 2:29-30 and in keeping it in context of what the Lord has commanded from **“before the world was made”** on this matter of marriage, it would read like this for me:

“Wherefore, this people shall keep my commandments, saith the Lord of Hosts, or cursed be the land for their sakes.

30 For if I will, saith the Lord of Hosts, raise up seed unto me, I will **(always)** command my people **(in righteousness... “For there shall not any man among you have save it be one wife; and concubines he shall have none”)** otherwise **(meaning therefore or in other words)** they shall hearken unto these things.”

(Book of Mormon | Jacob 2:29 - 30)

The Book of Mormon is for us in our day so that we might learn how to follow God in righteousness and virtue.

1 AND now it came to pass that Zeniff conferred the kingdom upon Noah, one of his sons; therefore Noah began to reign in his stead; and he did not walk in the ways of his father.

2 For behold, **he did not keep the commandments of God, but he did walk after the desires of his own heart. (Did Brigham Young and those who fell into polygamy do the same thing?)** And he had many wives and concubines. **And he did cause his people to commit sin, and do that which was abominable in the sight of the Lord.** Yea, and they did commit whoredoms and all manner of wickedness.

(Book of Mormon | Mosiah 11:1 - 2)

Witness # 4: God established this pattern of moral integrity (one man, one wife) with the Prophet Joseph Smith and the latter-day generation of which we are all apart:

Revelation given March 1831:

“for marriage is ordained of God unto man.

16 Wherefore, it is lawful that he should have **one wife**, and they twain shall be one flesh, and all this that the earth might answer the end of its creation;

17 And that it might be filled with the measure of man, according to his creation **before the world was made.**

(Doctrine and Covenants | Section 49:15 - 17)

My testimony of the Prophet Joseph Smith is that he never departed from this truth, never lied, (that is not becoming of a “true prophet” of God) and never had but one wife, Emma! Everything said to the contrary to this was lies hatched by others to bring him down to their level and justify polygamy. Who is deceived? Me or those who fell into what the Lord called “whoredoms and abominations” as having more than one wife?

“And again, I will give unto you **a pattern in all things**, (this includes **marriage**) that ye may not be deceived; for Satan is abroad in the land, and he goeth forth deceiving the nations.” (*“nations,” meaning, the people and individuals, including the LDS Church and its fall into polygamy*)

(Doctrine and Covenants | Section 52:14, given June 7, 1831)

“Nevertheless, I give commandments, and **many have turned away from my commandments and have not kept them.**

14 **There were among you adulterers and adulteresses;** some of whom have turned away from you, and others remain with you that hereafter shall be revealed.

15 Let such beware and repent speedily, lest judgment shall come upon them as a snare, and their folly shall be made manifest, and their works shall follow them in the eyes of the people.

16 And verily I say unto you, as I have said before, **he that looketh on a woman to lust after her, or if any shall commit adultery in their hearts, they shall not have the Spirit,** but shall deny the faith and shall fear.”

(Doctrine and Covenants | Section 63:13 – 16, given August 1831)

Is the Lord sharing with us his moral integrity, his “**pattern**?” He is! His righteousness, His holiness, and His virtue have been the same in every dispensation of time, to all the Prophets and obedient of his children. He is giving us an eternal **pattern** of morality to follow and heed in marriage that we might “raise up seed unto” God in righteousness and virtue! Godliness of character and divine nature is the righteousness God commands his people to follow and endure to the end in!

For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end; While it is said, today if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts,

(New Testament | Hebrews 3:14 - 15)

Revelation given March 20, 1839:

“let virtue garnish thy thoughts unceasingly; then shall thy confidence wax strong in the presence of God; and the doctrine of the priesthood shall distil upon thy soul as the dews from heaven.

46 The Holy Ghost shall be thy constant companion, and thy scepter an unchanging scepter of righteousness and truth; and thy dominion shall be an everlasting dominion, and without compulsory means it shall flow unto thee forever and ever.”

(Doctrine and Covenants | Section 121:45 - 46)

How can one maintain “virtue unceasingly” and live polygamy?

“And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

11 And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:

12 That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.”

(New Testament | 2 Thessalonians 2:10 - 12)

Book of Mormon:

40 And whoso shall declare more or less than this, and establish it for my doctrine, the same cometh of evil, and is not built upon my rock; but he buildeth upon a sandy foundation, and the gates of hell stand open to receive such when the floods come and the winds beat upon them.

41 Therefore, go forth unto this people, and declare the words which I have spoken, unto the ends of the earth.

(3 Nephi 11:40 - 41)

12 And I give unto you a commandment that ye shall do these things. And if ye shall always do these things blessed are ye, for ye are built upon my rock.

13 But whoso among you shall do more or less than these are not built upon my rock, but are built upon a sandy foundation; and when the rain descends, and the floods come, and the winds blow, and beat upon them, they shall fall, and the gates of hell are ready open to receive them.

14 Therefore **blessed are ye if ye shall keep my commandments**, which the Father hath commanded me that I should give unto you.

15 Verily, verily, I say unto you, ye must watch and pray always, lest ye be tempted by the devil, and ye be led away captive by him.

(3 Nephi 18:12 - 15)

Revelation given Summer of 1828:

66 Yea, if they will come, they may, and partake of the waters of life freely.

67 **Behold, this is my doctrine—whosoever repenteth and cometh unto me, the same is my church.**

68 **Whosoever declareth more or less than this, the same is not of me**, but is against me; therefore he is not of my church.

69 And now, behold, whosoever is of my church, and endureth of my church to the end, him will I establish upon my rock, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against them.

70 And now, remember the words of him who is the life and light of the world, your Redeemer, your Lord and your God. Amen.

(Doctrine and Covenants | Section 10:66 - 70)

Revelation given January 19, 1841:

“be a believer in the Book of Mormon, and the revelations I have given unto you, saith the Lord your God;

120 **For that which is more or less than this cometh of evil**, and shall be attended with cursings and not blessings, saith the Lord your God. Even so. Amen.

(Doctrine and Covenants | Section 124:119 - 120)

It is my belief, personal witness and testimony that the Prophet Joseph Smith never engaged (secretly or otherwise) in the doctrine of “plurality of wives” but fought against it his whole life! He never engaged in lies or deception when it came to this moral law of having only “one wife” as the scriptures presented here so testify of in establishing **God’s pattern for marriage** from **“before the world was made.”** Everything ever said by others in opposing God’s moral law is and was fabricated lies, doctored histories; journals and diaries and those who are and have or will promoted such will be held accountable themselves and will have to answer to God for their behavior.

One day and a month before Joseph Smith was murdered he spoke to a large group in Nauvoo. He started out this talk reading **2 Corinthians 11**...this was a warning to *some of the apostles* and other who were secretly living polygamy and accusing him (Joseph Smith) of teaching and living it. (History of the Church May 1844 pg. 408-412). This is what the Prophet Joseph quoted:

“For such *are* false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ.

14 And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.

15 Therefore *it is* no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.”

(New Testament | 2 Corinthians 11:13 - 15)

On May 26, 1844 Joseph Smith said, one month before he was murdered June 27, 1844: **“What a thing for a man to be accused of committing adultery, and having seven wives, when I can only find one. *I am the same man, and as innocent as I was fourteen years ago*”** (History of the Church Vol.6, p.408-412 Sunday, May 26, 1844).

Do you believe that statement? I do! What took place before and after the Prophet was killed with some members of the Church as having “plural wives” does not constitute moral integrity and goes against the very scriptures quoted above and the statement made by the Prophet Joseph. Prior to Joseph’s martyrdom, and according to scripture, **God has never commanded a “plurality of wives,” to anyone, ever!** He is the same yesterday, today and forever when it comes to moral integrity, bearing “false witness,” “lying” and “raising up a righteous seed unto Him.” He is the same yesterday, today and forever. Remember:

“A faithful witness will not lie; but a false witness will utter lies” (Proverbs 14:5).

The Prophet Joseph was and is to me a “faithful witness” of Christ and godliness of character!

32 And again, the Lord God hath commanded that men should not murder; that they should **not lie**; that they should not steal; that they should not take the name of the Lord their God in vain; that they should not envy; that they should not have malice; that they should not contend one with another; that

they should not commit whoredoms; and that they should do none of these things; for whoso doeth them shall perish.
(Book of Mormon | 2 Nephi 26:32)

“Whoredoms” scripturally is having more than one living wife, prostitution, fornication, homosexuality, adultery, lying and bearing false witness. The Lord God is clear on this throughout scriptures! People within and outside the Church have lied and born false witness about the Prophet Joseph as having more than one wife during his lifetime and after for years. Joseph lived by what he taught; he did not lie or do things in secret as some accuse him of. He lived morally, according to *D&C 42: 21-26 and 49: 15-17 and section 101; which section 101 was removed out of the Doctrine and Covenants by Brigham Young in 1876 and replaced with D&C 132. Now that was a strange act and **contrary to former revelations within the scriptures**, and it was done without “common consent!” Section 101 of 1835 was removed from the scriptures and another Section 132 was added, again **without** “common consent” ...a real contradiction of Gods eternal pattern and **“contradicting a former revelations,”** which the Prophet Joseph Smith said was a sure way to know it was of Satan and not of God. (*Times and Seasons* 3 [April 1, 1842]: 747). Emma Smith, the Prophets wife said that Joseph never wrote or received the revelation known as D&C 132. This is what the Lord said about Emma’s integrity:

HEARKEN unto the voice of the Lord your God, while I speak unto you, Emma Smith, my daughter; for verily I say unto you, all those who receive my gospel are sons and daughters in my kingdom.

2 A revelation I give unto you concerning my will; and if thou art faithful and walk in the **paths of virtue** before me, I will preserve thy life, and thou shalt receive an inheritance in Zion.

3 Behold, thy sins are forgiven thee, and **thou art an elect lady**, whom I have called.

(Doctrine and Covenants | Section 25:1 - 3) Revelation given July 1830

Through my own study, research and prayer I have come to know that noble lady and her honesty and virtue. There are inconsistencies in D&C 132 and I will mention but one beginning with verse 1. “Isaac” never did have more than one wife, he only had one and that was Rebecca. Verse 1 says he had “many wives and concubines.” (Note, that Isaac’s name was never change because he kept the covenant of marriage revealed to Adam and Eve; once Abram and Jacob repented and re-established the covenant of marriage, their names were changed, Abram to

Abraham and Jacob to Israel). The Lord does not make mistakes in scriptures or lie, but man does!

- What were the consequences of such an act of immorality in the early days of the Church after Joseph was murdered?... **The Lord called the leadership of the Church to repentance** via the United States Government, which put pressure on the Church that brought about the Manifesto's which ended the **"reproached with the crime of fornication, and polygamy"** that plagued the Church in its early days and in a historical sense still does today! I feel and know there is much more the Church could do to clear the name of the Prophet Joseph Smith. All the evidence the Church has today about the Prophet Joseph Smith as having more than one wife is all **"second hand testimony," "hearsay," "falsified affidavits and journals and diaries"** and **"doctored histories,"** nothing from Joseph's own lips but only the truth of what he taught scripturally said a month before he was murdered: **"I am the same man, and as innocent as I was fourteen years ago"...** **"What a thing for a man to be accused of committing adultery, and having seven wives, when I can only find one."** Was Joseph truthful or was he lying? "True Prophets" don't lie or do immoral acts in secret or teach false doctrines like polygamy! We have plenty of first hand testimony from Joseph Smith himself teaching and preaching against having more than one wife and denying his involvement with polygamy or plural wives altogether. His own children testified of their father's moral integrity and example of having only one wife, Emma. Joseph said in his own words that **"my name should be had for good and evil among all nations, kindreds, tongues, or that it should be both good and evil spoke of among all people"** (Joseph Smith History 1: 33)

Wherefore, let all men beware how they take my name in their lips—
62 For behold, verily I say, that **many there be who are under this condemnation**, who use the name of the Lord, and use it in vain, having not authority.

63 Wherefore, let the church repent of their sins, **(do you think that includes polygamy, taught in D&C 132?) YES, absolutely.**

(August 1831, Doctrine and Covenants | Section 63:61 - 63)

"And your minds in times past have been darkened because of unbelief, and because you have treated lightly the things you have received—

55 Which vanity and unbelief have brought the whole church under condemnation.

56 And this condemnation resteth upon the children of Zion, even all.

57 And they shall remain under this condemnation until they repent and *remember the new covenant, even the Book of Mormon and the former commandments which I have given them, not only to say, but to do according to that which I have written—*

58 That they may bring forth fruit meet for their Father's kingdom; otherwise there remaineth a scourge and judgment to be poured out upon the children of Zion.

59 For shall the children of the kingdom pollute my holy land? Verily, I say unto you, Nay.”

(September 1832, Doctrine and Covenants | Section 84:54 - 59)

“Neither shall he (any man or King...this includes Abraham, Jacob, King Solomon and King David, Brigham Young and all those who got caught up in polygamy) multiply wives to himself, that his heart... turn...away...from the commandment...keep all the words of this law.”

(Old Testament | Deuteronomy 17:14-20).

What do you think the Lord was referring to when he said to **“remember”** the Book of Mormon [Do you think that includes (Jacob 2: 24-30 “one wife”) and **“remember”** the “former commandments;” do you think that includes...**“Neither shall he multiply wives to himself, that his heart...turn...away...from the commandment...[to] keep all the words of this law”** (Deuteronomy 17: 14-20) and (D&C 49: 15-17 “one wife”) and **“remember”** the “new covenant” (Jeremiah 31: 31-33; Lectures on Faith 7:15-17)]. The answer is obvious; this article is testimony to the truth of having only one wife! The “whole church” is still “under condemnation” today (in my opinion) until it repents of “bearing false witness,” that the Prophet Joseph Smith was a polygamist and remove D&C 132 and put D&C 101 of 1835 back in, along with Lectures on Faith as it was when Joseph was here...this is a simple thing to do. To “repent” and become the “Children of Christ” (Mosiah 5:7-10). What is there to be ashamed of that we can’t repent of...nothing, unless pride follows us individually or collectively as a Church to the grave and beyond.

Witness #5: Christs teachings on marriage, his pattern of moral integrity is yet another witness for “one man,” “one wife” in marriage.

“The Pharisees also came unto him, tempting him, and saying unto him, Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause? And he answered and said unto them, **Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female,**”
(New Testament | Matthew 19:3 - 4)

Note that **“at the beginning”** or **“from the beginning of creation”** (Mark 10: 2-9) God **“made them male and female”** (the marriage principle, the celestial pattern) ... not male and females (plural)! Or males and males or females and females. The “marriage” for proper family relationships was and is “male and female” period. Jesus continuing to teach the concept of marriage...

“And said, For this cause shall a man leave **father and mother**, and shall **cleave to his wife**; and **they twain** shall be one flesh?
6 Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. **What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.**”
(New Testament | Matthew 19:5 - 6)

- Note that the man leaves his **“father and mother”** (“mother,” singular, not mothers’ plural) as would be the case in a polygamist relationship.
- Note that the man is to **“cleave to his wife”** (“wife,” singular) this is the godly pattern, the divine pattern. To **“cleave”** means to “adhere closely,” “to stick to,” “to remain faithful to.”
- Note, **“they twain”** ...not “they” multiple wives, but “they twain” (“twain” meaning two).
- “Therefore” what **“God hath joined together”** (the proper marriage relationship or pattern is what **“God hath joined together”** is one man one wife) [1 Timothy 3:2, 12; Titus 1:6; Jacob 2:27, 3:5; D&C 49:16].
- **“Therefore...” “let not man put asunder”** ... in other words let **“no man” (JST 19:6) [Not even Brigham Young and those who got caught up in polygamy]** deceive you in thinking a man can have many wives and concubines or man with man or woman with woman and justify it as good or coming from God. It has never been Gods will or Gods plan **“from the beginning.”**

Christ is teaching the principle of marriage that has been the same from the **“beginning.”** It is man who has corrupted His laws and **“put asunder”** the marriage relationship of **“twain,”** (meaning one man and one wife) who are to become one in a divine relationship of virtue and holiness of character together!

(Read President Ezra Taft Benson Conference Address, Ensign, November 1986, pg 80 The Book of Mormon).

<https://www.lds.org/ensign/1986/11/the-book-of-mormon-keystone-of-our-religion?lang=eng>

My heart goes out to all those who have been and are beguiled and led away into “false securities” in their thinking and “blinded by the craftiness of men” (D&C 76: 75) when it comes to God’s moral law, that states; “it is lawful that he should have ***one wife***” (D&C 49:16) ***“and shalt cleave unto her and none else;”*** and ***“many wives and concubines” is “abominable before me, saith the Lord”*** (Book of Mormon Jacob 2: 24-26). And ***“Thou shalt not commit adultery”*** (Exodus 20: 14) which has NEVER changed! Polygamy is adultery, plain and simple. The Lord warned ancient Israel about such things and modern Israel has been warned too...and should take heed. When a man enters polygamy, (adultery) and when women allows it they are themselves promoting the “sin” of “adultery” by not speaking out against it. When a “church” promotes polygamy via its past corrupted historical data and actions and does not speak out against it, they too are promoting the “sin” of “polygamy/adultery” and fornication (Ephesians 6:10-20).

So, every God loving person should ask themselves the question: Where do I stand? Do I stand with the Lord and His teachings on morality and marriage, which is that man should have only **“one wife”** and **“they twain shall be one flesh,”** and that multiple wives is an abomination, sin and adultery? (Jacob 1,2,3; Deuteronomy 17:14-20). Or do I follow or believe in the false doctrine of polygamy as taught in D&C 132? There have been false doctrines taught in the church by some prophets and apostles and polygamy was and is one of those doctrines because the very act of polygamy itself, is adultery! Polygamy does not stand up for the truth in righteousness, in virtue and in holiness of character. It is diametrically opposed to “one man having one wife” as taught by God from the beginning.

Are “Prophets” ever just “men?” Yes, they can make mistakes and do. Can “prophets prophesy falsely?” Yes... Why would the Lord warn us of prophets and apostles prophesying falsely and teaching false doctrines if it were not possible?

“The prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests bear rule by their means; and my people love to have it so: and what will ye do in the end thereof?”

(Old Testament | Jeremiah 5:31).

This has literally come to pass with the polygamy doctrine today (D&C 63:13-16).

Have some been?... “Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;”
(New Testament | 2 Timothy 3:3 - 4)

Is modern Israel immune from this? If our testimonies and beliefs are not rooted and grounded in the “principles of righteousness,” in “moral integrity,” in “holiness of character and virtue,” which to me is the same as being rooted and grounded “in Christ” we are on the road to personal apostasy and forsaking the truth. The council has always been the same: “Be holy for I the Lord your God am holy” (Lev 19: 2).

Look what the Lord said to the prophet Jacob in the Book of Mormon when some of the Nephites made the immoral mistake and fell into polygamy: Wake up modern Israel, the Book of Mormon was and is for us as a warning!

“Behold, the Lamanites your brethren, whom ye hate because of their filthiness and the cursing which hath come upon their skins, are more righteous than you; for they have not forgotten the commandment of the Lord, which was given unto our father (fathers) (from 1830 - 1920 Book of Mormon printings Jacob 3:5 says “fathers” and was changed to “father” in the 1981 printing)—that they should have save it were one wife, and concubines they should have none, and there should not be whoredoms committed among them. And now, this commandment they observe to keep; wherefore, because of this observance, in keeping this commandment, the Lord God will not destroy them, but will be merciful unto them; and one day they shall become a blessed people.”
(Book of Mormon | Jacob3:5 - 6)

Who had the “right” to change the word “fathers” to father, and to do it without the “common consent” of the church?

“Fathers” is how it should read...because “the commandment” to have only “one wife” was a commandment going all the way back to all the **“fathers”** (Adam onward were to obey this commandment, no exceptions).

Warning: “And they (Latter-day Church) shall remain under this condemnation until they repent and remember the new covenant, even the Book of Mormon and the former commandments which I have given them, not only to say, but to do according to that which I have written” (September 1832, Doctrine and Covenants | Section 84:57).

One of those “former commandments” was to have only “one wife.” Polygamy is the sin of adultery plain and simple. The Prophet Joseph Smith lived from (1805–1844) and died a true Prophet of God, he stated: “I told the brethren that the Book of Mormon was the most correct of any book on earth, and the keystone of our religion, and a man would get nearer to God by abiding by its precepts, than by any other book” (History of the Church, 4:461). Did all and have all, followed that council in the restoration process? No! (See Jacob 1:15; 2:24-30; Mosiah 11: 1-2).

“All legal contracts of marriage made before a person is baptized into this church, should be held sacred and fulfilled. Inasmuch as this church of Christ has been reproached with the crime of fornication, and polygamy: we declare that we believe, that one man should have one wife; and one woman, but one husband, except in case of death, when either is at liberty to marry again.”

(Doctrine and Covenants 1835 Section C1 (101:4))

Scripturally it is clear to what the Lord has and had to say about the true order of marriage and raising a righteous seed unto Him. This essay is my witness and testimony of God’s will regarding marriage, and I will not engage in the false deception the LDS Church is still perpetrating and holding on to today, that the Prophet Joseph Smith had more than one wife; this is shameful, especially considering that polygamy has never been a commandment from God, it is adultery plain and simple. The law of “one man one wife” was established “before the world was made,” (D&C 49: 17) and so shall the moral integrity of God and godliness be; for it is the same yesterday, today and forever, that “one man should have one wife; and one woman, but one husband, except in the case of death, when either is at liberty to marry again.” (D&C 101:4, 1835 to 1876). “For that which is more or less than this cometh of evil, and shall be attended with cursings and not blessings, saith the Lord your God. Even so. Amen.” (D&C 124: 120).

“Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? And in thy name have cast out devils? And in thy name done many wonderful works?

23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.”

(New Testament | Matthew 7:21 - 23)

Inspired Version says: “Ye never knew me,” which puts the responsibility on each of us personally to really “know” the path and pattern of godliness and virtue by living it and becoming a manifestation of it, in thought, word and deed!

“But this *shall be* the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; after those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.” (Jeremiah 31:33)

It is the fine print of moral righteousness written upon our hearts and minds that really matters.

Therefore, in conclusion and regardless of whatever has taken place in the past by individuals in religion, politics, tribalism and civilizations, individually or collectively that was and is a lie, wrong, bad, sinful, lustful or deceitful with regard to polygamy; each individual is accountable for their own acts. “For as in Adam, [“Adam,” meaning our carnal and fallen nature which we are each accountable for, we will] all die, [being separated from God] even so in Christ [“Christ,” meaning when we repent of our fallen and carnal nature and put on “divine nature” we] shall all be made alive” (1 Corinthians 15:22). It is up to everyone to discover this "truth" for themselves, for it will set anyone free. Individually we can only remove the “condemnation” that falls upon us individually by removing the “false beliefs” (our fallen nature) that we are hanging onto that damns us and let go of any ungodly deeds (our carnal nature or carnal thinking) that separate us from godliness and virtue!

My council to anyone would be to embrace that "truth" which does not change, which is found in the "fruit of the Spirit" (Galatians 5: 22-25) which is eternal in its nature, innate to every person and is the same yesterday, today and forever...it is what made “god,” “God” and this is the only "truth" that will bring peace to one’s heart and soul! It is not the “form and structure” of religion or polygamy that

saves us but the “spirit” of godliness and holiness of character. The letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.

“Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

5 And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;

6 And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;

7 And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.

8 For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

9 But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten (how he/she is purged from old sins: by repentance and forgiveness and applying [Moroni 10:32-33]) that he was purged from his old sins.”

(New Testament | 2 Peter 1:4 - 9)

"For he [Synonyms for “he” is righteousness, Father, Christ...Godliness, Holiness and Virtue] is the same yesterday, to-day, and forever; and the way is prepared for all men [because the kingdom of God is innately within all men]. “Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you. (New Testament | Luke 17:21) It has been this way forever, from before the foundation of the world if it so be that they repent and come unto him [synonyms or “him” is godliness, holiness, virtue, patience, kindness, honesty, charity]. For he that diligently seeketh shall find; and the mysteries of God shall be unfolded unto them, by the power of the Holy Ghost, as well in these times as in times of old, and as well in times of old as in times to come; wherefore, the course of the Lord is one eternal round."

(Book of Mormon | 1 Nephi 10: 18 - 19)

Ask yourself this question, “what is the purpose or function of a prophet?”

“Let us here observe, that after *any portion of the human family* are made acquainted with the important fact that there is a God who has created and does uphold all things, the extent of their knowledge, respecting his

character (divine attributes) and glory, will depend upon their diligence and faithfulness in seeking after him, until like Enoch the brother of Jared, and Moses, they shall obtain faith in God, and power with him to *behold him face to face.*”

(Lectures on Faith 2: 55).

This is why we have prophets! A prophet is one who immerses himself into the attributes, character and perfections of godliness and talks to God face to face. So, the purpose of a prophet is to teach mankind how to prepare themselves to talk to God face to face. “Lectures on Faith” 1 through 7 is the best source I have found that teaches this process.

If we are truly centered “in Christ” we will *only* follow a “Prophet” “in righteousness,” “in holiness of character” and “in moral virtue!” This eternal pattern **has** never and **will** never change!

The mysteries of godliness...(D&C 19: 10-13) how great it is:

The **pattern** to God or godhood, is godliness of character, this is the simple “**truth;**” it is “the doctrine of Jesus Christ” (Lecture on Faith 1:1). If you choose to read and ponder Lectures on Faith, it is important to understand the difference between the “**effects of faith**” verses the “affects of faith.” The “**effects of faith**” is what comes from within us; it is our potential to become as God is, the “**effects of faith**” reveals our holy place, where the attributes of godliness are waiting for us to immerse ourselves into completely, in all our thoughts, all our words and all our deeds. The “affects of faith” are the forms and structures outside ourselves (this would include all organized religion and its ordinances and ceremonies) that fallen man worships; it could be people, places or things. “**True worshipers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him**” (John 4:23). How to worship the Father and the Son is through the attributes of godliness! All the divine attributes necessary to become a God are innate to every person who has ever come to earth and received a mortal body through the watery baptism of mortal birth (John 3:1-13). Mortal birth is our baptism in water! This is one of the mysteries of godliness that the ordinance of baptism is to teach a fallen people who have been separated from God or godliness. Consider the following principles of the “effects of faith:”

1. All people, regardless of religion “have authority by faith (alone) to lay hold on eternal life, the richest boon of heaven because God is no respecter of persons, and that every man in every nation has an equal privilege” (Lectures on Faith 3:23).
2. “That the glory that the Father and the Son have is because they are just and holy beings; and that **if they were lacking in one attribute** or perfection which they have, the glory which they have never could be enjoyed by them, for **it requires them to be precisely *what* they are** in order to enjoy it; and if the Savior gives this glory to any others, he must do it in the very same way...” (Lecture 7:15).
3. The “teachings of the Savior most clearly show unto us the nature of salvation (Godhood, how to become a God) and **what** he proposed unto the human family when he proposed to save them---that he proposed to make them like unto himself, and he was like the Father, the great prototype of all saved beings; **and for any portion of the human family to be assimilated into their likeness is to be saved** (exalted as a God); and to be unlike them is to be (damned or destroyed by their own choices and beliefs from becoming a God)...on this hinge turns the door of salvation” (Lectures on Faith 7:16).
4. “Who cannot see then, that salvation (as a God) is the ***effect of faith***? ...all the heavenly beings work by this principle; and it is because they are able so to do that they are saved, **for nothing but this could save them.** And this is the lesson which the God of heaven, by the mouth of his ***holy*** prophets, has been endeavoring to teach to the world. Hence, we are told, that “Without **(the effects of)** faith it is impossible to please God;” and that salvation **(as a God)** is of faith, that it might be by grace, **(grace is another word for the attributes of godliness manifest in our thoughts, words and deeds)** **to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed**” (Romans 4:16). And that Israel, **(ancient and modern)** who followed after the law of righteousness, has not attained to the law of righteousness. (Why) Wherefore? Because they sought it not by faith (the “effects of faith”), but as it were by the works (the letter of the law) of the law; for they stumbled at the stumbling stone (Romans 9:32). [Lectures on Faith 7:17].

One of the false concepts that President Brigham Young taught that bled over into much of his thinking was that in order to be a “God” one would have to observe an

ordinance or ceremony outside themselves and his focus was to be a polygamist (have more than one wife), which is completely opposite to what Lectures on faith teaches and the teachings of Christ, especially in John chapter 17; which teaches, that in order to be “one” with the Father and the Son and become as He is, all one needs to do is become like Him in character and attribute, which draws upon the powers within us (the effects of faith) to become like Him, not a false doctrine outside us like polygamy, which is adultery. Read Galatians 5 to see how **“Christ is become of no effect unto you”** or to those who are caught up in the “letter of the law.” It does not matter what the “letter of the law” is, circumcision or baptism in water, if our focus is on the letter it is dead works. Read and ponder the word “Holiness” in the LDS Bible Dictionary. It is a truth (the word, “holiness”) that is not taught any more.

<https://www.lds.org/scriptures/bd/holiness?lang=eng&letter=H>

“According to the Old Testament, things or places were holy that were set apart for a sacred purpose; the opposite of holy is therefore common or profane (1 Sam. 21:5; Ezek. 22:26; 42:20; 44:23; 48:13–15). Similarly a holy person meant one who held a sacred office. The Israelites were a holy people because they stood in a special relationship to Jehovah. Under the guidance of the Prophets it was seen that what distinguished Jehovah from the gods of the heathen was **His personal character**. The word **holy** therefore came to refer to **moral character** (Lev. 11:44; 19:2; 21:8; Isa. 6:3–8). Israel must **be holy in character** because **the God of Israel was holy** (Jer. 7:4–7; see also Matt. 5:48) [that means no adultery or polygamy]. The **Law of Holiness** (Lev. 17–26) shows how the attempt was made by means of ceremonial observances to secure this holiness of character. The attempt failed [it will always fail] because the later Jews [and modern Israel] observed the letter and neglected the spirit; they attached more importance to the ceremonial than to the moral; and the result was a lapse into **formalism**. But in the writings of the Prophets it is clearly laid down that **the value of worship in the eyes of God depends upon the personal character of the worshipper.**”

“The value of worship in the eyes of God depends upon the personal character of the worshipper.” The only way the principles of godliness can work is from within us! It is not “who” we worship but **“how”** and **“what”** we worship that really counts in becoming as God is.

“I give unto you these sayings that you may understand and know **how to worship**, and know **what you worship**, that you may come unto the Father in my name, and in due time receive of his fulness”
(Doctrine and Covenants | Section 93:19).

5. Note that this scripture does not mention the “who” to worship here, because that is not what is important (that is formalism, a type of idolatry). What is important is the “how,” which is in Spirit (the “fruits of the spirit) and the “what” is truth that resides within us, the truth and power to become as He is, is through the attributes of godliness... “that if they [the Father and the Son] were lacking in one attribute or perfection which they have, the glory which they have never could be enjoyed by them, for it requires them to be precisely *what* they are in order to enjoy it; and if the Savior gives this glory to any others, he must do it in the very same way...” (Lecture 7:15).
This is the doctrine of Jesus Christ! To this I testify!

Essay by Kenneth A Card September 23, 2018

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