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More than one wife?

**Is it O Kay to have more than one wife?****(Romans 4:15.)**

**Intro:** Now this might seem an odd place to start this biblical discussion seeing that the Old Testament and the New Testament seem to have two distinct differences on this subject. We have what appears to be an acceptable practice in the O. T. where it wasn't uncommon for a man to have two or more wives. Even those who like David known to a man after God's own heart – (**Acts 13:21 & 22**), God knew the life of David from beginning to end, that he would one day have about seven wives. Solomon with 700 wives and 300 concubines, Samuel's father had two wives. None of this seemed to deter God from using them in His grand scheme of all things. Yet, in the New Testament we find pastors, elders and deacons were to have only one wife! So, what are the facts?

**I. What is God's standard – **Genesis 2:18 – 24.****

- A. There is a general rule called the ' \_\_\_\_\_ ' meaning the first time we see something mentioned in the Bible, it sets a precedence or a rule.
1. What we have here in **Genesis 2:18- 24**, is the first mention of a man and a woman being placed \_\_\_\_\_ as a couple.
  2. God was establishing a \_\_\_\_\_ of how He wanted things to be when it comes to a relationship between a man and a woman.
  3. It was to be one man, one woman for all of \_\_\_\_\_, not Adam and Steve, not Eve and Eva!
  4. Once \_\_\_\_\_ entered into creation by a willful act of the first couple's disobedience, Satan lost little to no time perverting God's will for human beings. **Genesis 4:18.**
    - a. Lamech was the first to have more than one wife, and the second to murder. **Genesis 4:23.**
    - b. Cain murdered Abel his brother because of jealousy and anger.
- B. So, from the very beginning we find some \_\_\_\_\_ men became polygamist,
1. Abraham had two wives – Sarah and Haggar.
  2. David had Michael, (I Samuel 18:27), Abigail, ( I Samuel 25:42), Ohinoam, (25:43). Maaca, (II Samuel 3:3), Haggith, (3:4), Abital (II Samuel 3:4), Eglah (II Samuel 3:5), Bathsheba (II Samuel 12:24), Concubines (I Chronicles 3:9).
  3. Elkanah – Peninnah & Hannah – I Samuel 1:1 & 2.
  4. Solomon with 1,000 plus.

- C. It appears that in the O.T., God seemed to deal with somethings allowed in the O.T. that He would \_\_\_\_\_ allow in the N. T.
- D. As Paul Harvey used to say, “Now the rest of the story”
- E. God is going to be very \_\_\_\_\_ about some of the things He seemed to be lackadaisical in the O. T.
1. The question was raised in the N.T. **(Matthew 19:5 - 11)**
  2. In the O.T. divorce was \_\_\_\_\_ over incompatibility, however in the N.T. it was only permitted due to adultery.
  3. The point being that when the N.T. was completed, God was able to tell the rest of the story, or how things \_\_\_\_\_ be. Polygamy was definitely \_\_\_\_, monogamy was \_\_\_\_; no simple cause acceptable for divorce save \_\_\_\_\_.
  4. If one can believe that with 700 wives and 300 concubines that Solomon didn't have his share of \_\_\_\_\_, physically and spiritually, read **I Kings 11:1 – 9.**
  5. God is clear that Elders/pastors are to have only \_\_\_\_\_ wife - **I Timothy 3:2 – 12.**
  6. Paul writes at the behest of God in **Titus 1:6.**
- F. It actually appears that from the beginning God \_\_\_\_\_ meant for any man to have more than one wife or one woman to have multiple husbands.
1. The Morman's are not even \_\_\_\_\_ a Christian group of people, rather a cult, and whatever they do or chose to do is always going to be contrary to the Word of God.
  2. They have been spiritually corrupt and bankrupt from the beginning.
- G. When it comes to marriage the Apostle Paul, has through the Holy Spirit given us some godly \_\_\_\_\_ as to how God wants the marriage of one man and one woman to function. **Ephesians 5:18 – 33.** The whole chapter is about \_\_\_\_\_ wife, \_\_\_\_\_ husband – God's plan!