

## ***Polyamorism: a Biblical Perspective***

### I. Concession

- A. Only two New Testament scriptures specifically address the issue
  - 1. I Timothy 3:2 A **bishop** then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach;
  - 2. Titus 1:6 ¶If any be blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of riot or unruly
- B. These are addressed to Bishops, who are to be examples of how persons should live
- C. Polygamy was widely practiced during Biblical times

### II. God's original intent for marriage relationships

Genesis 2:24 Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

- A. Revealed in His creation of a mate for Adam – only one mate was created
- B. The union resulted in a one flesh relationship – Two became one
- C. Introduction of another partner constitutes a breach of the one flesh relationship
  - 1. The second relationship can only be entered into to the detriment of the first
  - 2. The introduction of a third party ends the one flesh relationship
- D. It is reasonable to conclude that if God intended for a man to have more than one mate, He would have provided Adam with the multiple mates

### III. Jesus addresses serial polygamy (divorce and remarriage)

Matthew 19:4-8 ¶And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, ¶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? ¶Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder. ¶They say unto him, Why did Moses then command to give a writing of divorcement, and to put her away? ¶He saith unto them, Moses because of the hardness of your hearts suffered you to put away your wives: **but from the beginning it was not so.**

- A. The practice was initiated because of the hardness of men's hearts
- B. This was not the practice from the beginning
- C. Neither partner is to breach the relationship

Matthew 19:6 ¶Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.

### IV. A historical context

- A. First biblical record of polygamy (polyamorism)

Genesis 4:19 And **Lamech** took unto him two wives: the name of the one was Adah, and the name of the other Zillah.

- 1. Lamech is a descendant of Cain, who murdered his brother

- a. Cain was not a godly man
  - b. Lamech bragged about his own murderous deed
  - 2. Lamech is the eighth generation from Adam
  - 3. Polygamous practice was initiated, not by the godly descendents of Seth, but by the ungodly descendents of Cain
- B. The example of Abraham

Genesis 16:3-4, 15-16 And Sarai Abram's wife took **Hagar** her maid the Egyptian, after Abram had dwelt ten years in the land of Canaan, and gave her to her husband Abram to be his wife. <sup>4</sup>And he went in unto **Hagar**, and she conceived: and when she saw that she had conceived, her mistress was despised in her eyes. <sup>15</sup>And **Hagar** bare Abram a son: and Abram called his son's name, which **Hagar** bare, Ishmael. <sup>16</sup>And Abram was fourscore and six years old, when **Hagar** bare Ishmael to Abram.

- 1. God only recognized the existence of Sarah's son, not that of Hagar
  - Genesis 22:2 And he said, Take now thy son, thine only son **Isaac**, whom thou lovest ....
- 2. God blessed, but would not covenant with Ishmael
  - Genesis 17:20-21 <sup>20</sup>And as for Ishmael, I have heard thee: Behold, I have blessed him, and will make him fruitful, and will multiply him exceedingly; twelve princes shall he beget, and I will make him a great nation. <sup>21</sup>**But my covenant will I establish with Isaac**, which Sarah shall bear unto thee at this set time in the next year.
- 3. God both entered into a covenant with, and blessed, Isaac
  - Genesis 17:21, 25:11 But my covenant will I establish with **Isaac**, which Sarah shall bear unto thee at this set time in the next year. <sup>11</sup>And it came to pass after the death of Abraham, that God blessed his son **Isaac**; and **Isaac** dwelt by the well Lahairoi.