



*Chalmette
Church of Christ*

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The Next Domino: Polygamy

Dave Miller

In the 1960s, as the storm clouds of social and political liberalism were gathering, and leftist activists were beginning their half-century assault on traditional American (i.e., biblical) values, cries for "tolerance" and "diversity" began to be heard. As the "New Morality" asserted itself with its insistence on "free love" and "sexual freedom," the divorce rate in the United States suddenly exploded in 1965 (see Whitehead, 1993). Lax attitudes toward sex resulted in co-ed dormitories on university campuses and "shacking up" (unmarried couples cohabitating without marriage) became common place. The sinister conspiracy to desensitize the American public's commitment to Christian mores was underway. In addition to the spread of pornography, extramarital sex and divorce, premarital sex, unwed motherhood, and a corresponding clamor for abortion rights quickly followed.

Those who resisted this undermining of the marriage institution argued that these steps would inevitably lead to additional distortions of God's laws for human sexuality. It was not uncommon for preachers to argue against unscriptural divorce and remarriage by insisting that repentance necessitated the termination of such illicit marriages. One proof for this contention was the fact that if two men "married" each other, they would be living in a state or condition of ongoing sin (cf. Romans 6:2; Colossians 3:7). If they desired to please God, their only recourse would be to cease their sexual relationship. Many religious people found this line of reasoning difficult to accept. "After all," they said, "Two men cannot marry each other." But here we are, over forty years later. We can now see that the comparison between heterosexual marriage and homosexual marriage was correct.

The gradual softening of attitudes toward homosexuality among large numbers of Americans has led the morally upright to articulate the next logical comparison. In keeping with the domino theory, if homosexuality is now to be accepted as normal, moral behavior—in direct conflict with the Christian moral framework—then no grounds exists for opposing additional forms of sexual perversion: polygamy, incest, bestiality/zoophilia, pedophilia, etc. Americans, for the most part, have not become so morally depraved as to countenance incest, bestiality, and pedophilia—though these actions are increasingly asserting themselves in a quest for social acceptance (e.g., Hari, 2002; "Peter...", n.d.; Singer, 2001; Moore, 2002; "NAMBLA...", 2003). However, the next logical step that one would expect to follow on the heels of increasing acceptance of homosexuality would be the promotion of polygamy.

Sadly, tragically, those steps have been underway for several years and are intensifying. As is often the case, morally degenerate behavior is first championed by

the Hollywood left in order to mainstream behavior that was once morally repugnant to Americans. After all, we saw it coming. When the highest court in the land issued its historically and constitutionally unprecedented ruling against all state sodomy laws (*Lawrence...*, 2003), almost instantly, a convicted Utah polygamist commenced the appeals process to have his bigamy convictions overturned ("Convicted Utah...", 2003). Even Utah politicians are fuzzy on whether the *Constitution* permits polygamy as freedom of religious expression (Fahys, 1998; Helprin, 1998). But, hey, that's the backwoods of Utah—right? Not any more. Tom Hanks has produced a new television series for HBO, "Big Love," that explores the lives of a husband, his three wives, and seven children ("Polygamy Comes...", 2006; Peyser, 2006; Krauthammer, 2006). More Recently, The Learning Channel (TLC) commenced the airing in 2010 of *Sister Wives*, a so-called "reality television series" that centers on a man, four wives, and their 17 children. The program is in its fourth season and continues to draw strong ratings (Kondolojy, 2013a; 2013b).

And now, a U. S. District Court judge in Utah has effectively struck down provisions in Utah law that criminalize polygamy, claiming that such restrictions are unconstitutional ("Federal Judge...", 2013; Mears, 2013; The Times..., 2014). Incredibly, among other allegations, the judge claims that previous bans on polygamy in America were the result of a coercive "majoritarian consensus" that arose from "blatant racism" and the mistaken belief that Western morality (i. e., that Christian view of marriage) is superior to the "civilizationally and racially inferior" "non-European" peoples of the East (*Brown v. Buhman*, pp. 11ff.) Another glaring instance of politically correct gobbledygook gone to seed.

The fact that such nonsense and moral deterioration was predictable and inevitable in no way reduces the shock and repugnance that must surely be felt by those Americans who still retain some semblance of moral sensibility and ethical decency. Is there no end to the incessant parade of depravity and moral degeneracy to which the American public must be subjected? "Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? No! They were not at all ashamed, nor did they know how to blush" (Jeremiah 6:15; 8:12).

Christian Values That Made America Great

Believe it or not, in the days when American civilization's moral sanity was still intact, the reprehensible nature of polygamy by the vast majority of Americans was unquestioned. In the late 1800s, Mormons fled to Utah seeking respite from the widespread opposition to their cultic practices. As America extended its "manifest destiny" westward and more U.S. territories sought statehood, the admission of Utah and Idaho into the union came to the forefront of national concern. After all, their predominantly Mormon populations were practicing polygamy. But the judicial authorities did not shrink from their appointed responsibility, as is evident from the following three United States Supreme Court cases that addressed the matter.

In the 1885 Utah Territory case of *Murphy v. Ramsey*, the Court declared: For certainly no legislation can be supposed more wholesome and necessary in the founding of a free, self-governing commonwealth, fit to take rank as one of the coordinate States of the Union, than that which seeks to establish it on the basis of the idea of the family, as consisting in and springing from the union for life of one man and one woman in the holy estate of matrimony; the sure foundation of all that is stable and noble in our civilization; the best guaranty of that reverent morality which is the source of all beneficent progress in social and political improvement (1885, emp. added).

Did you catch that? The only "sure foundation" of civilization and the best security for morality (which, in turn, initiates progress toward social and political improvement) is the family defined as one man for one woman for life. But the foundation is crumbling and the guaranty is failing. Hence, as our morals continue to unravel, we ought fully to expect to see the erosion of all that is stable and noble in our civilization and the undermining of beneficent progress in social and political improvement. So it is.

To be continued

News and Notes

- Cy Stafford, missionary from Tanzania, Africa, will be at Chalmette on March 30th to speak at our evening services. Cy is the brother of our Tony Stafford.
- Our Third Sunday Singing and Fellowship Meal will be on April 20th. Please bring a friend and a dish!
- There will be a group going to Memphis for the Lectureship on March 31st and will return on April 3rd. Please keep them in prayer as they travel.
- Our Gospel Meeting is just around the corner! It begins April 6th—10th and our guest speaker will be Brother Barry Grider from the Forest Hill congregation in Memphis, TN.
- Vacation Bible School will be June 16-19. There will be a group of 30 people coming from Bybee Branch Church of Christ in McMinnville, TN. ****We will need volunteers for housing. There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board.**
- Mark and Tina will be leaving for a mission trip to Budapest, Hungary. They will be leaving on May 22nd and will return on June 3rd. This will be Tina's first mission trip.



March Anniversaries

23-Edie & Wayne
Schulz



April Birthdays

3-Emily Snyder
11-Bill Green
14-Scott Russell
22-Linda Swanner
28-Nappi Whitley

Prayer List



**Alice Riley
Sherry Towle
Margo Rodney
Judy Hennessee
Betty Grisham
Ella Gillard
Krisztian Montague
Linda Swanner
Jackie Gamble
Gloria Smiles
Elbre Wolfe
Joel James
Charles Jenkins
David Ebeling
Ryker Amaya
Raymond Sanchez
Gary Huettmann
Malcolm & Marlene Vazquez**

*All of our brethren scattered across
the United States & our troops in
Iraq



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Services of The Church Sunday

Bible Classes 9:00 am
AM Worship 10:00 am
PM Worship 6:00 pm

Wednesday

Bible Classes 7:00 pm

Elders

Mark Lance 504-250-8492

J. V. Russell 504-277-0251

Charles Whitley 504-277-4717

Evangelist

Mark Lance 504- 250-8492

gospelpr@cox.net

Deacons

Scott Russell 504-232-4120

Wayne Schulz 504-392-3999

Butch Snyder 504-682-0051

Mike Swanner 504-271-2465

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