

The parents were known to sacrifice for the children and the children for the parents.

But nowadays, we think that we have to take care of 'Number-One' first. This is the poison that destroys our marriages as we don't forgive. Divorce statistics are going through the roof. Broken homes, out-of-control parents and hysterical children is our sad tale.

During divorce, emotions can run high and there are a lot of sides to consider, with so many rights and wrongs. In a case like that I can only go by what Jesus told us to live by. He was very clear when he told us that we should not divorce. I think the reason he said that was because **he wants us to take care of the children that we bring in this world**.

Some parents abort their children before birth, so as not to have the responsibility of being a parent. Some governments and cultures had schemes and training centres organized, where parents could relinquish their children, so the children could be educated in the older generation's ideology.

However, the Lord gave the children to the parents and not to the state or institution, as it was and is the job of the parents to see that their children grow up with love and an education to develop their God-given qualities that they are endowed with at birth. No matter how tough it is, or how important our work, we have to take care of our children. That is why they have a father and a mother.

In the B.C. era, during the Old Testament times, there was very little divorce and quite a few people seemed to have several wives. When the men wanted to add someone new that was fine, but they always honoured the first wife. She remained in charge of the household, no matter how many wives were added.



They did not dump or divorce them, nor their children, nor did the first wife run away. No, they braved the storms of life together. That is why these men were patriarchs. Patriarchs, because they had many wives and children. Divorce was pretty much out of the question. All the children loved and respected father, mother(s) and the family.

Look at Jacob, who was later named Israel; he had four wives and 12 sons, the heads of the twelve tribes of Israel. Gideon had many wives and 70 sons. King David had many wives.

King Solomon might have gone overboard with 700 wives and 300 concubines*. (1Kings 11:3) The Lord did not mind that about Solomon, as he enjoys seeing us happy. What he did mind, was that Solomon started getting involved with the gods of his wives, while it was the Lord that had given him everything; the throne, wisdom and abundant wealth.

* Definition of a concubine: a woman who is not legally a wife, but lives with the man and she has a recognized position in his household. Usually, the man would seek out a concubine to add extra spice to his life. (Dictionary)

Yet Solomon turns around and starts thanking handmade idols of wood and stone for what our omnipotent, omniscient and omnipresent God had given him. That of course went down sideways with the Lord and as a result Solomon was the reason that his son caused the state of Israel to be broken into two parts: Judah and Ephraim. (1Kings 11:11)

WHAT CHANGED IN THE CHRISTIAN ERA?

Paul wrote: *'Nevertheless, to avoid fornication*, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband... But I speak this by permission, and not of commandment.'* (1Cor.7:2,7)

In other words, Paul says, 'To avoid you from messing around; **I take the liberty to speak this and this is not the commandment of the Lord**. This is my personal doctrine.'

We like Paul's personal doctrine as it is right in line with women equal rights and emancipation.

In our Western society and culture we have built our marriages on Paul's personal interpretation. However, Paul continues saying, *'Unto the married I command, yet not I, but the Lord, Let not the wife depart from her husband: But and if she depart, let her remain unmarried or be reconciled to her husband: and let not the husband put away his wife'*. (1Corinthians 7:10,11)
Here Paul says, **'Look, this is from the Lord and no longer me, you are not allowed to divorce**, you have to take care of each other and the children.'

Jesus was very blunt, *'he that puts away his wife or divorces her and then marries another is committing adultery'*** (Luke 16:18)

Very clear words. However, Jesus never said that you cannot add a second wife or a third. We added that in our cultural and moral, religious interpretation, building on Paul's personal doctrine.



* Fornication is having sex with whoever you like outside of marriage, without taking responsibility.
**while Adultery is sneaky, disloyal infidelity. (Dictionary)

Jesus himself had planned for **ten brides** (Mat.25:1-13) on his wedding night, however **only five made it**. Of course he was metaphorically speaking in a parable, but all of Jesus' parables were based in reality and wholesome truths, and there was nothing immoral about them.

What we have done in our **Western, Christian culture** is building on Paul's personal views and we threw out what Jesus had commanded. Hence, we've ended up with a big mess on our hands of **broken hearts, broken families and hurt feelings**.

My question is, 'If you want a second wife and decide to stick with your first family and everyone is willing to deal with the fall-out, wouldn't that be better for all involved, especially the children?'



I doubt very much if God will have any objections. On the positive several wives will have an easier time to keep hubby in line and **it'll likely prevent a man from cheating as his needs are met.** I am happy with the wife that I am blessed with, but we can't confine the Lord and others to our Western moral standards.

I'll give two examples and let you decide:



1491- 1547

Jesus said, *'by their fruit you shall know them'* (Matthew 7:20)

Henry VIII, lived in the **Western culture** and **had two of his six wives beheaded**, so he could marry the next one, and the next one, to try to get a male heir for the throne.

Then in the **African culture** we have **Nelson Mandela**. He was the son of his father's third wife Nosekeni. His father had four wives and 13 children. Nelson admired his father, who was the wise chief of the Kwembu tribe.



Gadla H. Mphakanyiswa, 1880-1928

Little Nelson watched his father and **copied his style of leadership** and was able to lead South Africa through an extremely volatile transition period.



1918- 2013

Do you think that little Nelson would have respected his father, if his father had divorced Nosekeni for his next and fourth wife? I doubt it and I think

little Nelson might have ended up a confused young man with little, or no respect for his father, who died when Nelson was in his early teens.

In divorce, don't we need to take a more objective look from the viewpoint of the children, who are the main ones to be considered, and shouldn't we be less quick to condemn our Muslim kinfolk and others who practice polygamy?

In the Indian culture till less than a century ago, the Maharajas had quite a few wives. It was quite common for them to have 12 to 18 wives. Some had over a hundred wives with concubines.

Yet, the first wife always remained the honoured one. She was the **Maharani** (the Great Queen) while the others were Ranis, or Queens.

However, when there is **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**, bodily harm or danger of life involved, then of course it becomes a different story. It says, *'don't go with a furious man' - 'a violent man entices'* (Prov. 22:24; 16:29) Be careful for his enticing words and trying to smooth things over. You should invoke God's help to get you out of that situation. **'You have delivered me from the violent man.'** (2Samuel 22:49 & Psalms 18:48)



Whatever you do, try to keep your children free from the resentment and bitterness that has built up between you and your partner. Let the children be children and don't burden

them with adult problems. For the rest I would say, 'Try to respect each other. Accept that men and women are different and give each other room to breathe.' Let's come down to reality and off the Hollywood-dream pedestal.

To know Jesus better [click HERE](#).

This pamphlet is adapted from this booklet *'My Controversial Client'* (Free Download)

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DIVORCE ?!!!?



The question came up about divorce. I am rather reluctant to express my opinion. Please bear with me. Recently my views on divorce have changed. I have lived a good 25 years in different cultures, the Hindu and Buddhist, the Muslim and Sikh culture and I have good friends in all of them. Honestly, I don't think that my views will go down well in our emancipated, present-day Western society.

Divorce is heart-breaking, gut-wrenching and devastating, and it takes years of healing, fighting discouragement, rejection and despondency, especially if children are involved. The strain will probably estrange you from having a close bond with your children. Why are the suicides increasing? Why are there so many, especially children, with mental health issues? Why do children turn to self-harm?

The main reason being is, that the family has lost its importance. In the family we find security, no matter how many flaws or arguments, there is a certain stability. **The blood bond with the father and mother is only one-of-its-kind**, special and unique, which we should not try to replace.

