

**Here a few of the many false statements are made about the Bible with no study behind them...**

- A. Matthew 28:19 & 20 is one of rare times Holy Trinity is mentioned in the Bible
- B. There are few examples of good father's in the Bible
- C. The women of Ephesus were wild and unruly both in church and in their marriages
- D. Most men in the Bible were polygynous

Slander and gossip are slander and gossip whether dealing with the living members of your church or those members who are now with the Lord or with historical figures revealed to us by God the Holy Spirit. To slander this last group is especially heinous since what we know of them is given to us by God the Holy Spirit. This is one of the reasons that God the Holy Spirit warns us in **James 3:1** *"Let not many of you become teachers, my brethren, knowing that as such we will incur a stricter judgment."*

An example is Ephesians 5:25 – 6:4. Many Bible teachers say that the women of Ephesus were wild and unruly women which is why Paul laid down the instructions for women in marriage in Ephesians and in the church in I Timothy. There is however no primary source document to back up these allegations. Not in the Epistles, not in the Book of Acts, not in other 1<sup>st</sup> Century Christian writings and not in any 1<sup>st</sup> Century Historical secular writings. This teaching concerning the behavior of the women in Ephesus is given simply out of the imagination of liberal Christian women scholars to excuse themselves from obedience to the Word of God. A similar slander is made against Paul and men in general of the era. A so called Rabbinical quote with variations on "I would rather be born a dog or donkey than a women" is false, non-existent and pure fabrication. No such quote exists in any primary source document of the day. We may assume the men and women of the early church loved their spouses, behaved reverently in church and pursued the obedience and conformity to the writings of the Apostles as do men and women in modern day.

***Ephesians 5:25-33***

- A. ***25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, 26 so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, 27 that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless.***
- B. ***28 So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself; 29 for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church, 30 because we are members of His body.***
- C. ***31 FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND SHALL BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH. 32 This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church.***
- D. ***33 Nevertheless, each individual among you also is to love his own wife even as himself, and the wife must see to it that she respects her husband.***

***Ephesians 6:1-4***

- E. ***1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER (which is the first commandment with a promise), 3 SO THAT IT MAY BE WELL WITH YOU, AND THAT YOU MAY LIVE LONG ON THE EARTH.***
- F. ***4 Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.***

It is the same with the slander of fathers in Scripture. Based simply on an impression gained from sloppy academics and cursory reading of Scripture many Bible teachers make the false assertion that most men in the Bible are polygynous and that there are few examples of positive parenting by men in the Bible. By God's grace this short study will not only dispel that myth but will bolster you to question undocumented and unproven statements about the Bible based on the shoddy academics and prejudices of the men who make them.

### 25 Exemplary Monogamous Fathers in the Bible

1. **Noah** – though not perfect, both Noah and his children were monogamous. Unlike Lot, whose testimony was of such a nature that his children laughed at his admonitions, Noah was has lived a life whereby his children both believed him and obeyed him without question, and that to their salvation.
2. **Moses' Parents:** Exodus 6:20 *"Amram married his father's sister Jochebed, and she bore him Aaron and Moses; and the length of Amram's life was one hundred and thirty-seven years."* Moses parents were both monogamous and a godly couple of faith. It was the faith and godliness of this couple which preserved Moses, as well as raising up Moses' brother Aaron and sister Miriam. Hebrews 11:23 *"By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden for three months by his parents, because they saw he was a beautiful child; and they were not afraid of the king's edict."*
3. **Jethro, Zipporah's father and Moses' Father-in-law:** Exodus chapters three and eighteen give insight into the wisdom of Jethro, his loving guidance of his son-in-law Moses and the resulting character instilled in his daughter Zipporah.
4. **Moses and Zipporah:** In Exodus 4:24 – 26 Zipporah saves Moses' life as she recognizes the importance of obedience to God in all areas of the family. There is no indication in Scripture that Moses and Zipporah had anything less than a happy and fruitful marriage. Unlike so many during the exodus, Zipporah never embarrassed nor criticized her husband Moses.
5. **Aaron – Exodus 6:23 – 27** reveals Aaron and as a godly and monogamous husband and father. He bore sons who followed him as priests and were also monogamous in their marriages.
6. **Eleazar** – Aaron's son was also monogamous and no critical things was ever said of his marriage or family.
7. **Joshua** – There are no indications that Joshua had anything other than a godly and loving monogamous marriage and family. God the Holy Spirit chose Joshua to give the admonition in Joshua 24:14-15, which has been used and claimed by so many through the years who aspire to Joshua's example. *"Now, therefore, fear the LORD and serve Him in sincerity and truth; and put away the gods which your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. 15 "If it is disagreeable in your sight to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves today whom you will serve: whether the gods which your fathers served which were beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."*
8. **Ruth and Boaz:** The Book of Ruth reveals the godly nature of this couple in both courtship and marriage.
9. **Jesse** - It was David's father Jesse, a faithful Jew and father who raised up David **1 Samuel 16:1** *"Now the LORD said to Samuel, " How long will you grieve over Saul, since I have rejected him from being king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and go; I will send you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have selected a king for Myself among his sons."*
10. **Manoah and his wife - Samson's Parents:** Judges chapter thirteen exhibits both a good marriage and a willingness to raise their child in accordance with the commands of God.
11. **Uriah** – Uriah the Hittite, the Husband of Bathsheba, in II Samuel 11 is revealed to be nothing less than a faithful and monogamous husband.
12. **King Lemur of Proverbs 31** – King Lemur is Proverbs 31 disavows polygamy in response to the godly advice of his mother.
13. **Ezra** – As a priest and scribe it is inconceivable that he was polygamous. In term of his family no criticism is given in Scripture – in contrast with other priests such as Eli.
14. **Nehemiah** – The active condemnation of Nehemiah concerning mixed marriages and sins within marriages makes it inconceivable that he himself would
15. **Job** – the husband of one wife who blessed his children and loved his wife.
16. **Ezekiel** – in Ezekiel chapter 8 is revealed to be a loving, monogamous husband

17. **Amos - Luke 3:24-25** *“the son of Mattathias, the son of Amos, the son of Nahum, the son of Hesli, the son of Naggai,”* Both Amos and his parents were monogamous. No critical information is given concerning their marriages or children. Certainly Amos’ father Nahum did an admirable job.
18. **Zachariah and Elizabeth:** Luke chapter one illustrates both their godly marriage and their obedience to God in raising a godly son.
19. **Joseph and Mary:** Luke chapter two, Matthew chapters one and two, again, describing both their marriage and their obedience to God in raising a godly son. It is Joseph of whom God the Holy Spirit states in Matthew 1:19 *“And Joseph her husband, being a righteous man...”*
20. **Priscilla and Aquila:** In the Book of Acts, (Acts chapter eighteen, also Romans 16:3; I Corinthians 16:19; II Timothy 4:19) examples are given of a godly couple ministering together and serving the Lord in their home.
21. **Cornelius** – In Acts chapter 10 this monogamous husband who brought his family with him into faith in Christ was chosen by God to introduce the Gospel to the Gentiles.
22. **Phillip** – In Acts 21 we learn that Philip had four virgin daughters who ministered actively in the church. He was monogamous and his family and raised pure and chaste daughters in the midst of a wicked and decadent culture.
23. **Timothy** – Timothy as the pastor of the church of Ephesus received this admonition from his spiritual leader – the Apostle Paul. As such we can rest assured that he was both monogamous and an exemplary family man. **1 Timothy 3:2, 4 & 5** *“An overseer, then, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife...He must be one who manages his own household well, keeping his children under control with all dignity 5(but if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of the church of God?),”*
24. **Titus** – The same can be said of Titus in Titus 1:6 *“namely, if any man is above reproach, the husband of one wife, having children who believe,”*
25. **Leaders of the House Churches - Beyond these 24 men there are many House churches** mentioned in the Bible which offer good insight into the state of marriages and families in the New Testament. (Romans 16:15; I Corinthians 16:19; Colossians 4:15; Philemon 1:2) These were strong Christian monogamous families that had a reputation which allowed them to host a church. Again they would have been subject to the command of God the Holy Spirit in **1 Timothy 3:2, 4 & 5** *“An overseer, then, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife...He must be one who manages his own household well, keeping his children under control with all dignity 5(but if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of the church of God?),”* and Titus 1:6 *“namely, if any man is above reproach, the husband of one wife, having children who believe,”*

No family information is given for many of the prophets, but sense those prophets with family problems are singled out then we can conclude “no news is good news”. To say that “most great men in the Bible were poor fathers or were polygamous” one must have proof. In this list of prophets nothing is said to condemn their role as either husbands or fathers.

Isaiah

Jeremiah

Joel

Obadiah

Amos

Obadiah

Jonah

Micah

Nahum

Habakkuk

Zephaniah

Haggai

Zechariah

Malachi