

MONOGAMY



A Strawberry Mountain View
"Unique – Challenging – Controversial!"



"Berry Good News!"
by
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We live in a permissive society. **Promiscuity** is prevalent. **Open marriages** and **open relationships** are constant reminders of this looseness and moral breakdown. **Our society has become crazed with its obsession with sex.** Three-way [or more] sex, adult bookstores, orgies, as well as movies and TV filled with sex are now common place. S&M has become increasingly acceptable. There is even a move among some to make child-adult sex creditable. **The lack of sexual restraint is apparent** and accepted as normal. *But is it normal, good or healthy?*

GOD'S intent is that **sexual intimacy** be meaningful, natural, normal and fulfilling. Sex should not be degraded and used to satisfy purely selfish desires. So-called **recreational sex** is purely selfish. **The sex act was meant to be carried out unselfishly and that with responsibility.** The **misuse** of sex results from a rebellious attitude. This rebellion disregards **morality.** Biblical moral standards are **ap-plicable** for all people **regardless** of their sexual orientation; **heterosexual, homosexual or bisexual.** Biblical standards are often scorned, ignored and ridiculed even among professed Christians. The biblical concept and teaching of **love** coupled with sexual intimacy, that is acted upon only in a godly, meaningful and fulfilling manner appears to have **fallen** by the wayside. Many people **do not** appear to understand the real meaning of love. **How tragic!** No wonder we are seeing **the falling apart** of the moral fiber in our society.

What does monogamy mean to Christian gays and lesbians? How do Christian gays and lesbians fit into today's society? Is it possible to maintain meaningful **GLBT¹** rela-

tionships that are permanent, that honor God, that are monogamous? Are the relationships of Christian gays and lesbians different from those of non-Christian gays and lesbians?

IS MONOGAMY FOR GAYS AND LESBIANS?

Heterosexual Christians have traditionally advocated monogamous relationships. **But what about homosexual relationships?** Are gays and lesbians **mimicking heterosexuals** when advocating "**closed**" monogamous relationships? Are there **two sets of standards** when it comes to morality; one set for gays and another set for non-gays?

Some homosexuals oppose monogamy convinced that such relationships are neither possible nor meant for homosexuals. Unfortunately even among **Christian gays and lesbians** there are some who have been **deceived** into believing and accepting unbiblical standards, or lack thereof, of sexual morality. They believe that **morality standards DO NOT APPLY** to **GLBT** relationships; that monogamy is not necessary for homosexuals.

Is monogamy healthy, right and necessary or does it restrict from sexual pleasure? Does monogamy put a crimp on and restrict those who practice it from meeting their full physical and psychological needs?

As a **Christian gay man** I believe, advocate and live in a committed monogamous relationship. My spouse and I have been in this relationship with each other since 1973. Our relationship is '**closed**' to all others. We **do not make room for** occasional slips and/or affairs. **God** brought us together and with God's help we plan on staying together for the remainder of our earthly lives. **Faithfulness to one's spouse just makes sense; no guilt, no insecurity, no dishonoring God. I am convinced that it is the better way to living life.**

It is impossible to play with fire without getting burned! Acting upon lust **eventually destroys** the ability to enter into and develop a meaningful, fulfilling and godly sexual relationship with **that very special person** that may enter one's life. Contrary to what society now advocates **God has ordained** that we humans relate to one another best in an intimate relationship that is on **a one-to-one basis only,**

Lust can be controlled. Every Christian **has** the Holy Spirit living in his/her life. **Daily yielding** to the Spirit gives believers the needed strength to be overcomers. **Self-control** is one of the by-products of Spirit-filled living. **A monogamous relationship** becomes increasingly meaningful and fulfilling with the passing of time. **Relationships do not just happen, they take work.** They need honest and open communication, understanding of each other's emotional, spiritual and physical needs with a healthy measure of **good old-fashioned romantic love.**

Endless sexual conquests prove nothing but immaturity and selfishness. They **do not** bring happiness, peace or fulfillment. The New Testament precept is without question monogamy; **period!** Unfortunately some **GLBT** church leaders **do not hold** this New Testament teaching. However, they are in error and are misleading their flocks. They will one day stand before the Judgment Seat of Christ to give an account. This judgment, by the way, has **nothing** to do with salvation, rather it is a judgment of believers for their actions as children of God. Violating God's will and godly standards is sin. **Loose living** in which lust is allowed to get out-of-control produces nothing but heartache. If you are a Christian, **you cannot afford** to continue to disobey God without getting burned. The body of each Christian is a temple [dwelling place] of God. The Holy Spirit lives in you. Living under and in grace **does not mean** that Christians have license to disobey God's standards.

¹ The initials GLBT stand for "Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender."

The GLBT community must not be allowed to dictate the lifestyle of Christians.

The New Testament is the Christian's guide for Christian living. Christians, whether homosexual or heterosexual, are to be different. We Christians need to be Christian **first and foremost** regardless of our sexual orientation.

Lust out-of-control is the only reason for living in an open relationship. Love for one's own spouse and for God **is the reason** for maintaining a committed monogamous relationship. When two Christians enter into relationship with each other, seal it by sexual intimacy in the marriage [relationship] bed, **they are** in Christian Covenant. This is true whether or not a public 'religious' service has been held. **A covenant is a very solemn, sacred agreement.** God holds believers accountable to such commitments. Be very careful **before** entering into relationship . . . be sure that it is of God.

It is time that churches, especially those ministering to the disenfranchised, take morality standards seriously. **Monogamy, fidelity and faithfulness** are God's standards that **must not be taken lightly nor ignored.** Pastors as well as the leaders in our local congregations **must be held accountable** to exemplifying **Christlike standards** in their own personal lives. Churches must be careful that they do not compromise these standards simply to accommodate and satisfy the whims of the GLBT community. Coupled with this teaching we must acknowledge that **serial monogamy cannot be justified** as an escape from God's standards. **To have one spouse means one spouse only!** In haste many Christian gays and lesbians **have neglected** to heed biblical standards when entering into one relationship after another. God can and does forgive our sin, mistakes, and carelessness when we confess, repent and ask for God's forgiveness.

God is merciful and full of grace and pardon.

As Christian GLBT we need to begin to **raise the standards amongst us.** We need to be **examples** to an unbelieving and skeptical Christianity. We need to adopt and live by Christlike standards.

Fidelity and monogamy go hand-in-hand for all believers. We need to allow Christ to be Lord of our lives, of our churches, and of our relationships. **Christian gays and lesbians need to stand-up for what is right, godly and Christlike.** Our responsibility is to take Christian stands and seek to live by them. Our **allegiance** as Christians is firstly to Christ, not to the GLBT community nor to the institutional churches that so easily cast us aside.

I am fully convinced that **monogamy is the better way because it is God's way!**

We invite your inquiry for a listing of available materials. This ministry seeks to actively combat homophobia especially as it manifests itself in fundamentalist, evangelical and charismatic circles. We are also able to offer a number of seminars and workshops on a number of varied subjects.

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