

The Compromised Clergy

By Tom Shipley

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"You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a lamp, and put it under a bushel, but on a lampstand, and it gives light unto all that are in the house."—Jesus, the Sermon on the Mount, Matthew 5:14-15

If it were possible, I would commission an anonymous survey to be taken of ordained Evangelical clergy in which absolute privacy and secrecy were guaranteed. There would be several questions included, chief among them would be, "Do you believe the Bible, the Word of God, classifies polygyny (multiple wives) as sin?"

I had the occasion several years ago to sit down with an ordained pastor whom I had not met before in his study at his church. This pastor had been given a copy of my book, *"Man and Woman in Biblical Law,"* by a member of his congregation who had arranged our meeting to discuss my book and the subject matter in it including polygyny, patriarchy, divorce, etc. The pastor had read and digested the full book before we met.

As it turns out, this pastor had already determined to his own satisfaction, based upon his own prior study of Scripture, that polygamy (i.e. polygyny, multiple wives) is NOT a sin. I was not really surprised at this because over the last 30 years of dealing with these issues, I have become aware of other Evangelical pastors who also did not believe polygyny to be a sin based upon their study of Scripture. **In almost every one of these cases, these pastors concealed their beliefs from their congregations and their denominational leadership.** In public, they dutifully parrot the "party line" on the subject declaring polygamy to be the sin of adultery, but in private they engage in online discussions under the cover of pseudonyms where they admit their true beliefs. I am convinced that there are thousands upon thousands of other Evangelical pastors of like mind and approach to the subject.

During the course of the discussion, I asked the pastor if he would allow an openly practicing Christian polygamist, otherwise a model of Christian holiness, to attend services at his church with his multiple wives and children. I was anticipating this pastor to say something like, "Yes, but we could never allow him to be a member or ordained because of church/denominational stance on the issue." After all, the church is supposed to be a hospital for sinners, is it not? And

the proclamation of the Word of God is for all the world to hear, no? I mean, drug addicts and whores and even IRS agents are welcome to come and listen, so why not a polygamist? To my surprise, the pastor told me that he would **not** allow a practicing polygamist to even attend services "because of the disruption it would cause in the congregation." So apparently Abraham, Jacob, Caleb, King David, King Solomon and Elkanah would not be welcome in this pastor's church!

Now, consider the stark reality of this. Here we have an Evangelical pastor who is presumably committed to faithfully feeding the Lord's sheep and "rightly dividing the word of truth" unhesitatingly admitting that he would essentially excommunicate a faithful Christian man from his church knowing full well that there is no sin involved! All upon pragmatic considerations. Apparently, the thought would never occur to him to get honest with the congregation and explain unto his congregation the straight word of Scripture upon the subject. But then again... maybe this is *exactly* the thought that occurred to him, which thought caused a horror of great darkness to engulf his mind.

You see, I'm not buying into the explanation he proffered. Call me cynical. I don't believe it is about disruption in the congregation. It is about *self preservation*. And it is about fear. Ordained clergy are VESTED in their positions. They have their families, their jobs, their acceptance by their friends, and their denominational pensions to worry about. These are not trivial things. Frankly, I have more sympathy for ordained clergy over these concerns than the pious pretense that their reticence to tell the truth springs from their concern over disruption in their congregations. Still...I can't help but to contrast this pastor (and all the others) to Martin Luther. And my soul longs for those who will stand up and say, "Here I stand." And I don't mean to imply for even one moment that I am any braver. I don't delude myself with the hubris that I even begin to compare to Luther. Luther was one in a million, literally. It's just that it would be nice to have a Luther among us.

Ordained clergy are compromised by circumstance. Truth will never prevail on this issue in a top down fashion from the current Evangelical churches. There must be a grass roots, bottom-up awakening to the truth of biblical patriarchy. When the truth begins to gain a strong foothold among the masses of the average laity, the ordained clergy will begin to feel the pressure. And as Ronald Reagan once said of Congress, "It is not necessary that they see the light. It is only necessary that they feel the heat." Besides, many of the clergy already do see the light but hide their light under a bushel.

For those of you who have not thought through all of the implications of biblical patriarchy, this paradigm of biblical truth has the power to topple the tyranny of modern Secular Humanism over Western civilization, *with which Humanism most of contemporary Christianity is compromised*. The strength and dominance of modern Secular Humanism in the West is

derived, not from its own strength, but from the vitality of its subservient Christian component. And that is why there is so much Satanic resistance to this doctrine. Modern Secular Humanism is a thoroughly relativistic system, which implies no god and no ultimate morality; biblical patriarchy is hierarchical in its essence, implying a God and an ultimate morality. The triumph of this paradigm of biblical patriarchy within the Church will end its spiritual subordination to Humanism and drain Secular Humanism of the greater part of its strength.