

Paradigm Shifts

Eden to the Flood – Where did everybody come from?

At first, reproduction included close relatives:

"God created man in his own image. In God's image he created him; male and female he created them. God blessed them. God said to them, *"Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth...."* Genesis 1:27-28.

Noah

"Go out of the ship, you, your wife, your sons, and your sons' wives with you...., and *be fruitful, and multiply* on the earth." Genesis 8:16-17.

Abraham

"...you shall go to my father's house, and to my relatives, and take a wife for my son." Genesis 24:38.

Paradigm Shift 1

Reproduction between close relatives was generally forbidden, though still very tribal:

"Cursed is he who lies with his sister, his father's daughter or his mother's daughter. All the people shall say, Amen." Deuteronomy 27:22.

"If brothers dwell together, and one of them dies, and has no son, the wife of the dead shall not be married outside to a stranger. Her husband's brother shall go in to her, and take her as his wife, and perform the duty of a husband's brother to her." Deuteronomy 25:5.

Onan wanted superior family numbers over that of his brother and so refused to honor the custom of the time, which was designed to increase the population. This custom was, *at that time*, blessed by God because the population needed to expand; unlike at the present - without a doubt, much has changed:

"Onan knew that the offspring wouldn't be his; and when he went in to his brother's wife, he spilled his semen on the ground, lest he should give offspring to his brother. The thing which he did was evil in Yahweh's sight, and he killed him also." Genesis 38:9-10.

Paradigm Shift 2

The New Testament brings to light a major shift away from the tribal custom of multiple wives:

"The overseer therefore must be without reproach, the husband of one wife" 1 Timothy 3:2.

The Parable of the Seven Brothers - "On that day Sadducees (those who say that there is no resurrection) came to Jesus. They asked him, saying, "Teacher, Moses said, 'If a man dies, having no children, his brother shall marry his wife, and raise up offspring for his brother.' Now there were with us seven brothers. The first married and died, and having no offspring left his wife to his brother. In the same way, the second also, and the third, to the seventh. After them all, the woman died. In the resurrection therefore, whose wife will she be of the seven? For they all had her." But Jesus answered

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them, "You are mistaken, not knowing the Scriptures, nor the power of God. For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are like God's angels in heaven." Matthew 22:23-30.

In this parable, Jesus Christ, knowing that very soon the world would experience **major paradigm shifts in perceptions regarding sexuality and marriage, especially the change from the tribal, multiple, wife viewpoint** to the New Testament requisite of one wife, did not attempt to rectify what was *at that time* still the correct viewpoint, as He had not yet been crucified and the Mosaic law abolished. The point is, Jesus *knew* that this would be a radical change, and *did not mention it*. It was not yet manifested truth, or "truth for that time." That there might be further changes regarding sexuality and adultery since then and in the future is logical; perhaps a need to increase the population due to disaster. However, to be true to the law of God, *there must not be adultery*, regardless of the situation. Regardless of custom – one does not seek the spouse of another, or any other such liaison, during marriage. Verse 30 of the parable brings to light *Paradigm Shift 4 (androgynous)*, the existence of the Redeemed.

Paradigm Shift 3

"If anyone thinks that he knows anything, he doesn't yet know as he ought to know." 1 Corinthians 8:2.

An open mind is essential because of increases in knowledge. We are in the midst of the third major paradigm shift regarding sexuality and gender perception. *The fundamental Principles regarding adultery remain the same through all paradigm shifts*, including this one; the changeless Love of God, through the indwelling Spirit, is an automatic "filter" to this inevitable process. Advances in all forms of knowledge have triggered this latest shift, and these advances must be interpreted in the light of the New Covenant and God's Fairness, which is a very basic tenant of Righteousness and *absolutely* fundamental to the *legality* of the New Covenant. Salvation is not concerned with what *equipment* you've been given – but how you use it. Everyone is *different*, and no one chooses their physical make-up or sexual identity; children have very little control over input and are very much a product of their environment, *in all respects*. There are no "perfect" children. There are certainly no "perfect" adults. Our focus should include our spiritual development, whatever we pursue; mind, not physical characteristics, is being redeemed. The Cross provides Grace that we may grow in Righteousness.

Fornication

True seekers of Righteousness are shielded from the damage caused by casual fornication; the Love of God keeps them from taking advantage of others. Sex outside of marriage for *true* lovers is *not* in the same category as casual fornication – persons "in love" are *committed*, but as emotions frequently change, a legal document helps to substantiate the emotional charge and also avoids inbreeding:

"But if any man think that he behaveth himself uncomely toward his virgin, if she pass the flower of her age, and need so require, let him do what he will, he sinneth not: let them marry." 1 Corinthians 7:36.

"But if *anyone* loves God, the same *is* known by him." 1 Corinthians 8:3.

"Blessed are those who *hunger and thirst* for Righteousness." Matthew 5:6.