

# Western Society vrs. Patriarchal Order

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Most of those who live in the “western” societies today will readily acknowledge the decline of these societies into chaos; perversions; and a high disregard for moral values. And while many lament this decline, few seem to understand or acknowledge the basic underlying factor for such decline.

Yes; many do recognize that the decline of our societies is due to a lack in family values; but they fail to see or recognize that the reason for the lack in family values can be traced to one fundamental problem, Strong leadership! Although this problem is evident throughout the many facets of society, they only reflect the underlying cause.

It is quite commonly and correctly viewed that the family unit is the fundamental building block of any society, so what we need to do is take an honest and unbiased look at what that family unit is today as opposed to what it was meant to be. In many ways the family unit is like a mini-kingdom; and in fact, in ancient times this was much more evident. Perhaps the most well-known of these is the family of Jacob/Yaakob; the son of Isaac, and grandson of Abraham.

Jacob; whose true Hebrew name is Yaakob or Yaakov, had twelve sons. (Let it be known here that there was no “j” in any language prior to the 16<sup>th</sup> century.) Yoseph; who was the eleventh son to be born was seventeen years old when he was sold into slavery. Thus at least several if not most of his older brothers were into their adult years. The enslavement of Yoseph can be read in Gen. 37. (Verse 2 gives Yoseph’s age.) We will also notice in chapter 38 that Judah/Yahudah has taken a wife and has children of his own, proving his adulthood. We now turn to Gen.42 and in verse 37 we see that Reuben also has his own family. Why is all this important? We need to back up in Gen. 42 to the beginning of the chapter where we see in the narrative that Yaakob orders his ten eldest sons to go to Egypt to buy grain. But wait; aren’t these his children, adults? Of course they are, and here is where we begin to see what a Patriarchal family is all about. Even though they are now adults themselves, with their own families, they still honor and respect the position of authority of their father Yaakob. And this forms the perfect

model of a mini-kingdom. By the time we get to chapter 3 of Ex. We see that these sons have multiplied in numbers to become a nation within a nation.

And; although we are not given as detailed an account, we can see this is also the order of Esau's family of twelve sons. Gen. 36.

Although there are no definitive Scriptures establishing patriarchal law, we do find many of its precepts throughout the Scriptures, with the best example coming from and through our Savior; YaHushua. We will start in Luke 2:48-51, where we see a twelve year old YaHushua sitting in on the discussions of the "Elders" after HIS parents have left to go home after Sukkoth. When they discover HIS absence they return to Yahrushalayim and find HIM in The Temple. HE already knows Who HIS True Father is, and yet while being obedient to HIM, also subjected HIMself to HIS parents, especially HIS step father.

In Matt. 7:21; while giving HIS 'sermon on the mount', HE states that only those who obey HIS Fathers' will, will enter into the Kingdom of Heaven. Notice! HE does not say HIS own will. Also notice how many times HE focuses all attention upon The Father! HE was obedient to HIS Father, even unto death Matt. 26:39+42.

In Mark 10:40 HE acknowledges that HE does not have the authority to even grant positions within The Kingdom; but that it is The Father's decision.

In John 5:19-47 YaHushua explicitly declares that all authority granted HIM, has come from HIS Father; YaHuWaH. And in Jn.6:38+39 HE again acknowledges that HE came to earth to do HIS Fathers' will. Also read Jn.14:28-31. In fact, it is very beneficial to read all of Jn. 14 through chapter 17!

The apostle Shaul/ Paul also gives us an excellent example of patriarchy in Eph.6:1 where he re iterates the fifth commandment. We need also to go back to chapter 5 and read verses 22-33, for here he outlines the true patriarchal order.

Now we have come to the crux of western societies' woes! The greatest reason for the crumbling of society; as before mentioned, is the breakdown of the family unit, as was ordained by YaHuWaH. Children have become disrespectful of parents and all other authority. (Please note that I do not consider all children in this category.) Many have become rebellious and in

some cases treat their parents; as well as others in authority, with outright hostility, even leading to murder in some cases. In ancient times a strongly disobedient child was stoned to death, and capital punishment deterred a rebellious attitude. Today; many parents are threatened with “legal” actions for even spanking a child. Is it any wonder so many youth have become uncontrollable? Too often these days, parents even try to dismiss bad behavior, or turn their heads away from such behavior and claim their children are “victims”. This is one of the biggest cop-outs in society today, and a return to corporal punishment is well overdue.

Yet: it is not just the youth who have become rebellious. Men and women both have succumbed to this, many because they received little or no correction as children themselves.

Many women today; emblazoned by the ‘women’s liberation movement’ have become rebellious; contentious; and in many cases downright hostile to the authority which Scriptures openly declare as the husbands position in the family. Is it any wonder the children too resent authority? But who is really to blame for this? Sadly; many men have become wimpy cowards. Afraid of taking authority or administering authority, they gladly submit their rightful position to their wives, in many cases so as not to be blamed if things go wrong, thus providing them with a scapegoat.

Then there are the men of the opposite extreme. These are those; who heavy handedly mistreat their wives and children. Thus neglecting the admonishment of Eph.5:25; 28: and 33 as well as Eph. 6:4.

There is a “chain of command” as it were, which was established all the way back to the first man. And in Gen.3:16 we see that because Chavah (misnamed Eve in English) rebelled against the command to not eat the forbidden fruit, she was to be ruled over by her husband. Nowhere in Scripture was this ever reversed! Since the very beginning, man (Ahdahm) was ruled by YaHuWaH. As he was created first, he became the ‘head’ of the human family. Chavah was then taken from his side. YaHuWaH certainly had it within HIS power to have done it the other way around, but HE didn’t.

Although the next step in the equation must have existed from the beginning, we don’t find it mentioned until Ex. 20:12 where children are commanded to honor their mother and father.

While I realize that many, if not most women today hate to hear this, the fact remains that this is the Patriarchal system established on Scriptures, established by YaHuWaH HIMself. Those who rebel against it are rebelling against HIM and HIS Authority! Throughout the Torah; and in fact all Scripture, there is a very distinct line drawn between men and women. Take for instance the evaluation of life as found in Lev. 27:6. A male from twenty to sixty years of age was valued at fifty shekels of silver; whereas a woman was valued at thirty shekels. And in the case of making a vow as found in Num. 30, if a man made a vow, he was held accountable for keeping that vow, yet a woman who was married or living at her fathers' house could have any vow she made annulled by either one of these men; within a certain time period.

And here is the 'biggie"! Divorce; as found in Deut. 24 and also in Matt 19 was a man's right, with never a mention of a woman given that right. Notice also the "spirit of jealousy" mentioned in Numbers 5:12-31; there is/was NO PROVISION for a wife being jealous of her husband; it just was not a part in the "family equation". I did not write those Scriptures! Ouch! That one really hurt didn't it? But do you consider yourself more righteous than YaHuWaH?

Are you ready for another 'biggie"? Throughout Scriptures we find instances of men having more than one wife, with never a condemnation from YaHuWaH. In fact; YaHuWaH told King David, concerning the matter of Bathsheba, that HE gave David the wives (plural) of Saul, even though David was married to several women already. And HE goes on to say in II Sam. 12:8 that HE would have even given David more wives.

I realize that these last two issues will be a bane to many men and most women; but again, therein lies much of the problem in today's western societies, because men and women have come to think of themselves as more righteous than YaHuWaH. They contend with and rebel against HIS Laws! So is it any wonder children act the same way against parents and civil authority?

What most people do not realize is the part Rome played in much of this. But then, we do not want to get too far ahead of ourselves here.

Most cultures in the world have been male dominated, and many still are to one degree or another. This; as we have seen in Gen. is how The Almighty

YaH designed it. HE created man first; gave him dominion over all other creatures. Then; because no “helpmeet” was found for him, The Creator brings forth the woman out of the man. YaHuWaH could have done it the other way around; it certainly was/is in HIS power. Throughout Scriptural history; aside from a very few occasions, YaH has dealt with and used men to accomplish HIS Will. And on those occasions when HE has used women; in almost every case it was because there were no men of backbone who were courageous enough to do what needed to be done.

One of the reasons men have ruled is because generally they are strong and bold. These are traits held in esteem by most men and women. Women; on the other hand, tend to be emotional and easily intimidated. While this is not always the case, it is generally so!

When Charles Darwin put forth his theory of evolution, he was working off at least one precept based on truth; “only the strongest and most adaptable survive”. What Mr. Darwin’s equation neglected is that ultimately it is YaHuWaH Who builds up and tears down.

YaHuWaH deemed it for man to rule over woman. BUT! As any understanding Torah student can verify, The Torah has many laws protecting women. In fact; history shows us that the women of Hebrew society enjoyed far more freedoms and protections than any other society recorded during that time. Some societies; even today, treat their animals better than they treat their women. This is one of the sad conditions of any society or culture which does not have The Torah as its foundation. Men in such Lawless cultures have few restraints upon their actions. Because of this lack of restraint, some become tyrants. They yield power mercilessly over their families. Feeding that lust for power they prey upon the weak, in their family and out. Eventually some few make it to become kings; chiefs; presidents; etc. But here again we see that the TaNaCK (commonly known as ‘The Old Testament) gives ample instructions to leaders on how to rule righteously. This includes husbands; who are commanded to “love your wives, even as Mashiach/Messiah loves the assembly [of YaH].” Eph.5:25. And in verse 28, “Men should love their wives, even as they love their own bodies.” So we see that men have been given a great responsibility. A man who takes a wife is required to care for and provide for her. That is not to say he must give her anything she desires, just as a wise parent does not give a child all that they desire. This only leads to a spoiled child and/or wife, and feeds the seed of greed.

Let us go back again to Eph.2:22-24. Here we see that wives are to be submissive to their husbands, in everything (end of verse 24). Not only those things with which they are agreeable but in all things. Now the question arises; 'even if it is anti-Torah'? In the first place; if a woman is a Torah keeper, she should be married to a man who is also a Torah keeper. But even this does not mean that a moment of 'lawlessness' can't occur. The answer is not easy and must be weighed carefully considering all aspects and ramifications. As the woman's covering, and as head of the household he is responsible for all decisions, he is accountable not only for his actions alone but for those of his wife. If he demands something against Torah and she submissively complies, he ultimately is the one who will be held responsible.

A precedent for this can be found in Num. 30: 3-10. At the same time, this section of Scripture also clues us in to the woman's position of subjection. Whether husband or father; the man of the household has the power to annul any vow she makes; if done within the outlined time frame.

We can also look to HaMashiach; YaHushua for guidance. In John 9:6 we see YaHushua healing a blind man on the Shabbat. In the process of healing this blind man; YaHushua spits into the dust along the path and makes mud. According to the technicalities of The Torah, this would be considered work. But what is the end result of this mud making? It is for the betterment of someone.

I personally believe this can apply in the marriage situation under certain circumstances. Allow me to explain. Most of us who study The Torah understand the concept of clean food and unclean meats. So let us set up a scenario. A man and his wife go to a party; wedding party, company party, whatever, and they are served a meat dish which is unclean. In this scenario the man tells his wife to be quiet and eat the unclean meat. Now she has a choice, she can break the food restriction and eat the meat; thereby avoiding a situation with her husband, and perhaps public humility for both, or she can dis-obey her husband, who by the way will be held responsible for ordering his wife to eat it. Now; she has the right to refuse to break a Torah command and if this is an ongoing problem in their relationship, it is something she needs to approach him concerning. If he on the other hand is non-responsive, then she has the responsibility to take this to the elders in order that they may deal with him. This was/is the Torah alternative to a woman divorcing her husband. In other words, the "Beit Din" ( a council of

judges) would hear the woman's case and make a judgement for or against the husband to which he is subject!

Now let us read I Cor.7:4; for here we read that both parties have a duty to be submissive to one another. But we must remember that it is the husband who bears the final responsibility for any decisions. As head of the household; he is ultimately accountable for all within.

While we are in I Cor.7 we also need to take note of verse 10, where Shaul/Paul states that it is YaHuWaH's own command that a wife cannot divorce her husband. She might leave him, if conditions warrant, but she could not divorce him. This is how it had been throughout most of the world until more modern times, when the 'Roman system' pervaded the courts.

One last word concerning divorce; and this applies to men, and are the very words of YaHushua HIMself; Matt. 19:9. The only legitimate grounds for a man to divorce his wife, was on the grounds of fornication. But also note very carefully, **this was not repeated in the case of the woman!**  
**Women were not permitted to divorce their husbands, period!**

These things fly in the face of all that the Christian churches and women's lib espouse, but we must remember from whence they receive their authority. It definitely is not The Living Word of YaHuWaH! If all men lived by The Torah our world would not be in the degenerate condition we find it today. There would be no divorce; no divided families; no fatherless children; no children born out of wedlock. Since the building block of a stable society would be healthy, society itself would be stable and healthy. But sadly; the majority of churches teach and most people believe that The Torah is impossible to keep; what they fail to teach and understand is found in Matt. 19:26. YaHuWaH has made it possible for us through HIS Son and our Savior; YaHushua! HalleluYaH! They also fail to see and understand that Torah obedience was promised "Blessings"; Deut. 28:1+2.

There is a time of restoration coming to this world. It has been promised through most of the prophets. One of the items of restoration will be man's 'dominion'. Women will be restored to the position of subordinate; just as YaHushua is subordinate to Abba YaHuWaH, and the assembly (Called the Bride in Rev.) is subordinate to YaHushua. All that means is that there cannot be two heads. One has to lead and one has to follow the lead, but

both work towards the same common objective. Remember; satan is the destroyer, he is the one who causes divisions.

Up until very modern times, it was considered a reproach for a woman to not be married. A card game of my childhood was based on this fact; it was called "Old Maid" and to be left holding the 'old maid' was to be considered a loser. This reproach too; will be restored in The Kingdom. We can read that in Isa. 4:1. And herein lays another aspect of the Patriarchal system many are going to have to get used to. The fact that Abba YaH has never condemned plural marriage for men, and is even seen as encouraging it II Sam. 12:7+8.

More on that in part 2.

## Part 2

### The Case for Plural Marriage

As we noted in Pt. 1, plural marriage (for men) was never condemned by YaHuWaH, in fact HE allowed it even for those HE considered righteous i.e. David; Abraham; Ya'akob; etc.

In this section we will look at some of the reasons for and benefits of plural marriage; but one thing must be understood; plural marriage only works when you have two or more women who are not jealous; who are not possessive; and who really desire to build up the family unit.

The first benefit realized is actually that of the women themselves. With more than one woman in the household domestic chores can be shared. While one is teaching and/or watching over the children the other can be preparing meals, cleaning, or even resting. If one desires to have a career outside of the home there is no need for babysitters or daycare. And arrangements can be made to share the workload in whatever way seems most equitable.

Another benefit is that the children do not have to be sent into another environment which may be hostile; whether through sicknesses, or teachings contrary to family values. Neither is there reason for them to be disturbed or routed out of a warm house in the middle of sleep or during cold weather. It is also a comfort to the father to know that his children are receiving the tender loving care of women who truly care for their wellbeing.

Another benefit is that the children grow up with a more rounded character, they see their parents working together to solve problems. And if a problem comes up between the adults, three or more heads are much more likely to work those problems out equitably, especially if and when there is no jealousy involved.

Now; what about reasons for plural marriage? One very important one is to provide care for the widow. In the event of war, many young men are killed. Some of these may have wives and children who need taken care of. How many children have lost fathers due to wars and have had to grow up without the male model in their home that they need? How many women have been left destitute due to the loss of their husbands? The problem with wars is that the population of eligible men for marriage is depleted. What if: those who do return are able to marry more than one woman? Now there is less pressure on the government to care for these women and children. Another factor along this line is national security itself. If a man can only marry one woman, how much longer does it take to replenish a sustainable work force? And for that matter; how much longer does it take a country to become secure within its border again?

In The Torah, there was a provision made for a wife who had lost her husband due to death. This provision was so that a man could have children born to his household. In The Torah, the brother of such a man who had died was to take his brother's widow and raise up children to his brother's household. This was to assure that no family lineage became lost. But what if that living brother already had a wife? He was still commanded to raise up children to his deceased brother. This was done by taking the widow as his wife as well. Not only did this provide the deceased with an inheritor, but it also provided the woman with "a covering". In the patriarchal order of things, every woman was supposed to have a male "covering"; someone who would provide for them. Our western societies have moved so far away from this concept that it actually seems foreign to us today. And as we look at the current situation in America today, we see that our political leaders are actually pushing more and more women to become dependent upon the government. Is there a reason for this? YOU BET! By making people more dependent on government they are actually making people more subject to government. In other words; they are making people "slaves" of the government. They now own those who have sold themselves out to government control. They did this long ago to the churches by giving them the 401 3C option. Those churches and organizations

which bought into this sold their freedom to speak out against government control. As gov. becomes more corrupt they will use this power of “tax breaks” to control what can be said. It is to the benefit of a corrupt government to keep its citizens divided; and unable to provide for themselves. Note how we now have made it more ‘profitable’ for men and women to remain unmarried while filing their taxes! This is a travesty and a tool of government to control.

There is; and can never be, a human government that is not corrupt in some sense, that is just the way of human nature, and government is run by many human instruments; so the possibility for some corrupt individuals in there is to be expected. For this reason; we need to continually pray for the advent of YaH’s government to be established here on earth. This is the promise of the millennial period. YaHushua will rule with a ‘rod of iron’, and those human beings who live through the Tribulation; to enter into the millennial reign, will be subject to The Laws of Almighty YaHuWaH! And remember; there will be a great war fought just prior to YaHushua’s advent; which means that again, the population of men will be depleted. So the call for men to take more than one wife may well be once again touted. So where will you stand on this issue, with the Scriptural precedent or with the pagan teachings of corrupt humans?

Questions or comments? Zakan; Ya’akob Cramer 517-286-6510 or this website.