



POLYGAMY





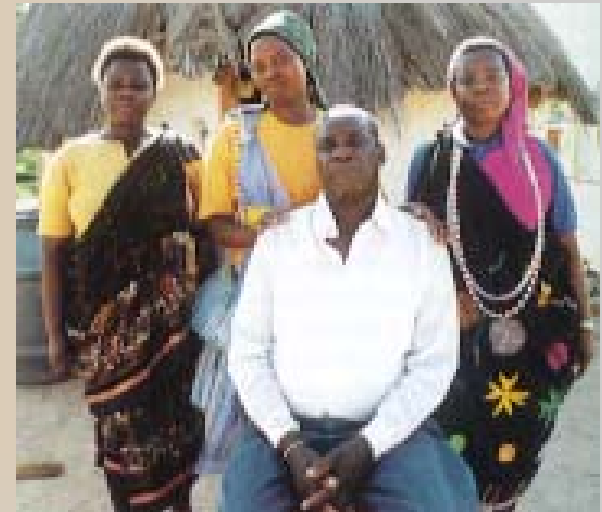
What is it?



★ Polygamy is a system of having more than one wife at the same time



★ Men who have power, authority do practice polygamy.





★ Where polygamous marriages occur, the number of wives a man will take is determined by his wealth.





Why is it practiced?

- ★ Polygamy is practiced as a sign of prestige and social standing
- ★ According to the African culture, a man may have as many wives as he can afford.
- ★ It is unusual for a woman to have more than one husband.
- ★ Islamic men may legally have as many wives as they can afford.





Who practices it?

- ★ Polygamy is practiced by many cultures.
- ★ Many African cultures and Islam still prefer polygamy.
- ★ Some of the African cultures which are still practicing polygamy are the Zulus, Swazis, etc.
- ★ The Swazi monarchy has at the moment twelve wives.





How does it benefit men?

- ★ Men take pride in having wives- it is a status symbol.
- ★ Having many children- a good sign of wealth.
- ★ In some cultures, men stay at home to look after the cattle and their wives got to the cities to look for jobs.





How does it benefit women?

- ★ They have mutual respect for each other.
- ★ They do not run the risk of sexually transmitted diseases and HIV- AIDS
- ★ They have a stable relationship and have security.
- ★ They are engaging communally in providing for the family.





How are they contracted?

- ★ In all African marriages cattle play a major role.
- ★ Lobola (bride price) in the form of cattle is expected for each and every wife.
- ★ A man's wealth sends him out to go and get an additional wife.





How are they contracted?

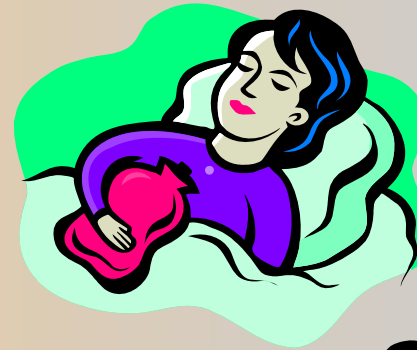
- ★ The family of the first wife can arrange for a second wife if there are no children in the first marriage.
- ★ The first wife plays a major role in choosing the other wives for her husband.
- ★ In cases of monarchs, the wives are chosen by the elders and advisors of the tribe. e.g. at the reed dance (Zulus, Swazi)





The advantages of polygamy

- ★ If polygamy was still practiced by many people today:
- ★ there would be a decrease in the extra-marital affairs.
- ★ There would be fewer unmarried women.
- ★ There would be a decrease in immorality.
- ★ HIV - AIDS would not be so widespread.





Is polygamy a sin?

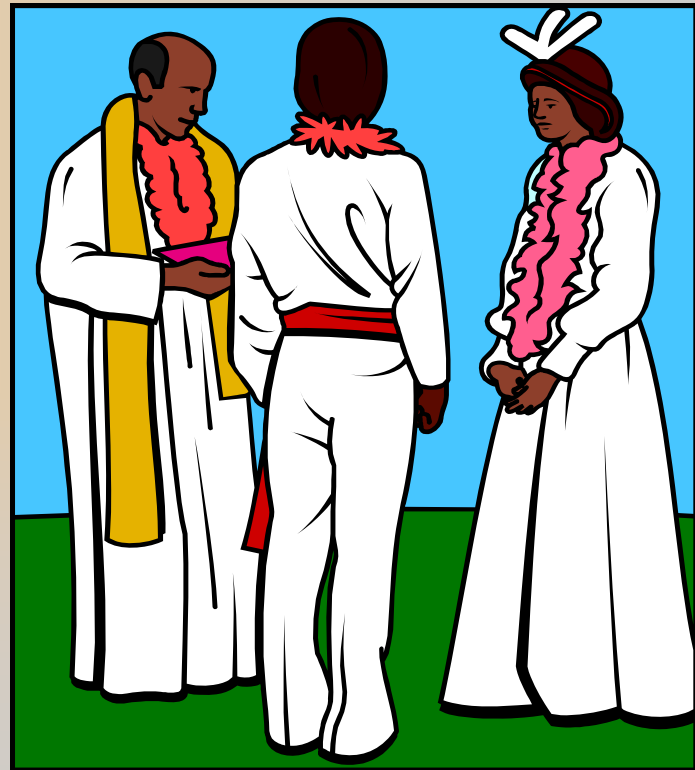
- ★ The Bible has got two views on marriage, both of which do not view polygamy as a sin.
- ★ In the Old Testament polygamy was accepted as normal practice.
- ★ Great anointed leaders in the Bible were polygamists.





What does the Bible say

- ★ The New Testament is silent on polygamy, and neither promotes or condemns it.
- ★ It only focuses on monogamy.





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