



MY TRUTH

J H Phillips

In this book I share not only my life story but also the lessons I've learned during that time.

Please note that some names and places have been changed.

Dear Reader

Please note that the work below is merely an opinion, namely my opinion on the world, the family and the church in this day and age and most importantly my relationship with the Almighty.

If while reading this book you disagree with anything then its fine as I've stated this is merely one man's opinion. God gave us all brains and He also gave us the power of choice so if after reading this book and even during this book you find something you disagree with close the book and throw it away if you want to but if you find even one thing that you agree with then I know that my work is done.

I claim neither to be a priest nor a prophet I am merely a man just like you who is simply trying to raise his family in accordance with the word of God and the laws of the land, hard as it may be.

This book has never been published not because I lack faith in the words and knowledge that I am about to share with you but rather because I am a staunch supporter of the belief that when you do good especially in the service of the Lord it is better to not trump your own horn as I am sure you will all recall vanity is a sin.

Originally I had called this piece of work My Bible and not because I was trying to cause controversy or was taking the Lord's words in vain rather because every one interprets the Bible in their own way heck some churches even print their own versions of the Book.

I have scoured countless numbers of Bibles and I have found it hard to find two which are written in exactly the same way, remember the Bible is a product of man, a product of man which tells us of the work of God and His Son Jesus Christ. It is written by men who have taken the scriptures which were written by the prophets and scribes of yester year and interpreted it into a language we can all understand.

I am sure you will be pretty hard press to find to two people who will agree verbatim on what any verse in the Bible means. I will also not quote directly from the Bible because for every reference I make to the Bible that supports my claim someone will find one that counters it.

So all I ask is that when you read this book you keep an open mind and an open heart and if at the end of it all you still think that everything I have said is complete rubbish then so be it.

Yours Sincerely

J H Phillips
A Humble Servant

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Part One – The Family



Chapter One – Who Am I



Good question for many years I asked myself that very question I remember at one point of my life I was what is known as a self-help-nut. Your asking yourself what that is right, well me too.

Basically it means that I had no direction and like most people out there I looked to others to provide the answer to the question. Who am I? I read through books, bought tapes, attended seminars, watched the videos I did it all but there was still this gaping hole in my being because I didn't know who I was.

Sure if you'd asked me who I was I would have replied that my name is John Harold Phillips. I could have told you my age and the job I had. I could have told you that I have no wife and children. I could have said that my favorite color is red and that my favorite food is steak with rice and veggies. I could have told you how tall I am and what I weighed.

But if you were paying carefully attention you would have noticed that I was telling you what I am but not who I am. If you Google the name John Harold Phillips or even JH Phillips you will find no reference to me and it's because I have done nothing with my life so far that warrants such admiration and I doubt that even if I lived a thousand lifetimes I could achieve anything like that.

My Early Life

I was raised in a home with six mothers and thirty children in total. My father was the head of the house and his word was final as children we were taught to be seen and not heard by my father who at times couldn't stand the noise in the house.

Although my father was strict and a firm believer of spare the rod spoil the child he was a loving man. It always surprised me that he was always able to recall all our names and whenever he engaged us in conversation it was always on something we had an interest in.

My mother was the fifth wife and I was the third child she had, when I was born it was a great day for her as she was the only wife who had not bore my father a son as of yet.

As per our custom my father chose my name and so I came to be John Harold Phillips, my mother's third and my father's twentieth child and the only boy she ever bore him.

We lived in a quiet but average sized town and it was a well-known fact that my father had six wives and twenty children, at the time of my birth. But that wasn't that big a deal because about ten percent of the families in town were also polygamist.

They were a few in our town who were very vocal in their opposition of my family's beliefs and as children my brothers and I were often involved in brawls in honor of the family name.

I remember that after one such brawl I ended up with a broken nose and a busted lip I ran home to my mother crawled into her lap and cried. She was comforting me when my father walked in and as hard as I tried I couldn't stop crying. I felt embarrassed and ashamed because here I was a man crying in my mother's lap with my father looking down at me with what I thought at the time was great pity and disappointment.

I expected him to scold me perhaps even instruct me to stop acting liking a girl and toughen up but he didn't instead he scooped me up into his arms wiped away my tears and asked me in the gentlest voice I'd ever heard him use what the matter was.

“Why,” I asked, “why is life so hard for us? Why do people hate us so much? If what we are doing is right in the eyes of the Lord then why do we have to suffer so much?”

As he wiped away my tears and tended to my busted lip and nose he said, “John do you believe in God,” I nodded my head yes and he carried on in that patient manner of his which we as boys rarely saw, “then know this God will never put an obstacle in your way that He knows you will not be able to conquer. Know that the devil and his agents are always around and at all times they will try to divert you from the correct path but as long as you have faith they will never succeed and so it is with those who discredit and disparage us. They mock us because they fear what they do not understand and in that fear the devil and his agents thrive so I say to you,” by this time my mother had gathered all the children in the house so that they could share in the lesson which was being delivered to me by our father.

“When they attack you with their fists and their words strike back with you faith and let them know that by attacking you they attack not a man made of flesh and bone but the Lord who is behind and with you in everything you do.” He ended this little speech with one of his favorite sayings a saying which over the years has proven itself true to me on more than one occasion, “remember when the devil knocks on your door it will be loud enough to draw your attention and the attention of those around you and when he enters your house he will enter with all his friends in an attempt to bring about your downfall. But when the Lord knocks at your door it will only be loud enough to draw your attention and when he enters He will be by Himself as He has already sent his angels to watch over you. Even when you lose faith in him he will never lose faith in you.”

That is one of my favorite memories of my father.

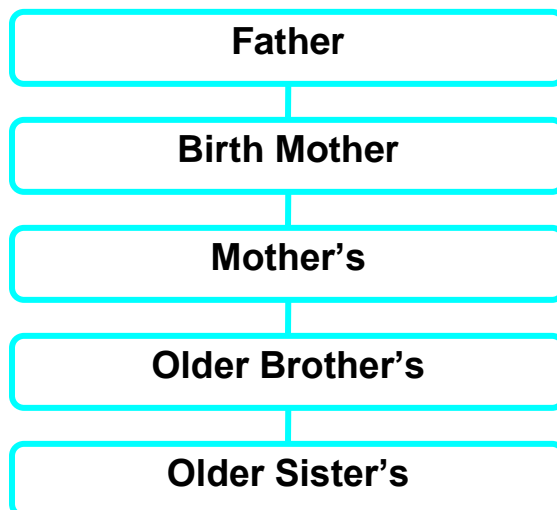
Living in a house with so many children there was never a shortage of drama we'd often get into fights over the silliest things but the one thing I never saw in my family was my parents fighting nor did I ever see my mother's fight with each other and at that age I actually believed that they had achieved the unattainable they had learned to live together in harmony just as the Bible taught.

Boy was I wrong but I would only discover this later in my life when I was starting to make my own path.

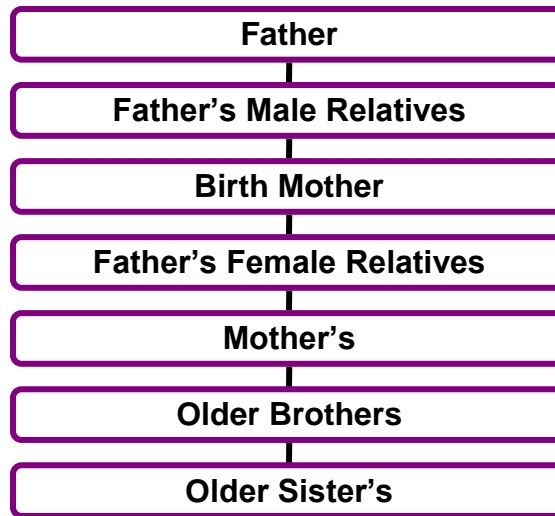
My Lost Years

I suppose my real problems didn't start until I was in my teens I had just turned seventeen when I was suddenly granted independence as my brother's before me I was told on my seventeenth birthday that I was on the threshold of manhood and that the choices I made would be dictated by me alone and guided by God if I allowed him to lead the way.

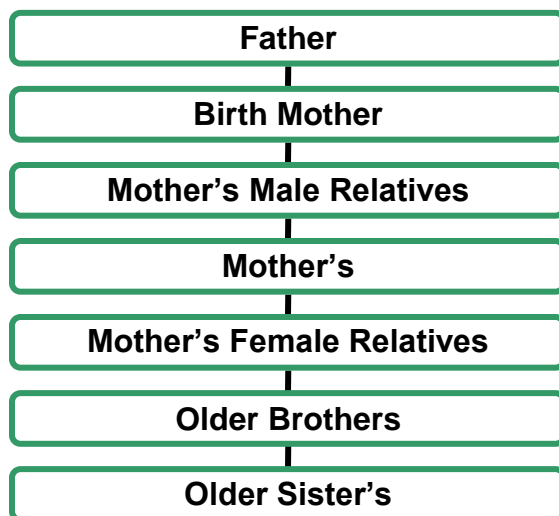
Now put yourself in my position all my life my decisions were made for me by my Father, my Mother's and my Brother's in that order. If relatives visited us the hierarchy changed depending on whether it was relatives from my mother's side or from my father's side and also on whether they were delivered by a man or a woman illustrated below is the hierarchy for a child in my family as listed above.



1. Typical Hierarchy for a child in my family.



2. Hierarchy when Father's Relatives visit.



3. Hierarchy when Mother's Relatives visit.

So as I was saying put yourself in my position seventeen free at last with no one to tell me what to do, where and how to do it. It was as my father said I was on the threshold of manhood with only the teachings of the Bible, the Church and My Father as my guide. I don't mention the Big Guy because he is always with me.

So there I was seventeen years old with six hundred big ones burning a hole in my pocket. I'd just finished high and had decided to skip college.

I was on the threshold of manhood and I had lot to do before I entered that stage. I already knew what was expected of me once I reached that milestone, marriage and a couple of kids.

So I left the only home I'd ever know to seek who I was at that time I felt as if I wasn't complete my brother Andrew who is only two years older than me suggested that I find a nice girl to settle with like he had.

According to him he'd also felt that way when he turned seventeen but when he met Sally his wife of two years he'd known instinctively that she was the piece he needed to fill hole.

That was all well and good for him but I wasn't ready for marriage at least not yet, I mean how could I enter into a union meant to last forever when I had no idea who I was and what I wanted so I said goodbye to my loved ones and left the only home I'd even known.

I caught a train and ended up in a town I know refer to as my own personal Sodom and Gomorra but which will be referred to as S&G to save time.

I arrived in S&G with six hundred bucks and a high school education to my name. I was nervous as heck and was almost tempted to return home with my tail in between my legs when I saw them.

The women at the time I didn't know they were prostitutes all I saw were these beautiful young women who wore far too much makeup and far too little clothing.

In my home all my mother's wore very little makeup, a touch of powder and lipstick, and that was just on special occasions, my father always said that a woman who wears too much makeup has something to hide and I couldn't agree with him more, but back then these women were something exotic. Almost like a forbidden fruit which I had to pluck and eat. I walked up to one of the younger looking ones and began a conversation with her I found her quite

pleasant and was only two minutes into the conversation when I realized what she was.

As all women in her profession, she was eager to finalize the deal so that we could do the deed and she could move onto the next client. She at first suggested that we do "it" in a car or in some alley when I refused she took me to this dodgy looking hotel room with only a bed and dresser in it, through the open door I saw a bathroom which looked almost as dirty the bed she now rested on, naked her legs wide open with a come hither smile on her face.

I started to make my way to the door I had entered through only a few minutes ago repulsed at myself, how could I have thought to do such a thing, but oh the flesh is weak. I felt a stirring in my loins, for lack of a better word, and when I looked down my instrument was standing at attention.

It felt as if the blood in my body had suddenly been diverted to that one part of my anatomy and as I walked towards the prostitute it felt as if I were having an out of body experience as if my heart and mind were screaming at my body to turn away to resist the temptation but as I said before oh the flesh is weak.

I will not bore you with all the details but when I left that room after an hour I felt soiled, I felt so dirty I had committed a sin and worst I had paid to commit that sin and all it cost me was five percent of the money I had with me.

My parents had arranged for me to stay with an uncle of mine on my mother's side so after I fled from the hotel room I found my way over to his place how I'll never know because I wasn't thinking straight all I could think of was that I had committed a sin, I had sold myself for what?

When I got to my uncles house I scrubbed myself raw, when I was done my skin was red but even then I didn't feel clean. I still felt soiled so I repeated the process three more times. Sad to say the result was the same.

Throughout dinner my mind kept wandering back to the acts I had committed with that woman and each time no matter how repulsed I was at myself my body still responded to the memory.

That night as I knelt down to pray I asked God to forgive me for my sins and to help me avoid the urge to give into that temptation once more.

A few months passed my uncle helped me find a job as a messenger at an insurance company and for me life seemed to settle into a pattern of sorts, I woke up each morning and thanked the Lord for granting me another day, I bathed and headed for work and after a while I began to see the boy my parents had raised.

Life was going great until a couple of my friends from work asked me to join them for drinks after work one day. Now I didn't drink and I was bit hesitant in joining them because my father didn't drink and he didn't approve of bars, but after much cajoling from my friends I succumbed and joined them.

My first visit to a bar was nothing to write home about while my friends gorged themselves on drink and woman I stuck to my orange juice and shortly before midnight I helped them home and then headed for my little room at my uncle's.

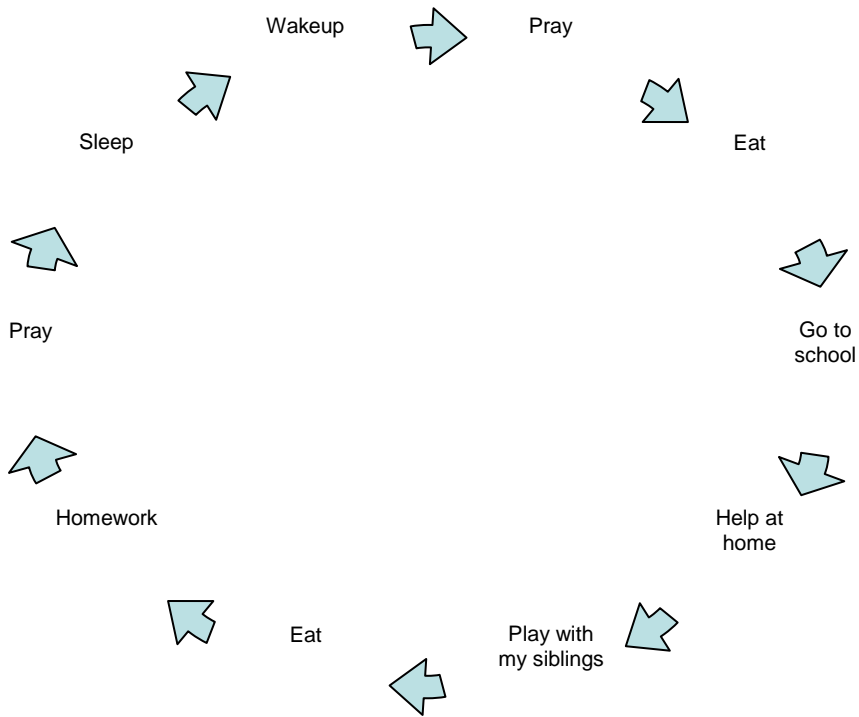
I'd never been prouder of myself, I felt as if I has stared at the face of the beast and laughed in his face because I'd been able to control myself. My mind and my faith had been stronger than my flesh which he could tempt.

And so it was with my next few visits to the bar the results hardly varied, I'd help my friends home before going home myself but that all changed one fateful Thursday evening.

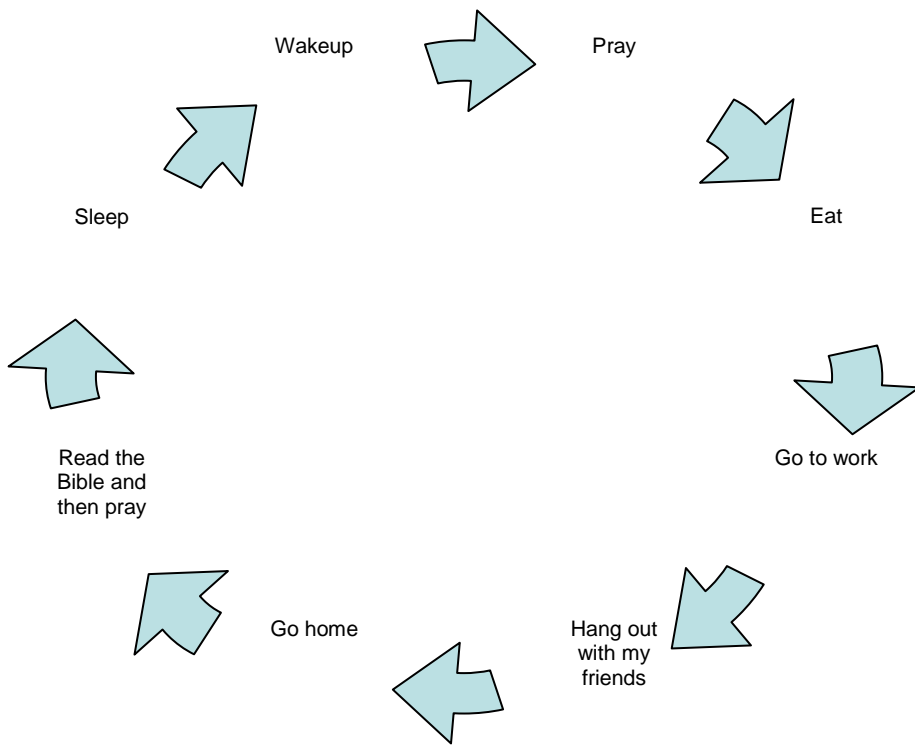
On that night I once again I succumbed to the pressures exerted by my friends and I had a beer. Even as I was sipping on the bitter drink I was regretting my decision but like with the prostitute I continued to do it. After three beers I was violently sick, of course my friends laughed but they understood after all it was the first time I'd ever had a drink, I'd get better with practice.

So I went from never having a drink to drinking almost everyday and each time I allowed myself to get drunk and go home with some strange woman and sometimes women I would get on my knees and ask for forgiveness.

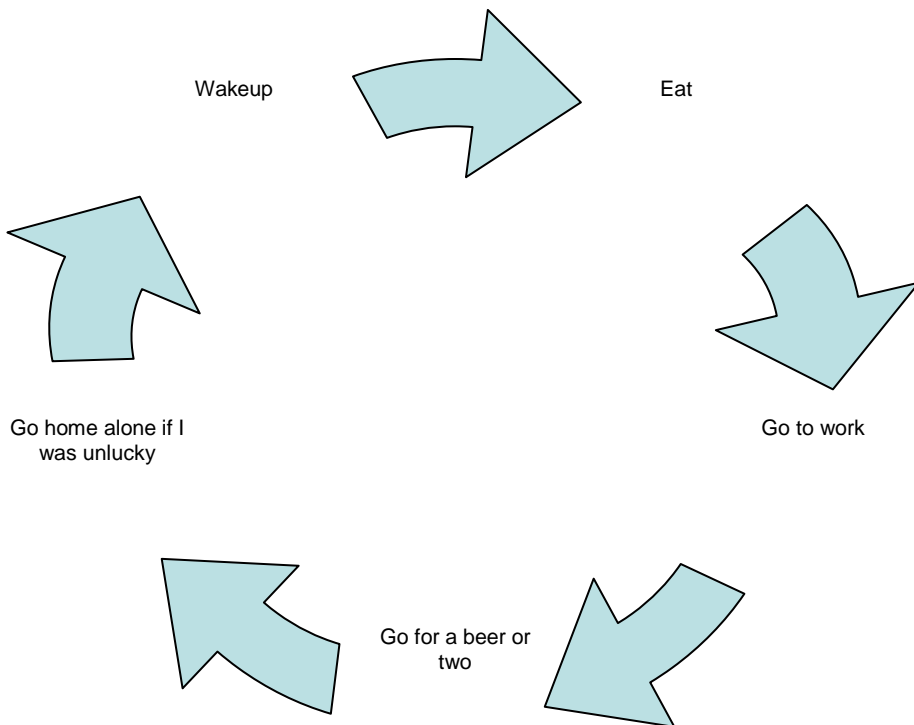
My life changed from



To



Then once more to



After nearly a year of this I moved out of my uncle's house and found myself a cheap two bedroom apartment near the office. At best most of my day was spent at work where I found myself quickly going up

the ranks, I was promoted from messenger to sales trainee and in my early twenties I was a sales person with a travel allowance.

By that time I'd found myself a girlfriend, she was beautiful soft spoken and kind. She did everything for me and after dating for nearly a year she was looking for some sort of commitment from me. A commitment I couldn't give her because 1. She wasn't the one and 2. I just wasn't ready for that commitment.

But like so many of her sex she believed she could change me, she believed that if she made a stand I would have no choice but to make a commitment to her and she was right.

She marched into the lounge one evening after supper, yes she'd moved in with me, and said. "We've been together for nearly two years now." I met her when I was eighteen, "I live with you, I cook and clean for you, I help with the bills and to date you haven't shown me any signs of a commitment you have a choice commit or I walk.

Part of me wanted to tell her to walk, the part of me that still held on the teachings and beliefs of my father but another part of me an EVEN BIGGER PART said lie to her, tell her what she wants to hear after all it is just words right?

So I sat her down looked deep into her eyes and for the first time in my life I lied to someone. Sure I'd lied to myself but never before had I ever lied to someone other than myself so while I looked into her eyes and caressed her soft skin I could feel the devil and his agents working on me.

Their lies and venom coursing through my mind and body and finally out through my tongue and I told her what she wanted to hear and these were my exact words, "baby, I love you. I need you like the air that I breathe, like the water which makes up most of my body. You are my lifeline and without you I'll die. I know what you want from me and more than anything else I want to give it to you, I want you to be my wife," at this time she was all excited because she was thinking forward like many of us she was assuming that my next words would be will you be my wife, instead I said, "but now is not the time."

“Look at where we live,” I asked of her as I pointed around at the shabby and poorly furnished apartment, “I want my wife to have the best and this isn’t it.” Little did she know that she was not the wife I wanted to provide for our relationship returned to normal until one day we got a pregnancy scare.

No let me correct myself there it was a scare for me and a joy for her because we both knew what that meant I’d have to marry her.

By now I’d lost complete faith in God I mean after all it was His fault that I was now on the path I was on. He’d abandoned me if He hadn’t then why was I in the situation I was in?

If He hadn’t made the path of the righteous so hard than I wouldn’t have committed my first sin with that prostitute, I wouldn’t have corrupted my mind and body with the large amounts of alcohol I consumed almost on a daily basis and I wouldn’t be considering suggesting that she commit murder and have an abortion.

But I held my tongue perhaps there was still a part of me which remembered the boy I was. The two days we waited for the pregnancy results were the longest days of my life but when they eventually returned negative I spent the day celebrating, while she spent it crying and the next month she left me.

My Search

Now after my girlfriend's sudden departure you would think that I'd be depressed, you'd be wrong. I was pissed, I was madder than a bull seeing red, I wanted something or someone one to lash out at so I scoured the streets until I found just what I was looking for.

Her name, well her name is unimportant but for a couple of thousand she let me abuse and degrade her in ways that I don't care to talk about after I left her quarters on Sunday, the Lord's Day of Rest, I felt dirtier than I'd ever felt before.

But there was a simple solution to my problem, alcohol so I spent the rest of the day drinking in an effort to try and forget what I'd done and it was in that drunken stupor that I met my next girlfriend, Jessica, she was just my type; blonde, beautiful, big breasted and deeply insecure in a word perfect.

It took less than a week to convince her to move in with me, I was back baby no more takeout's and eating at restaurants, no more laundry mat's for me I had a woman in my life to take care of my needs once more.

Things were great with Jessica until she too started with the marriage questions. Each time she'd ask the question I'd fob her off with some lie but one day I'd just had enough.

It was a rainy Wednesday afternoon and we were stuck in the house, we were watching some stupid comedy show and I was at ease completely relaxed in my own space with a woman at my side. When she asked that infuriating question once more when are we going to get married?

Now I was happy with the relationship as it was, Jessica did the cooking and cleaning and I dealt with the other stuff. We had a joint bank account which I was in charge of, as it should be, we had great sex almost every day and her job gave me a lot of flexibility to pursue my other hobbies if you know what I mean. But the thing which I valued the most about my relationship with Jessica was that she didn't want to have a child born out of wedlock so she was super careful when it came to prevention.

I don't know what it was maybe her biological clock was ticking but in recent days she'd been harping on and on about "taking our relationship to the next level" next level for goodness sake I didn't even know her last name how on this green earth could I take it to the "next level" with her?

She was Jessica Whatever she'd told me her surname, her post which was delivered to the apartment had her surname but for me it just wasn't important enough to remember and it wasn't because I knew that one day soon she'd share my last name it was because I simply didn't care enough about her to learn and remember it.

Heck when we went out and I introduced her to people it was always as Jessica, not as my girlfriend or partner, or future wife always as Jessica because I knew that I had no future with her.

My mother when I asked her why she'd decided to marry my father knowing full well that she was the fifth one in line said that when she tried to imagine a future without my father by her side she couldn't see one and that was why she chose to marry him.

I didn't feel that way about Jessica the only thing I would feel should she leave would be irritation as with my last girlfriend because my routine would be interrupted so on that day I snapped.

I looked into her large brown eyes and slapped her hard as my hand connected with her face the love I saw reflected in her eyes changed to shock no fear no anger just shock and I think I touch of betrayal.

I pushed her off the sofa, sat on top of her chest and pinned her arms to the carpeted floor. She looked up at me with those big brown eyes of hers tears streaming down her perfectly chiseled cheeks and I said, "I will never marry you, I mean look at you. You're a slut you moved in after less than week of knowing me, your assets are always on display for the world to see, you drink and smoke do you really think that you are the type of woman I would marry?" I didn't give her a chance to respond as I dragged her by the hair to the hallway mirror.

“Look at you,” I commanded her, “who would marry you?” Her mascara was running down her face and a nice purple bruise was forming on the side of her face. “You look and dress like a whore, do you really think that I would take you home to meet my parents, to give you mine and my father surname, to let you bear me children, do you?”

I released her and left the house, when I returned twelve hours later very much sober I found Jessica there. Sitting in the now immaculate apartment, wearing a long lavender dress I'd never seen her in, her long blonde hair tied in a loose pony tail and wearing no makeup. Even with the bruise she looked gorgeous.

My shock and surprise at her presence there was greater than the anger which had coursed through my veins when I slapped her.

I slammed the door behind me in an effort to mask my shock, I thought that I should pretend to still be angry at least until she apologized for her behavior.

A man is never wrong so he never needs to apologise.

I paced the room and waited for her to speak and when she did it was in a voice I had never heard her use before, no that isn't the correct way to describe it her voice sounded the same it was her tone and words which had changed. But before the night was over so would I.

Jessica didn't look directly at me and I refused to look at her as well because I knew that if I looked into her eyes I would do something I would regret.

“John, I'm sorry,” yes was my initial thought she was apologizing the guilt I felt over my little outburst evaporated, “I'm sorry that you feel that way about me.”

These words were unexpected, but what else could you expect from women they love drama and where none exists they'll create it.

“But perhaps my actions and attire led you to believe those things about me, I am neither cheap nor a slut or whore. Everything I did I did because I truly felt that you were the one. From the minute I saw you two years ago I knew that you were the one for me.”

This was news to me she'd been stalking me for over two years? "I saw the type of women you were into so I transformed myself into their image. I did all this because I knew that you were the one God had saved me for. Even as I slept with you breaking my covenant with God, I knew that it would all be okay because we were meant to be together because I couldn't see a future for myself without you in it." Then she left with just the clothes on her back.

Her words struck a chord with me especially her last sentence which was a mirror of the words my mother had used when describing her marriage to me.

My heart was yelling, screaming at me to follow her to stop her because she was the one but once more my heart, mind and body were not in unison so I let her go.

My Journey

After Jessica's departure I took a long hard look at the man reflected in the mirror and I didn't like what I saw. The only thing I knew at that moment in time was that I wanted Jessica back, her words had had a profound impact on me but I knew that I was in no state to get her back, not in my current condition.

I was a twenty-two year old drunkard, who slept with prostitutes, beat up women, had no faith and still didn't know who he was.

My first transformation came just before my twenty-third birthday because that's when I saw it a self-help book. The cover promised to help me find the real me and to unlock my hidden potential.

I bought it on the spot and read it within a week at the end of the week I felt like a different man. I stopped drinking and trolling for sex partners because these things were distractions, distractions which were keeping me from discovering the real me.

I had to focus on me so I could discover me.

That became my new mantra I had to focus on me to discover me so I cut out all things which I thought were distracting me and for me that was women and booze after six months I felt that I was ready, I knew who I was, what I wanted and how to get it so that's what I did and man it was great I was making great money, had great friends, didn't drink as much as I used to and didn't sleep with as many women as I used to but the best part was that I was now embarking on what would be a great relationship.

Yes folks time to introduce you to another of my girlfriends her name was Sarah.

Sarah and I had a great relationship and it was because we had the same views on life, having met at one of my self-help seminars. We both believed in the power of me.

What fools we were.

We both foolishly believed that as long as you believe in yourself, you could do anything, everything else be damned.

So we were together for nearly three years which according to most people is ample time to know someone and which according to her friends was too long to be with someone who wouldn't marry you.

So one day she broached the subject of our marriage and I did it I proposed, I did the thing which had scared me for all these years I made a vow to someone to spend the rest of my life with her.

And I was scared shirtless, I don't know what it was but the closer we got to the wedding the more scared I got, believe it or not I hadn't even told my parents of my upcoming nuptial's.

I was scared.

We were only three weeks away from the wedding when she pulled out of it, her reason she didn't know who I was and what I stood for.

I was gutted, how could she say that? I was John Phillips, manager, friend of many and the man who wanted to marry her that was who I was but I guess it just wasn't enough.

I had my second meltdown after this but this time I didn't turn towards booze or self-help guru's this time I turned to me.

After nearly six years I spoke to the man above but it didn't start that way I was practicing one of the techniques I'd learned from the self-help experts. I was pacing my apartment asking myself questions when I heard it.

If you were expecting me to say the voice of God then think again, in these wee hours of the morning as I paced the room asking myself what had went wrong I heard my own voice and it told me exactly where I had gone wrong.

You stopped listening to the voice of God.

That was it just one sentence I stopped listening so I got on my knees and I prayed a simple prayer yet the most powerful prayer I know; the

Lord's prayer but even after I'd said it I didn't feel that it was enough so I confessed.

I confessed to the only being whose forgiveness I truly sought God. I talked to him as I did in my youth when he was still my best friend.

What I said to the Lord on that day wasn't a prayer really more like a conversation and each time the Lord responded in my own voice because the whole time I was searching and looking for answers which were right there in front of me the whole time all I had to do was look and listen.

On that day my father's proverb reverberated in my ears, "when the devil knocks on your door it will be loud enough to draw your attention and the attention of those around you and when he enters your house he will enter with all his friends in an attempt to bring about your downfall. But when the Lord knocks at your door it will only be loud enough to draw your attention and when he enters He will be by Himself as He has already sent his angels to watch over you. Even when you lose faith in him he will never lose faith in you."

On that day I experienced it for myself for the past six years I had let the devil and his agents dictate the way I lived my life. I had left my home in order to find myself but during the entire process I had actually managed to lose myself and on that day I decided to find myself and the way to do that was to get back to basics.

I went to church and it felt so good, it was like nothing I'd ever experienced before it was good, right and natural.

I went to church every Monday, Wednesday and Sunday and it was great but even then I still felt as if something were missing and one Wednesday evening I found that missing piece, Diana from the second I saw her I knew that my search for myself was over from that day forward I would be John Harold Phillips her husband, the man who would spend every day of his life from now on trying to make her happy. I guess I should have listened to my brother all those years ago.

When I first saw her it was like, I'm laughing as I type this because even to this day I still find it hard to describe what I felt.

The best way to put it is that it felt like I was hit by a bus and somehow I was able to walk away but before I got too far I was hit by another bus again I managed to walk away but then I was hit by a train.

It was a feeling that was both painful and pleasurable at the same time, when I left the church that day I knew that she was the one but before I could speak to her she was gone and with her disappearance came a physical pain.

I attended church regularly after that almost on a daily basis, went to all the church functions I could attend, my attendance was almost obsessive until the awful realization came to me that I might never see her again and with that realization I started to believe that a person could actually die from a broken heart.

But you know that old saying God happens while you are busy making plans and while I was busy making plans He happened and one day I saw her again it was completely unexpected but so wonderful and right all at the same time, He'd come through for me **He'd know that what I needed** was her so I stood there gaping at her like a love-sick teenager until she caught me and walked up to me and her first words to me were completely unexpected, I thought she'd say something about how she'd caught me looking at her and she didn't know what it was but there was something about me, instead she walked up to me and said, "why don't you take a picture it will last longer you weirdo." Then she walked away and the thought that I might never see her again made me act I went after her but even as I was following her I was hit by doubt.

My mind was in two places one half wanted me to follow her and strike up a conversation with her while the other wanted me to turn back, with each step I took forward the voice grew louder.

Where do you think you're going? It taunted me, *the girl already thinks that you're some weird stalker type don't make it worse turn around; you've already embarrassed yourself enough.* But I ignored it

and instead focused on the voice which was egging me on the voice which said to me that she was my future.

I walked up to her and tapped her on the shoulder when she saw that it was me she gave me this look like *I can't believe this what do you want now?*

And for twenty minutes we had a great conversation, at least that's what I thought, because just as we were entering the heart of the conversation she turned and walked away to join a group of her friends.

Now you can imagine how I felt and as I walked away that same voice which had taunted me came back, *I told you this would happen now you've gone and made it ten times worse congratulations idiot.*

And as I walked away from her I knew that it was right I was an idiot how could I think that someone as special as her would have any interest in me, never mind the fact that I knew absolutely nothing about her I knew she was special. So I returned home and I did some soul searching I asked myself why God would show me this angel and then take her away from me.

How could He be so cruel? I mean what could I have possibly done to deserve such a cruel and unusual punishment? I felt like a man who was dying of thirst who'd been led to a pool of water and was told that I could look at it all I want but I could never taste it and so I died.

But even as I was berating God and the lot he'd given me I already knew the answer to my question but as usual I was **too stupid to just look and more importantly listen**, so it went for a couple of months my attendance at church decreased so instead of going three times a week now I only went once a week on Sundays.

It was on a Sunday that I finally found the answer to the question I had asked when Diana walked away from me, the service had just ended and I was outside looking at the churches' message board when I saw it a wedding announcement:



Yes the original wedding announcement was fancier than this but at the time I didn't care about all those things all I could think about was that she was getting married that I'd lost her and as I stumbled out of the church I looked like a wounded animal.

As I was stumbling out of the church I bumped into her once again I had that sensation I described earlier of being hit by a train. She looked at me with such concern that I almost burst into tears but I held back and allowed her to lead me to a sheltered alcove where we sat in silence for ten minutes.

It was one of those comfortable silences, the type you get when you're with someone and just having their company is enough a word need not be spoken. The types of silences I'd seen between my mother and father when they are just content with being with each other and words would only spoil it.

I'd regained my composure by this time and I offered her my congratulations once more she gave that look of *are you okay in the head?* Seeing the puzzled look on her face I told her that it was with regards to her upcoming nuptials that's when she laughed.

Oh, what a wonderful sound, light, like bells being shaken gentle that laugh sent shivers down my spine and made me smile all at the same

time. I didn't care what or why she was laughing I was just happy to be there, to be a part of it and to be the cause of it all at once. When she eventually stopped she explained that I was offering my congratulations to the wrong Walker.

My heart was doing somersaults but my mind warned me and told me to not get too excited for all I know she could have a boyfriend, fiancée or worst of all a husband. So I stilled my beating heart and let my mind lead the way as I listened to her explain that JD Walker was her sister Jessica Doreen Walker apparently all her siblings had the initials JD in one variation or another hers was Diana Joan Walker but once more before we could really discover each other she was snatched away from me.

As I sat there digesting the information I had just received when it finally clicked, Jessica that was the reason why God had shown me Diana and taken her away from me.

Now **after all these years my treatment of her was coming back to me** and in the days and weeks that followed I finally understood how she'd felt and I knew that until I made things right with her I could never be happy and so my search for the woman who I had once thought was the one started.

I spent all my free time searching for Jessica but no matter whom I spoke to no one knew where I could find her. It was just starting to hit me the pain and suffering that I had put Jessica through, I'm sure we've all experienced it *unrequited love*.

It means love which is not reciprocated or returned, I finally understood how she'd felt and it hurt like hell, but I was determined in my mind the only way to get Diana would be through Jessica's forgiveness.

So as I've said earlier I looked for Jessica everywhere and I was about to give up because I'd told myself that this was my punishment and had resigned myself to a life of loneliness and misery with no hope of ever finding love again.

When one day out of the blue an old friend of mine and Jessica's called, let's call him Paul:

Paul: "Johnno how you doing man."

Me: "Hey Paul, good to hear from you, man how many years has it been?"

Paul: "Too long man, too long."

Me: "Yeah it has, so how are things with you?"

Paul: "Ah! John as much as I would love to chat right now is kind of a bad time."

Me: "Okay. What can I do for you?"

Paul: "Nothing, more of what I can do for you, I hear you're looking for Jessica."

Me: "Yeah know where I can find her?"

Paul: "Sure do."

Paul gave me Jessica's address and I started making plans, because I hadn't learnt my lesson yet. But there was still one part of my conversation with Paul that was still bothering me after he'd given me her address he said. "This will be a real treat for her she always says that you're the best thing to have ever happened to her."

As I prepared to go to Jessica's place I started devising plans of how to deal with her obviously she still had a thing for me why else would she say that I was the best thing to have ever happened to her?

The Only Plan That Matters is God's Plan

So one wintery afternoon I went to see Jessica, the butterflies in my stomach had long since disappeared and been replaced by bats. I walked up to the house which I assumed belonged to her parents and knocked.

When the door was eventually opened I found myself staring at one of the most beautiful woman I'd ever seen in my life. Now over the years when I've shared this with people they always ask me how I could describe her as one of the most beautiful woman I'd ever seen after what I'd said about my feelings for Diana.

I say it's because it's true she was and to this day I stand by those words Jessica is one of the most beautiful women I've ever seen.

So she opened the door and I was just apologizing to her because I thought I'd come to the wrong house when she said my name and I knew I'd found her, Jessica

She invited me in offered me a hot drink stared at me with those big brown eyes of hers and asked what she could do for me.

I told her and after all of it you'll never believe what she said to me, she said "thank you."

Now my mind was working overtime all the plans I'd made to tell her about Diana and how she was the one for me disappeared because of those two little words.

I stared at her in disbelief and said that I should be the one thanking her and not the other way around but she was adamant she said that it was thanks to me that she was the person she was today.

What she told me next totally shattered me it turned me into a blubbering mess and for the second time in my life I actually cried the only other time was when I was a child.

She said that it was because of that she was the woman she is today. That fateful when day when we broke up she left the apartment and went to her own apartment were like me she did some soul

searching, but unlike me she didn't listen and had resigned herself to living a life alone hoping that someday she would meet someone to at least patch up the hole in her heart and then she met him.

God happens while you're busy making plans.

When she met her husband Timothy it was like nothing she'd ever felt before according to her when she met him she knew that what she'd felt for me almost like a teenage crush.

It's hard to explain to someone whose never felt it but the best way I can think of to describe what Jessica and I feel for our respective partners is that when you meet that person in that instant you know what you're purpose is.

It's like God created that person exclusively for you so when she told me that what she'd felt for me doesn't even come close to what she feels for him I immediately understood and as she was telling me all this she started crying as well.

What a pair we made both of us crying into our cups trying to thank the other for the impact they had made on our lives.

And I will always be grateful to her for that because for a long time while we were together and a while after we were over she thought that I was the one for her and for me for a long time after we were over I thought that she was the one for me.

It was because of our breakup that we both became better people, I learned **to trust in God** once more and she learned that **God had not made a mistake** when He created her, she was perfect the way she was.

When I left that house four hours later her husband and two children where arriving and when she introduced me to them she introduced me as her friend. She couldn't have given me a better title if she'd tried.

I thought it be awkward meeting him for the first time unsure of what she'd told him about me if she'd even mentioned me to him but again

I was thrown for a loop when he embraced me like a brother and thanked me.

For the second time that day I wanted to cry but this time I showed restraint and swallowed my tears as I listened to Tim thank me for the gift I'd given him his family.

When I left Jessica's home that evening I felt lighter than I'd felt when I entered and I left with something else lifelong friends.

The lessons learnt:

- 1. God Happens While You're Busy Making Plans**
- 2. The Only Plan That Matters Is God's Plan**
- 3. God Makes No Mistakes**
- 4. Trust In The Lord Always**

Diana

Now after my meeting with Jessica I knew that they wouldn't be a need for me to go to all the lengths I'd gone to before with regards to Diana because I knew with every fiber of my being that He would not have shown her to me and gave me the feelings I had for her if she wasn't meant for me.

So I sat back and waited because I knew that **no matter how much I planned and plotted if He didn't want it to happen it wouldn't.**

And it did one Sunday I was attending services when I saw her again and this time it was her that made the first move she waved me over and the second I sat down next to her she hooked her arm with mine and that's how we spent our first Sunday together.

At the end of the service I walked her home and just as we were about to part ways she asked me to be her date at her sister's wedding.

Our courtship began after that. I saw Diana daily and if I couldn't see her than I'd call her. She just became part of my routine, as unromantic as that sounds, but she was like my air just as the body needs food, water and oxygen to function my soul needed her to feel complete.

I knew the second I saw her that I wanted to make her my wife but I was nervous the last girl I'd proposed to I'd known for three years and she'd walked away from it all a few weeks before the wedding because she didn't know me and now here I was debating on whether or not I should ask a woman who'd known me for only for six months to marry me.

It all seemed so crazy too crazy but I knew what was in my heart what I didn't know was what was in her heart and I wasn't about to ask her so once more I reverted to my old habits and I turned to someone else to provide solutions to my life and this time I turned to Jessica because she was the only person I knew who'd experienced what I was feeling right now not once but twice.

My second visit to Jessica's house was less emotionally fuelled than the first; we hadn't seen each since then but we spoke regularly on the phone as before she was alone and it worried me a bit because I didn't want people gossiping about her.

But she allayed my fears with just fourteen words which also made me feel greatly ashamed at the same time, "my husband trusts me and his is the only opinion that matters to me."

That's it she didn't care what anybody else thought or said as long as she remained the same in his eyes that was all that mattered.

And as she listened to my problem her words kept echoing in my head and when I finished she looked at me with look of pure puzzlement as if she couldn't really believe that I considered this a problem.

Her advice that day changed my life and on that day she paid me back just as she kept saying that I was the reason for happiness that day she became the reason for my happiness.

Now before you start wondering on whether or not I made a mistake in marrying Diana the answer is no, Jessica is the reason for my happiness while Diana is my happiness.

But back to the lesson I was to learn on that day Jessica said something that gave me courage and emboldened me to ask for Diana's hand.

She said. "The only person who can answer your question is not in this room. Don't be like Tim and me it took us nearly two years to find each other, we both knew that we were meant for each other but were two afraid to make the first move so we wasted all that time waiting for the other to make the first move to give a signal or sign of sorts.

"When I think of all the time me wasted, don't be like us if she is the one she will say yes."

So I took her advice and I asked Diana to marry me and to my great surprise she said yes and then she said something which completely blew my mind, “what took you so long?”

I of course asked her parents’ permission for her to marry me before I gave her a ring because I wasn’t just marrying her I was marrying her family as well and the day I introduced her to my parents as my fiancée one of the proudest moments of my life.

The day I made her my wife the happiest of my life because I knew the second the minister announced us husband and wife that she was mine all mine and I vowed to never hurt her.

But I’m no fortuneteller and I can’t predict the future which is why many times over the next two years of our marriage I was the reason for her pain but I still held on to that belief I’d learned from my father: **A man is never wrong so he never needs to apologise.**

And I’ll never know how or even why but somehow she always forgave me for my pigheadedness and she is in no small part the reason why our marriage has lasted as long as it has. But before the end of the chapter: Marriage she will share this information with you herself.

Trouble

In this part of the book I will reveal something that usually causes a lot of debate when I speak about it but let me not get ahead of myself.

Now Diana and I had been married for two years when the Lord decided to bless us with a child a little boy whom we named Moses after his uncle.

I never thought I could love Diana more but when he was born words still fail me but on that day when I held him in my arms I thought that my heart would burst because it had grown three sizes too big.

I stared around me at the hospital staff which had helped deliver this precious gift to me and that's when I saw her.

I thought I would pass out because I couldn't believe the vision which was standing in front of me but I chastised myself and convinced myself that I was caught up in the moment and it was all the excitement going to my head so I pushed the thoughts I was having of her to one side.

But no matter how hard I tried I just couldn't get her out of my mind, Roxanne, days after Diana had been checked out of the hospital I'd find myself parked outside the hospital staring at it hoping to catch a glimpse of her.

Then one day it happened I'd taken Moses in for checkup when I ran into her surprisingly enough she remembered me. I could feel my heart skipping a beat and I was shocked because I hadn't felt anything like this except with Diana.

My friendship with Roxanne started soon after this we'd meet for coffees, have dinners together, watch movies you now all the things that friends do together but I wanted more whenever we would double date I would feel this uncontrollable rage which grew every time her date would touch her or kiss her or make her laugh.

I had this uncontrollable and unexplainable jealousy because I felt that those smiles, those kisses, those little touches everything that lovers shared. I felt like it should be me and I hated myself for it

because here I was married to this wonderful woman who'd given me a son, three years of marriage, friendship, comfort, security and most importantly her love and I was trampling all over it with these thoughts I was having over someone she called friend.

So I sought guidance from my priest, I knew that I couldn't turn to myself this time because my heart, mind and body were all tuned in on one thing Roxanne and any answer I received would not be honest because I was only thinking about myself.

I turned to my priest and he told me that it was lust and that the sooner I purged myself of it the better, he even gave me some useful hints and tips to follow.

I did all that he'd advised but it didn't work, I was still having these thoughts so I turned to my friends and longtime advisors Jessica and Timothy.

I arranged to meet them later that week and I thought that it was perfect because I would be getting views from both sides.

We met at a local diner and after I told them what was going on with me they advised me.

They were both of the belief that Diana would be hurt because no matter how much I tried to deny it I was having an affair.

If you think you're shocked by this statement how do you think I felt I mean to me it was completely ridiculous how dare they suggest something like that I'd been completely faithful to Diana I hadn't strayed not even once so how could they say something like that?

Once again the again the answer shocked me in its simplicity, **my body may not have strayed but my mind had** and every time I had a thought about Roxanne I strayed because my heart, body and mind were not centered on my wife my attention was split and the best thing for me to do would be to cut her out of my life because if I didn't she would be my downfall.

But that was easier said than done, I couldn't cut her out of my life and not because it would be like cutting out a piece of my heart but because I didn't know how to explain it to my wife.

There was only one other option open to me before I had to confess, I sought my parents advice the advice they gave me helped me make a decision which changed my life forever.

The lessons learnt:

- 1. Adultery is not just limited to what your flesh does.**
- 2. You never know who or what the Lord will use to deliver a message**

Yes I'm a Polygamist

This is the thing about myself which when I reveal it to people it always causes a lot of debate I have been called some of the worst things out there but we cover that later.

My father's advice that I take her as a second wife was met with a great deal of anger and debate in the household. Remember earlier I said that I'd never seen my parents argue before well on this day the argument which ensued was like nothing I'd ever heard before of the six wives in the house, four supported the idea while two were completely opposed to it.

The thing I found confusing about the entire fight was that they all didn't regret the decision to be part of a polygamous family they just didn't think it would be fair to Diana or Roxanne as neither of them came from such a home. In the end it was my father, as always, who ended the debate he told me that the only person who could tell me what Diana would or wouldn't do was Diana herself.

The next day after dinner I sat her down and I told her everything I barred my soul and when I was done she walked away. The next day she left me.

I don't remember much of what happened after that but I know that I was in a dark place I didn't want to live anymore I felt suicidal. Two weeks later she came back to me and as she sat in front of me with tears in her eyes I felt like an asshole which I was.

But that day she said that if that was what I needed then she would support me because I had not lead the family astray yet.

If there was any doubt in my mind that the Lord was with me when I made the decision I made to have Roxanne join my family they were quickly crushed by what happened next.

Diana she is and was the only reason Roxanne agreed to date me or as we call it court me. Diana convinced Roxanne to go out with me and not as friends and three months later we were married.

What happened next?

When Diana and I married I was twenty six turning twenty seven and she had just turned twenty five. We had courted for a year before we were joined together as husband and wife.

Diana and I were married for two years when the Lord blessed us with a son Moses it was at my son's birth that I saw my second wife. Diana was twenty seven and I was twenty nine.

Roxanne and I were friends for a little over a year or so before we succumbed to our feelings for each other and began our courtship which lasted six months after which we made it official. At the time Diana and I had Moses and were pregnant with Jessica. I was thirty, Diana twenty eight and Roxanne twenty three.

Lina and I had the shortest courtship of them all we courted for about three months before we got married and it was a real battle for me to get her attention but I'll explain that later. When we married Lina, I was thirty two; Diana was thirty, Roxanne twenty five and Lina twenty six. At the time Diana and I had Moses and Jessica, Roxanne and I had Sarah and Penelope.

Jennifer and I had the longest courtship which was a good thing because with her there were issues which needed to be addressed before we got married especially with Lina because we had been married for less than a year when it started. We courted for three years and got married in the first month of our fourth year together. At the time I was thirty five, Diana thirty two, Roxanne twenty seven, Lina twenty eight and Jennifer thirty. Diana and I had three children by now Moses, Jessica and Timothy. Roxanne and I still only had the two girls Sarah and Penelope, Lina and I had one girl Joy and she was pregnant with Paul and Hailey, Jennifer and I had two Carl and Greg Jnr.

After my marriage to Jennifer, Diana and I had one more child Peter, Roxanne and I had our angel Sophie, after the twins Lina had another son David and then our baby girl Elizabeth and the Lord blessed Jennifer and I with two more boys Luke and Andrew.

Chapter Two – Marriage



In this chapter we cover marriage based on what I've experienced, observed and learned.

In this chapter you will also hear from my wife's all their opinions will be written in italic the only difference will be the color that their thoughts are written in.

Diana my rock, she is red because even to this day she still makes my heart stop with just a smile.

Roxanne she is green because my marriage to her signaled the start of a new life a new way of thinking and living.

Caroline is yellow because she is like the sun, warm, vibrant and you can't help but gravitate towards her.

Jennifer is white because for me and my wives she represents purity and what it truly means to accept Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior.

The chapters or section in this part of the book will be based on questions I've received as well as comments and observations.

1. Why Did You Choose This Lifestyle

Well for me it wasn't something that I originally planned to do, don't get me wrong I love being part of such a big family, I love having six mothers who care for me, I love having so many brothers and sisters to turn to in times of need and who have supported me through all my highs and lows.

But as I grew into a man and started reflecting on my father's choices I felt that he was incredibly selfish I couldn't understand how he could say that he loved all his wives equally? It just didn't seem logical to me.

And as a child I felt incredibly angry anytime he'd have to spend time with his other wives and their children. So I was determined to never enter into something similar to it.

And I probably wouldn't have if it hadn't been for Roxanne and the feelings I had for her and that's the reason why I entered a polygamous marriage.

The reason why I chose to stay with him and to support his decision to include Roxanne into our life is simple it's because I love him and the person he'd chosen to be part of our family was someone I knew and liked.

I'll repeat what I said to him on the day I gave him permission to court her, "you've never made a decision yet which has hurt our family and I doubt that you are about to start now."

Then he makes a U-turn and starts saying that he made a mistake and it really pissed me off so I decided to help him by giving him that nudge he needed.

When I first saw John I was attracted to him he is after all the type of guy I would go for but I didn't really think anything of it. When our friendship began I felt something change in me and I started to look at him with an eye which was less than friendship.

But he was a married man and I wasn't willing to go there, I'm no home wrecker nor am I an adulteress so I tried to push my feelings to

one side. I went out on dates with other men but the feelings still remained.

Then one day he comes up to me and tells me that he has an interest in me and would like to see where it goes. I refused of course because he was married and married to a woman I'd grown close to. But then when she came to see me I knew that I wasn't making a mistake by acting on my feelings.

The decision was quite easy for me I grew up in a polygamous family and from an early age I knew that I wanted to be a Sister Wife. I always knew that I wanted to be part of the Phillips family but the thing which was unclear for me was through whom.

The answer came later. John had left the family home when he was seventeen and I was eleven and he returned when he was thirty two and I was twenty six. I can tell you that when I told my parents I was getting married their joy greatly outweighed mine as they'd given up on me and they thought that I was going to grow old alone.

But when I ran into him that day he came home to introduce his new wife I knew that this was the family I was meant for. You have to understand for me it wasn't just about the man but the family he came with.

For me the day I married John was the day that my transformation came to an end. On the day I met him I became believer of love at first sight. He was walking around with Diana (I didn't know they were married at the time I thought they were dating) and I thought that she was incredibly lucky to have a man like him and it wasn't his looks that made him attractive to me it was his actions as a recent divorcee who came from a less than perfect marriage seeing a man open a door or pull out a seat to me was the greatest romantic gesture a man could make and I just followed them around like a lovesick puppy until they met up with Roxi and Lina and they caught me staring at them and invited me to join them.

When he introduced them to me as his wives I was shocked and part of me was disgusted but I sat with them and as we chatted I realized that I had judged them erroneously. Unlike his marriages with his other wives where he knew the second he saw them that they were

destined to be together with me it was I who knew that we were meant to be together and he who had to discover it.

Our courtship was the longest of all the four marriages because we both had to be sure but I'm glad because it gave me time as well to ensure that I was making the right decision for me and my children.

At this point in time I'd like to clarify that I knew the second I saw her that she was meant to be part of our family which was why I felt so free and at ease around her otherwise I wouldn't have introduced Roxanne and Caroline as my wives. The thing that made me err on the side of caution with Jennifer is that the instant she realized that I was a polygamous her face told the tale and even when she showed signs of being interested I felt like a giant but because of her initially reaction and the children she had with her ex-husband I had to take things slowly.

2. Aren't You Just As Selfish As Your Father?

The answer is yes, I am selfish look it's like that Percy Sledge song "If Loving You is Wrong (I Don't want to be Right)", it's the same thing with my wives if loving them is wrong then I don't want to be right.

If loving them and wanting them to be part of my life is selfish than yes I'm selfish and proud of it too. See the thing people don't get is that this is not some polygamist sect with me declaring myself as a "Prophet" who speaks to God and acts out on His instructions.

This is a marriage which happens to consist of one husband and multiple wives. In this marriage no one was assigned to me or forced to be with me. In this marriage all the women made the choice to either stay with me (Diana) or to join my family (Roxanne, Lina and Jennifer).

My wives are strong, smart, funny and beautiful. They had their pick of men out there and **they chose me**.

I'll repeat it, they chose me. It was a decision made wholly and solely by them. I didn't force them into it. If they had chosen to reject my offer to be part of this lifestyle I am confident they would have found somebody else to call husband and to bless with children. But they chose me.

Now back to the question, as I've said yes I'm selfish but unlike my father I don't claim to love my wives equally because that's almost impossible as humans it's in our nature to gravitate towards something or someone at a particular time for a particular reason and they know this instead I always say I love my wives and I love them for different reasons.

3. Do You Have A Favorite

Some people just won't accept this as an answer and they always persist with this one question and the answer is yes. I do have a favorite and it's all of them.

I'll admit that it's not like that all the time for example if it is mine and Diana's anniversary then she is my favorite and for that week leading up to our special day she will be the focus of my attention. Now don't get me wrong I won't neglect my other wives I just won't be as attentive as I normally am on that day because it's her time.

The same for my other wives if it's Jennifer's birthday from midnight to midnight she is the center of my world and the other wives know this so on those days we try to keep the drama at a minimum.

The best way I can think of to describe this is that whoever I'm with at the time is my favorite.

Well unless it's happening to you it is pretty hard not to feel jealous because on that day if it's a birthday then if he was with you the night before he leaves your house at eleven o'clock and until the next day it's almost as if you don't exist to him. You there but you're not there and his there but his not there. That's the best way for me to describe it.

Diana's description makes our husband seem like such an a-hole and the first time I experienced this I thought he was that too. Back then it was just me and Diana and it was exactly a week before their anniversary when he walked into my room, back then we lived in a four bedroom house and Diana and I had our own room, so he walks in and he tells me that for the next week all his attention will be focused on Diana and then he says that she is to have all my nights as well. I was angry and confused because I didn't understand why she was getting this special treatment. Was it because she was the first or because she gave him a son and was pregnant with our second child while I still had to produce?

And when he heard this he looked at me like a kid who'd just been told that Santa doesn't exist and he said it was because it was her anniversary. But I still didn't understand it I mean the green eyed

monster was working overtime on me, so he had to sit me down and explain to me that he was doing it this way because throughout the entire year Diana had to share him and his attention was always split between us but in that week leading up to their anniversary she deserved to have his attention focused solely on her and if I didn't agree with him than I should let him know and he'll try his best to find another way to make her feel special.

Well after he left I had some tough thinking to do, I realized that I was just being petty let me explain, Diana and John's anniversary is three months before mine and my birthday which is in January is seven months ahead of Diana's, and on my birthday he'd done exactly what he was planning to do with me but on a smaller scale.

He was spending the night with Diana when at exactly midnight he crawled into my bed, kissed me good morning and said happy birthday and for the rest of the day his attention was focused entirely on me and it was great, so how could I deny Diana that?

I love my family, I love my sister wives but when you get him all to yourself the last thing you want is somebody else intruding on that time. So when I heard of this practice I was happy because growing up I saw how my mother's struggled to stand out in front of my father. Birthdays, anniversaries and even date nights were considered family time and the only time they got to spend alone with him was in the bedroom so I'm glad that John does this because three times a year you get him all to yourself and you don't have to worry about hurting someone else's feelings.

Well I have to agree with Diana, it's like he gets tunnel vision which is one of the reasons why I love him but you can't help but feel jealous, it's unfortunately one of those pesky emotions we get. It's a very tricky situation it's great when it's you but when it's not you it really hurts. And I have to give credit where it's due the hurt is not because of what his doing but because of our own insecurities. When he is around all of us even if it's your day he won't show you any preferential treatment in front of us.

4. Me and My Family

| | No. of Years Married | No. of Children |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|--|
| Diana | 16 Years | Four Moses, Jessica, Timothy and Peter |
| Roxanne | 13 Years | Three Sarah, Penelope and Sophie |
| Caroline | 11 Years | Five Joy, Paul, Hailey, David and Elizabeth |
| Jennifer | 8 Years | Four Carl, Greg Jr., Luke and Andrew |

5. The Domestic Situation

Okay when my father got married he already knew that he wanted to have multiple wives so he brought a piece of land and built two houses on it and that worked for him until he added a fifth wife because until then my mother's lived two to a house. So when he married for the fifth time he had to build a house for her and when he married for the sixth time she just doubled up like the others.

I don't know how they felt or even how they feel about the situation but I knew when I married Roxanne that, that wasn't going to be me.

So I borrowed a lesson from the Islamic religion, I built each of them a house. But I achieved this only after I'd met Lina, when I saw her I knew that I wanted to go back home to be close to my parents and my siblings and I knew she wouldn't complain because it was close to home for her too.

The only thing was to convince Diana and Roxanne, which I did after much begging and pleading.

The move for me was quite easy because I was planning on starting a business but the thing which really convinced them to move was that we'd found jobs for them so they wouldn't be this thing of them having to sit at home while they searched.

I brought a large piece of land from one of my dad's friends and I built three small but adequate houses for my wives and there we lived.

When Jennifer joined our family she got my house and we started to build my quarters and as the years passed we added onto the houses until we had the houses we wanted.

Each house, except mine which has four bedrooms, consists of seven bedrooms and three bathrooms, a lounge and a kitchen. All the houses look exactly the same on the outside and the wife's have free reign on what they look like on the interior.

I'm not exactly a millionaire but the Lord has blessed me and my business and because of it I'm able to support my family which is all that matters to me. The fact that I have so many siblings also has its

advantages because all the work was done with our own hands so the cost of building our home was limited.

The one thing though that I always insist on is that we eat dinner as a family because sometimes it's the only time we get to connect. Dinner is always served in the Dining Hall.

Oh my goodness when I walked in on him and saw that he was writing about the Dining Hall, I had to add my two cents. The Dining Hall is the best worst idea his ever had. It's a good thing that during one point in our day we get to connect and he gets to see all of us but it's a lot work.

The barn itself isn't that big which is why he used it as his personal quarters as well while we were fixing up his house. It's a one story building which he stripped bare, added tiles, repainted and furnished with counters and long dining table which can seat all of us and our extended family if we had to.

So the thing is that normally if I was cooking for just me and my kids than I'd have to prepare five meals and six if he was around. Now I have to make food for twenty one people and there's a lot to keep in mind.

For example Sophie is allergic to nuts so you have to make sure that none of the dishes contain nuts. Luke hate's potatoes and Hailey loves them so you have to find a balance. It's the best idea he had because we get to be together and the worst because it's so much work.

I hate the Dining Hall, I love being with John and the other wives and all our kids because sometimes I have to work irregular hours but I hate the Dining Hall. It is just some much work but I guess the rewards are pretty much worth it in the end.

Oh my gosh the Dining Hall, the best way to describe it is that it's like eating at an all you can eat buffet, the food is lined up on one side and everyone pretty much helps themselves. But it's a lot of work for us wives because after dinner everybody expects desert which is why Diana suggested that we rotate the making of desert so if today I make it tomorrow Jen will and she will prepare only the deserts while

we make the other dishes. The worst part of the Dining Hall is the mess that's left after everyone is done.

I guess Lina has it the worst because she is a stay at home mom, but unlike the others I love the Dining Hall whenever I'm there I feel safe and at home. I know it's a lot of work but I just love being there with him and them and all our children around us. I don't know it's just a feeling of belonging.

And here I was thinking that I was some kind of a genius.

6. The Schedule

The schedule is something that all Sister Wives are familiar with because it tells you when you get to spend time with him and for how long.

Lina is the only one of us who came from a polygamous marriage and she said that normally the schedule is designed by the first wife and the other wives provide input.

In our home we all meet on Sunday to plan the schedule's we'll need for the week ahead and to be honest they aren't really that many we have of course John's schedule, then there's the cooking schedule were we agree upon the dinner menu and who'll prepare the desserts on which days and the Dining Hall's cleaning schedule.

We each prepare our own breakfast and lunch except for Sunday's when we have all three meals in the hall.

With regards to the schedule it's really important to get along with your Sister Wives because you never know when you'll need to trade with them.

For example when Roxanne was trying for a baby she asked me to give up some of my days because they were trying to fall pregnant and because we get along I said yes.

The only say he has over the schedule is when he wants to plan a vacation or an anniversary surprise.

The only other thing is that he needs to be kept aware of any changes in the schedule otherwise he throws a hissy fit.

7. It's Easy Being A Polygamous

It's Abuse

You're Nothing More Than a Pimp and Your Wives Prostitutes

People have said some nasty things to me and my wives but these two things are the ones that I can never leave behind.

Its abuse and I always say to those people exactly how do I abuse them? I don't belittle them, I don't hit them, and I don't force them to have sex with me. So how do I abuse them and their answer is always the same it's against the Bible.

As to the Pimp and Prostitute angle I'm the only person who sleeps with my wives and so how are they being prostituted?

It's the same answer because they really have no answer as to the part of it being against the Bible, well since I said I won't quote directly from the Bible I'll let someone else do it for me.

<http://www.ezsoftech.com/omm/polygamy.asp>

And I gave thee (David) thy master's house, and thy master's 'wives' into thy bosom, and gave thee the House of Israel and of Juda." (2 Sam. 12:8)

How is it that God Himself gave him his 'master's wives' if His intention was to keep the 'one man with one woman' rule? Even in the seventh generation after Adam we find that "Lamech took unto him two wives" (Gen. 4:19); Abraham had three wives; Jacob had 2 wives besides concubines; Moses did not forbid it, instead he brought Laws to regulate it, as has been mentioned in the previous heading.

Christians try to overcome these difficulties implying that the previous prophets had made mistake in marrying more than one wife. But the insurmountable difficulty faces them in case of Moses. Because Moses had brought a Law from God, and if it was God's intention to make marriage 'an union between one man and one wife', why did He give Moses regulations about polygamy? The above-mentioned Dictionary of Bible tries to gloss over this difficulty by saying, "Moses,

who was correcting abuses, not suddenly abolishing them, did not forbid polygamy, but discouraged it."

It is a claim, which cannot be justified, because Moses himself married two wives: one was Zipporah, daughter of Jethro (known in Islamic language as Shuaib), the other was a Cushite woman whom Moses married in the 2nd year of the sojourn of the Israelites in the wilderness. (Num. 12:1)

There is no mention anywhere in the scriptures or any other writing that Zipporah was not alive at that time.

So far about Moses and the Prophets before him. Now we come to the prophets who came after this 'supposed discouraging'. We find that polygamy continued to be practiced even after the time of Moses, as by Gideon, Elkanah, Saul, Rehoboam and countless others. For the details, see Judge. 8:30; I Sam. 1:2; II Sam. 12:8; 21:8.

Prophet "David took him more concubines and wives out of Jerusalem." (11 Sam. 5:13). Prophet Solomon "had seven hundred wives, princess, and three hundred concubines." (I Kings 11:3)

Now we came to the period after the ministry of Jesus Christ, SV. Mir Ahmad Ali writes in his translation of the Holy Qur'an:

It has often been asserted that Christianity interdicted polygamy and made monogamy obligatory on all. Nothing can be farther from the truth.

Ameer Ali, speaking of the general prevalence of polygamy among all nations, remarks:

"And so it was understood by the leaders of Christendom that there is no intrinsic immorality or sinfulness in plurality of wives. One of the greatest fathers of the Christian Church (St. Augustine) has declared that polygamy is not a crime where it is a legal institution of a country, and the German reformers, even as late as the sixteenth century, allowed and declared valid the taking of a second or even a third wife, contemporaneously with the first, in default of issue, or any other cause." (Ameer Ali, Life and Teachings, p. 220, and also Ameer Ali, Mohammedan Law, Vol. II p. 23).

So tell me how it's against the Laws of the Lord and the teachings of the Bible. As to "polygamy is not a crime where it is a legal institution of a country," take into consideration that this is a country which once upon a time outlawed alcohol and cigarettes, a country which once said that a man and a man cannot marry. Some people still oppose

this idea but who are they to judge? So for me and others like me we ask how can they support this and oppose polygamous marriages?

It's like I said before nobody was forced into this marriage they all chose to be a part of it and personally I think that if they made it legal it would help eliminate those sects which force young girls to marry against their will. But hey that's just my opinion.

[Isa 4:1-2](#) And in that day seven women shall take hold of one man, saying, we will eat our own bread and wear our own clothing; only let us be called by your name, to take away our shame. In that day shall the Branch of Jehovah be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the earth excellent and comely for those who have escaped from Israel

Not one verse can be found in the N.T. which annuls, invalidates, abrogates, reverses or contradicts any of God's principles of marriage as established in His Word from Gen. to Rev. The Lord said this;

[Mat 5:17](#) Do not think that I have come to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I have not come to destroy but to fulfil.

[Mat 5:18](#) For truly I say to you, Till the heaven and the earth pass away, not one jot or one tittle shall in any way pass from the Law until all is fulfilled.

[Mat 5:19](#) Therefore whoever shall relax one of these commandments, the least, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of Heaven. But whoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of Heaven.

Statistics show that there are more women than men of faith and if we are to be equally joined together (2Cor.6:14,1Cor.7:39) then polygyny is a God sanctioned option for those who by faith are able to live this lifestyle. If faithful men desire to provide spiritual headship for more than one wife, and Christian women are strongly committed to plural Christian marriages then such are free before God to so marry without condemnation and excommunication.

Taken from <http://www.biblepolygamy.com/directory.htm> which states that polygamy and monogamy go hand in hand and polygamous marriages are not considered sin in the eyes of the Lord.

The most salient and sometimes difficult statement on the relationship between Jesus and his disciples and the Old Covenant is found in Matthew 5:17-20, in the context of the famous Sermon on the Mount. The four verses read as follows in the New International Version:

5:17 Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. 18 I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished. 19 Anyone who breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. 20 For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.

- **Born Into It Don't Know Better**

I'll be the first to admit that I was born into it but then how do you explain Diana, Roxanne and Jennifer? When I was growing up I didn't plan to have multiple wives but as I've said before **the only plan that matters is God's Plan.**

- **It's Nothing More Than a Cult**

Look if I was raised in a religious compound I would agree with you, from what we've learned about such places it's that from birth you are taught that the only person who can get you to heaven is the Prophet. Disobey him and you will not be allowed into heaven, if you are a man you can lose your wives and have to live with the heartache of having to watch your family being scattered and watching another man play husband and father to your wives and children.

The boys are chased when they are teens because they aren't enough women to satisfy all the men. Yet those women are expected to get a boy because what father doesn't delight in having a son?

Only to have him chased away once he shows an interest in a girl or rebels against something as teenagers often do.

If you have a girl you spend your life worrying about what will become of her because most of these girls are taken out of school and forced into marriage. You worry about what will happen to her once she gets married because of the atrocities you might have faced in your own husbands bedroom.

So yes if I was born into that I would understand, but my home is nothing like that. My wives and my children are the most important things in my life and as much as it would kill me to lose them if they wanted to leave I wouldn't stand in their way.

- **Love Being the Center of Attention**

I always laugh at this because who wants to be the center of four women's attention? Sometimes I feel like a child when they start on me. My kids always complain about this as well if one of them misbehaves then they have four mother's yelling at them and then later on it's my turn as well.

So yes sometimes it's great having their focus on me but the minute I do something, I get it worse than the kids because they expect better from me and with each wife the standard gets higher. I mean if the scale starts at one and ends at four then Diana is on one, Roxanne is on two, Lina at three and Jennifer whose at four is the most disappointed of them all because the other wives put so much work into making me the man I am.

- **Bossy – Love Authority**

No I don't in our home everything is always a debate because they are so many people involved. All the decisions which are to be taken are discussed and voted on and only in the event that no decision can be reached I have the final say.

Yes there are some things were I will not enter into discussions I will make the decision but those instances are far and few in between.

- **Sexaholic**

Oh my gosh I always laugh when people accuse him of this because their minds instantly go for the salacious. I can't speak for the others but when we are together it's not just about the sex our marriage is more than sex. And to be honest if he wanted to have sex he could just pay for it like he used to.

I've spent nights just lying in his arms, we've spent nights just talking, during school holidays we've spent nights just playing with the kids. Yes sex is a part of marriage but it's just that a part of it.

Well I feel kind of awkward about this subject so I won't take part in it. What I will say is that when I married him my perceptions of sex changed for the better.

I enjoy being with John and every minute I spend with him for me is heavenly. What people need to understand is that sex is just that sex and what John and I do in the privacy of our bedroom is just that private. But I can honestly say that my husband is no sexaholic.

1. Lack respect for women – see them as baby making tools

In the Chapter the Role of a Women we delve into this.

Children are a blessing from God and you can't really plan for them and this reminds me of a friend of mine.

He and his wife had been married for five years they had the house and the finances that they felt were sufficient to support a child so they started the process of having a baby. Three years passed and nothing so they went to a doctor and he tested them both healthy as horses so they went back to trying two more years passed and still nothing.

Then one day he comes to see me and he says that I've had the right idea the whole time have many wives and if one can't produce then move on to the next one. I punched him out. When he came to, we both apologized started talking and as we were talking he reveals something about himself that I'd never known he had a son with an ex of his.

And I think when he mentioned this it was meant as a joke almost like wish I'd hadn't kicked ... to the curve now. We've all experienced those moments when things don't go as planned and you wish you could just go back and take that offer you rejected.

So he tells me that when he was 23 he made a girl pregnant and when she told him he told her that he wasn't interested.

For me the answer was as clear as the nose on his face, why would God give him another child when he'd thrown away the one he'd given him? The real tragedy in this situation was that his poor wife would have to suffer with him. He of course refused to listen and they are still trying to this day.

But back to our house yes we love having children but it's a mutual decision and it's not something we plan well except for with Roxanne.

2. Do you use condoms?

Sometimes, but not always but before you start screaming about Aids and other STI's we are tested regularly and we are faithfully to each other, we don't sleep around. Condoms are used only on rare occasions and that is only on request.

Why Can't Women Marry More Than One Husband?

Well as far as I know no Christian women has ever done this before but I did do some research and it is very rare and practiced in cultures which do not believe in God and His Son Jesus Christ.

In those cultures a woman will marry brothers and choose whom she wants to lay with on any given day. It's usually brothers because even if she isn't too sure which of the brother's is the father of her baby she will be certain of its last name.

So to close this issue no it's not easy being a polygamist but whenever I look at my family I wouldn't change it for anything. In my country alone of all the states only 11 of them consider polygamous relationships as a misdemeanor offence the rest of the country it's

either a felony or completely outlawed. To live as polygamist means that you live in constant fear of having your family being torn apart, constant fear of prison, of having your wives imprisoned and your children taking away so yes it's easy being a polygamous.

Because of my choice to live this life my family has ostracized me, my parents don't speak to me, my siblings are confused by my choices and I have no one to turn to but my husband and I'm grateful for Roxanne, Lina and Jen because where my flesh and blood have rejected me they've accepted me.

My father left us when I was three so my brother, my sister and I were raised by our mother. When I told her that I was planning to become a Sister Wife she was hurt and disappointed. Because she'd always taught us that you don't need a man, you can do it on your own. So to her it was a bit of a disappointment because to her it seemed as if I doubted myself, but she met John and then Diana and eventually she realized that it wasn't self-doubt that was propelling me into this marriage but love.

At the time I thought that we'd never get married because he was adamant that he couldn't marry me without her permission, but I convinced him that she would accept us given time. Now she count's the days until we visit or until she visits and every time I tell her we're coming over she always wants to know who else is coming.

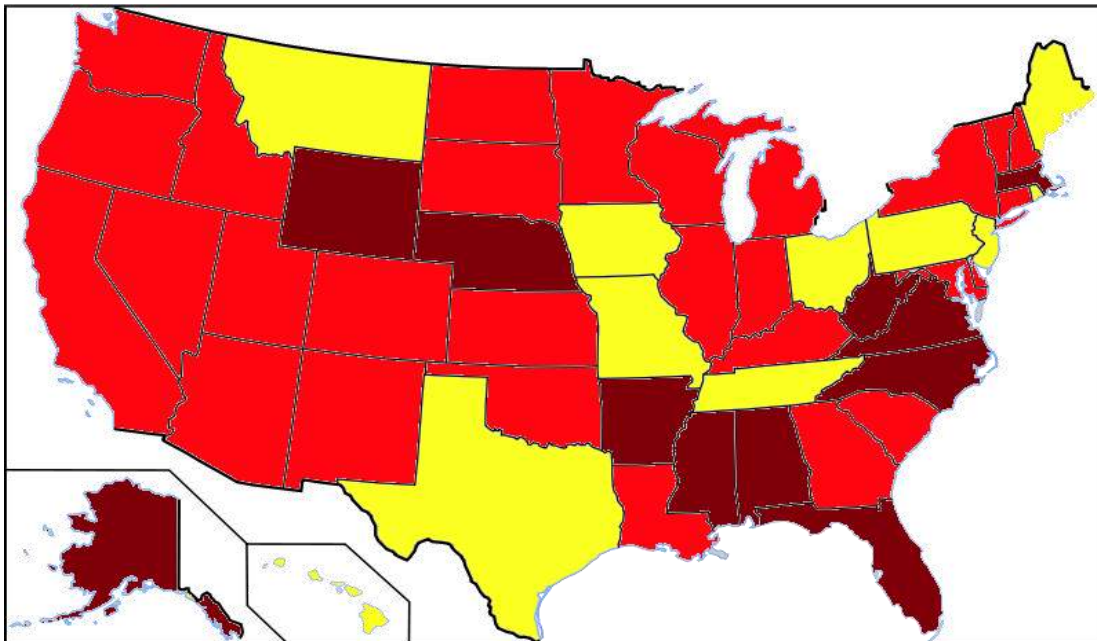
And whenever I say it's just us, meaning John and our kids, she always says that there is more than enough room for all of us.

I grew up in a home like this so they've been pretty supportive the only downside is that we live in fear, fear that one day while were sleeping or eating or praying men with guns could just barge into our home and take away our husband and us and throw us in jail and they could take our children away from us, away from their homes where they are loved and cared for and take them to homes where no one cares about them. That is the only downside for me, the fact that someone who knows absolutely nothing about you and your family would dare to pass judgment on your lifestyle especially since we are all consenting adults.

My ex- husband when I told him that I was remarrying he was furious and when I told him that I was marrying a polygamist he was livid, but I told him that what I did with my life no longer concerned him and he said that he'd take me back to family court to gain custody of our two son's and I told him that he could if he wanted to but no court would grant him custody. On that day he beat me up for the last time and the next time I saw John I was a free woman, after we were married I included them all in my will and said that I wanted them to have my children should I die. I'm an orphan so there was no one to challenge me when I decided to marry John except my ex and he didn't have much ground to challenge me on. But like Lina I live in fear of the day when the police come because he told on me just to be spiteful.

Below are maps that illustrate this.

States which accept Polygamous marriages in the USA as per Wikipedia

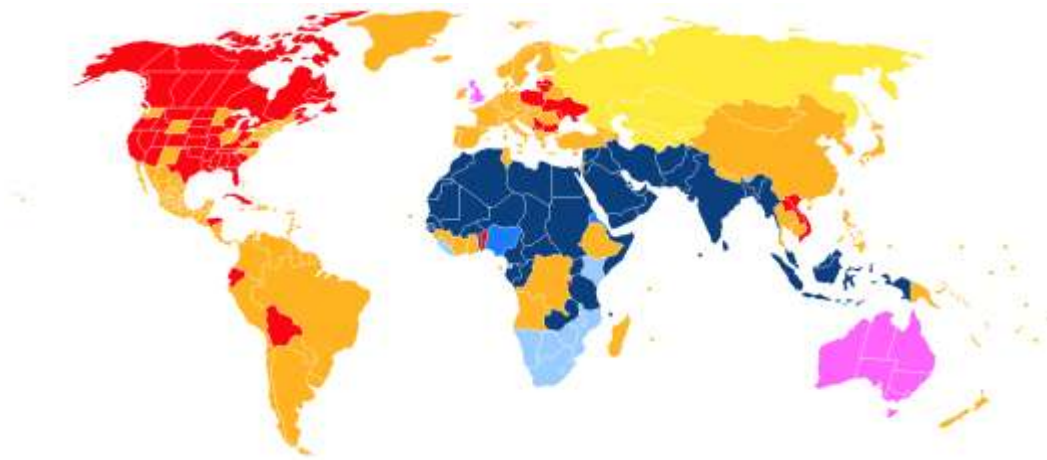


Misdemeanor - Yellow

Felony - Red

All forms of cohabitation outlawed – Dark Red

Status of Polygamy in the World



- Polygamous marriages recognized under civil law
- Polygamous marriages recognized under civil law in some regions
- Polygamous marriages performed abroad recognized
- Customary law recognizes polygamous unions
- Issue under political consideration
- No recognition, polygamy legal
- Polygamy illegal
- Polygamy illegal, polygamous marriages constitutionally banned

| Legal status of polygamy In the World | |
|--|--------------|
| Recognized under civil law | |
| Afghanistan | Algeria |
| Bahrain | Bangladesh |
| Brunei | Burkina Faso |
| Cameroon | Chad |
| CAR | Comoros |
| Congo | Djibouti |
| Egypt | Ethiopia |
| Gabon | The Gambia |

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| India | Indonesia |
| Iran | Iraq |
| Jordan | Kuwait |
| Libya | Malaysia |
| Maldives | Mali |
| Mauritania | Morocco |
| Myanmar | Niger |
| Oman | Pakistan |
| Palestine | Qatar |
| Saudi Arabia | Senegal |
| Singapore ¹ | Somalia |
| Sri Lanka ¹ | Sudan |
| Syria | Tanzania |
| Togo | Uganda |
| UAE | Western Sahara |
| Yemen | Zambia |
| Recognized in some regions | |
| Eritrea | Nigeria (BA, BO, GO, JI, KD, KA, KT, KE, NI, SO, YO, ZA) |
| Foreign marriages recognized | |
| Australia (welfare only) | United Kingdom (welfare only) |
| Recognized under customary law | |
| Botswana | Equatorial Guinea |
| Lesotho | Liberia |
| Kenya | Malawi |
| Mozambique | Namibia |
| Nigeria | Sierra Leone |
| South Africa | Swaziland |
| Zimbabwe | |

8. Divorce

Unfortunately these days more marriages end this way then through what marriage was originally meant to be a lifetime bond which was ended only by death.

There are many reasons why marriages fail but I think the three biggest reasons are lack of trust and communication and settling in the Chapters: The Role of a Man and The Role of a Woman I'll explain what I mean by settling.

Communication you always hear relationship experts say communication is the key and they are right. The minute you stop talking, the minute you stop listening is the instant you doom your marriage.

Whenever something bothers me about one of my wives I speak to her directly, I don't gossip about them with the other wives or with my friends. I speak to her and we deal with our issues that very day. We won't go to sleep until we have resolved it even if it means talking about it the whole night. Which sometimes creates issues with the other wives as it might interfere with their plans.

The point here is that we have a clear line of communication if anybody has an issue with someone else they address that person directly and they deal with the issue. We don't hold grudges.

Trust my wives have often spoken to me about their friends who've thought that their partners are cheating on them and they've come up with ingenious ideas of how to catch them in the act.

Which is saddening, to have so little faith in someone that you choose to continue to be in a relationship with and whenever I ask why she hasn't left than the answer is always the same they don't have proof. When I ask what happens after they catch them again same answer all the time. A. she dumped him and b. she took him back there is no A or B just an A & B.

Yes some women when they leave a man they leave but other's return and they say my wives have low self-esteem.

Diana shared a story with me of a friend of hers who'd caught her boyfriend cheating by following him and when she eventually caught him it was with someone she considered a friend. She kept the guy and lost the friend and hardly two months had passed before he did it again. For me the worst part of all this was that her friend had apologized and he hadn't because: **A man is never wrong so he never needs to apologise**

And she kept staying with him and waiting for him to see the error of his ways and one day he did he found his Diana and left her, she'd wasted five years of her life on a man who didn't think anything of her because to this day his remained faithful to his wife.

So the question is what do you do when you're partner cheats well the answer is simple you forgive them, but this only applies to someone who you are married to. If you are only dating and they cheat what will happen when you're married?

This applies to both men and women the only difference being that if the circumstances are right you should not only forgive your husband but you should encourage him to take the women as a Sister Wife, the conditions under which this must be done are listed after this section.

So when is it okay to divorce for me the only time it's okay to divorce is when you've tried everything in your power and it just wasn't enough.

When the person you are with will only bring about your downfall and staying with them will mean you straying off the path and your soul being damned.

Only when that happens is it okay to divorce, always remember **like with any job where you want to succeed marriage takes a lot of hard work.**

The other thing which I should cover before we move on is that once you have children your relationship changes, you go from being a couple to being parents and most of us forget the fact that you are still married to a man or a woman of flesh and blood who still has

needs, needs which didn't just disappear because you became parents.

Make no mistake I am a father first and a husband second but just because I have the one doesn't mean that I neglect the other. To me they are a package deal. If it wasn't for my wives I wouldn't have my children and I wouldn't have my children if not for my wives. So how can I celebrate and appreciate the one while ignoring the other?

Remember like with any job where you want to succeed marriage takes a lot of hard work.

9. Finance

I'd rather be rich in spirit and possess nothing. Than poor in spirit and have all the riches of the world at my disposal.

God will provide that was what my dad always said when we were running low on cash and we needed shoes or school books or we just wanted a toy so we could be like other children.

And while they were not always new what we **needed** and I stress the word because it is so important, I'll repeat what we **needed** He always provided. See there is a huge difference between a need and a want and **what we needed He always provided.**

That's why in our house we don't pay too much attention to our financial situation. The land we live on is ours, the business is doing well, three of my four wives work and most importantly should I die I have taken out life policies which will pay out to them.

So yes we don't pay too much attention to our bank balance. When Diana and I got married we opened a joint account and both our salaries were deposited into it. From that money we paid for the cars, the house, water and lights, we brought food and clothing, we had entertainment money, we saved what we could and I was responsible for dividing up the rest amongst us.

It's the same with all my wives we have a singular bank account where money is deposited and from that money we pay our bills, save and enjoy ourselves and as head of the household I am responsible for the management of the account no transaction can pass through this account without my direct knowledge and consent.

My wives trust me with their hard earned and because of that trust I will never ever mispend even a cent.

When we buy things for the houses we decide as a unit and then when we have free time I'll take each of them shopping for what they wanted.

In this house there is no mine everything is ours.

For me combining my account with John's wasn't that big an issue my mom was a stay at home wife and mother and we lived on my father's salary every month he'd hand her two envelopes with money in it and she'd use the one envelope to buy household items and the other to treat herself. So for me having my husband give me money to spend on myself is nothing strange or new.

For me it was odd, something new and I was a hesitant (she screamed and shouted bloody murder) but then I relented but for the first six months I would be checking up on him like a hawk because when our dad left he took all the money we had. He insisted that my mother not work so she was completely dependent on him and when he left she had to pretty much start over. But I'm grateful because it taught us that trials and tribulations are just a stumbling block on the way to happiness.

I don't go out and work so generally when money was being discussed I'd stay out of this until one day Diana caught on to this and she confronted me on the issue when I told her why I remained silent she scolded me and told me that we were a family and family's share and then she pointed out that I did more than my fair share of work because, I cleaned, cooked and generally spent more time with the kids than they did and that was more of a job than anything they had to do and I'd never felt prouder.

When I joined the family I thought they were really lucky, my ex would take all of my money and I would have to beg him for money to buy household items and the worst thing for me at the time was that he didn't work and that really bugged me, so when I shared all this with John he was very understanding and he said that if I didn't feel comfortable than I didn't have to and that reassured me and I trusted him with my money just like I'd trusted him with my heart and my children.

10. Sex

Yes sex is a part of marriage but it's just that a part of it. Note how I said that it's a part of marriage.

In this day and age sex for people is just that sex instead of being what it was meant to be the coming together of a man and women who have been joined together in matrimony.

Do I believe that you should have sex before marriage, hell no, someone who truly loves you and wants only the best for you then they are willing to wait on you, to accept you for who you are and if they ask you to change something about yourself it's not because it benefits them but because by doing so you become a better person.

People use sex to justify a lot of things and I always say if you have to justify it then you know you're doing wrong pure and simple.

When I was single and going through my self-help phase I had a friend who at any given time would have five or more girls just waiting on him to call and when he did call it was to obtain sex. He kept them all in line by promising the world and delivering absolutely nothing.

When I got engaged I asked him if he wasn't ready to settle down yet and his exact words to me were, "why I can get everything I need without having the stress of trying to be faithful."

Now back to the issue and its importance in marriage.

Sex is a big part of marriage because it is another way for a married couple to connect and when things don't go right in this department it does start affecting the rest of your marriage.

Some people have suggested that my taking of multiple wives addresses this issue and I say that it's complete rubbish.

If you have more than one wife you have to treat all of them equally so I can't have sexual relations with one and ignore the other because we have issues.

Remember what I said about marriage: like with any job where you want to succeed marriage takes a lot of hard work.

So if things aren't going well in the bedroom than you need to work at it talk to each other don't be shy. Tell your husband or wife what is you need, what it is you want and how you think this can be achieved but remember that you are talking to a person and not some sex toy which lives just to fulfill your needs so be mindful of each other.

If you are afraid to deal with this yourself than don't be afraid to ask for help.

1. You never know who or what the Lord will use to deliver a message

11. Time

Remember earlier when I said that just because you have kids doesn't mean you stop being a married couple.

So you have to make time for each other, even if it's just an hour or two alone, where you just talk and reconnect I promise you it will be more than worth it in the end.

I know a couple who are always working and the reason they trying to provide a better life for their kids but they never see those kids. So who are they working for?

Some people have said who am I to advise other's on time management when my time is split into four and I say quite easily John Harold Phillips and it's because of my situation that I am able to do this.

My relationship with my wives is important to me so every second I spend with them is precious which is why no matter how hectic our day is we always find a little us time.

Even if it's at the end of the day after we've put the kids to bed and we're cleaning up the house that is alone time in that time we talk we share little stories, we kiss and sometimes we make love and other times we just lay in each other's arms and be content with each other.

I mean every day and in just the littlest ways you have to remind each other that you exist as more than just parents, as more than a married couple, you need to remind each other that you chose to be together and the reasons why.

Diana isn't easily impressed so with her it changes but the one constant is that we are alone when we do this, sometimes it's going out for dinner, sometimes it's simply letting the children sleepover at a friends or at one of the other wives and us just being alone together. Sometimes it's just a look and she'll walk up to me kiss me and tell me that she loves me and that's it it's that simple.

With **Roxanne's** job it was kind of difficult to schedule time, but after we moved her schedule became more regular but back then the only

time I could find to spend with her was in the early hours of the morning when her shift ended so one night when she came home she found me in the backyard barbequing and that became our thing day or night, sun, rain or snow we'd do that we'd just sit in the backyard eating and talking.

Lina, Lina's dad is pretty strict and she didn't get to enjoy some of the things we take for granted so the way we get to spend time together is always dinner and a movie, but because she spends all day with the kids when we treat her and I say we because in almost everything we do it's a team effort. So we'll get her up nice and early and treat her to something and then at the end of the day I pick her up for our dinner and movie night.

With **Jennifer** it's different because before you get to her you have to go through the kids. So when I want to do something for her I first have to do something for the kids, which means that I have to first impress sixteen children and only after that will she allow me to spoil her and with her it's going to an amusement park or funfair or a circus and that is what she likes.

The point I'm trying to make here is that you need to make time for each other and you need to do something every day even if it's something small that reminds you of the reason why you fell in love with that person and that reminds them of the same thing.

It's pretty hard to surprise John and he really doesn't mind being the one that initiates the time alone because he says he has so much to be thankful to us for. We gave him a home, a family, companionship and most importantly our love and understanding and I agree with him he owes us a lot.

So we each have our own little things that we do to thank him for all he does and to remind him of how we feel about him.

For me it's little notes, when we were dating and even after we got married he left me these little notes, with poems, stories and the words I Love You all over the place.

So after we got married to Roxanne, I started doing it because now it wasn't just us (me and him) and I knew that he still felt guilty about

taking a second wife even after I'd given him my blessing and reassurance. So I started leaving the notes to do just that and I've been doing it since then. I'll leave him little notes everywhere, in the house, in his car, in his lunchbox and even in his clothes.

Just a little reminder to let him know that I still love him even to this day, he is the best thing that's ever happened to me and I'm so grateful that he chose me.

After reading Diana's words I don't know if I can add on to that.

But I'd like to go back to something that he said, when he explained about our barbeques. The way it started was that I was working late shifts and I hardly got to see him because by the time I got home he was asleep and the next day he'd be at work while I slept.

So one night I come home and I make my way to the bedroom expecting to crawl into bed with him and sleep but when I get there all I found was a note that said to meet him outside so I go there and I find him sitting on the back porch barbequing. He hands me a glass of non-alcoholic champagne and invites me to sit. So I sit down and we just chatted about everything it felt like we were a couple on their first date and it's the same every time we do this. But the thing for me which showed me just how much he loves me was that it was raining when we did this and he had to be up in the next three hours. Instead of sleeping he spent time with me.

Which is why for me the thing I do to show him that I love him is to give him a night off.

Okay before I explain why I do this let me tell you something about John he is always sharing, sometimes we joke about how he should have become a teacher instead of Diana, so whenever one of our friends says their having a problem nature takes over and he begins to share.

He doesn't call it teaching or preaching because he is not ordained or certified to do this and he doesn't call it lecturing because he only shares when asked to do so.

So we had a friend who'd asked for advice and he'd told him that Time Alone was very important so his friend went out and did this.

But then not even two months later he shows up with the same problem and John asks him what happened and he tells him that they went out on a dinner date just the two of them.

Then John asks what they talked about and he says the children and it was the same thing for all their dates alone so John tells him that the next time they go out he should treat her like it was their first date and he was trying to learn something about her and not even two weeks had passed before he came back and told John that it had worked perfectly.

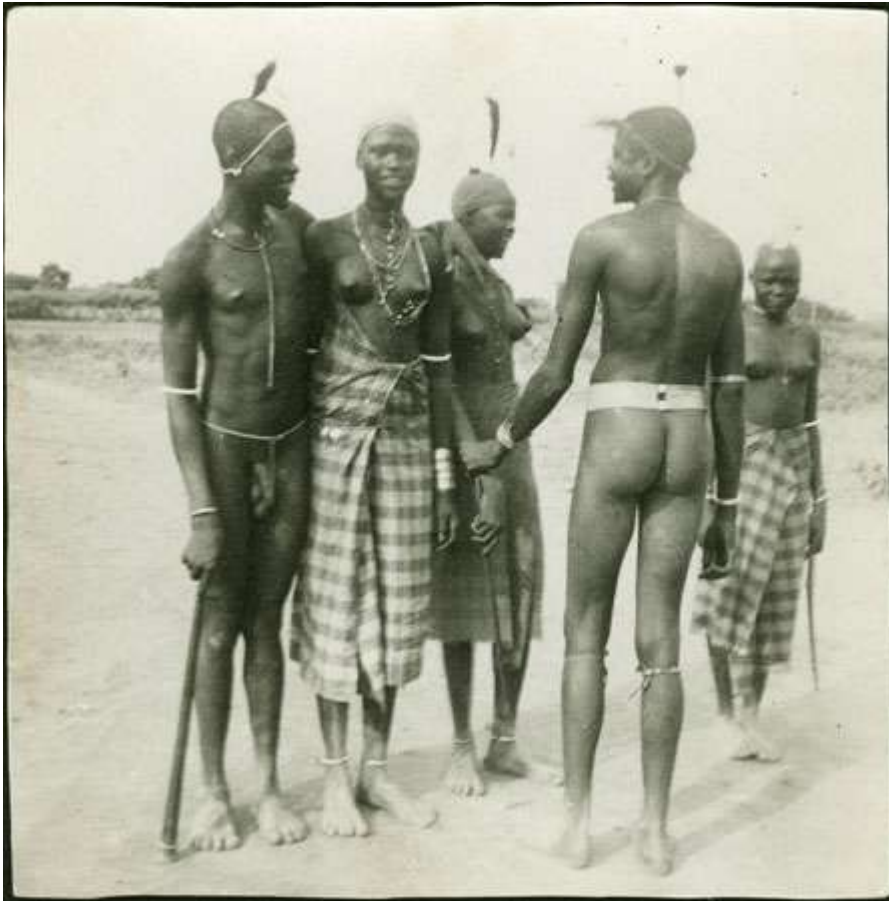
So this is why I give him time alone by himself because this is a man who has to be a husband to four wives, a father to sixteen children and a friend all at the same time, sometimes he just needs to be alone and yes it was by his own choosing but that is beside the point the point is that it is my gift to him to show him that I love and appreciate all that he does for me and our family.

Flowers that's how I show him that I am still committed to him, our family and this marriage and the back story behind this is that on our first date he brought me flowers and that may not seem special but he was the only suitor I'd had who'd done this, all the other's had just assumed that I would be grateful for their attention so John was like a breath of fresh air because he understood that I wanted to be wooed and shown that I was wanted not just because of how I look or because I was a status symbol but because I was someone worth wanting.

Movie night we send the kids to bed and sit in front of the TV and just pig out and we talk about everything except what's going on in front of us.

Well I think I've covered everything I can think of with regards to the marriage issue so let's move on.

Courting



Courting as defined by: *Webster's Revised Unabridged Dictionary* (1913)

n : a man's courting of a woman; seeking the affections of a woman (usually with the hope of marriage); "its was a brief and intense courtship" [syn: courtship, wooing, suit]

To endeavor to gain the favor of by attention or flattery;
To try to ingratiate one's self with.

To endeavor to gain the affections of; to seek in marriage; to woo.

To attempt to gain; to solicit; to seek.

To invite by attractions; to allure; to attract.

That's what I had to go through not once, not twice but four times just so I could I have these wonderful women to call wife.

Courting is basically dating, you find someone you have an interest in and you go out together to see if there is any real chemistry between you. If there is then you move onto the next stage marriage.

Rules when Courting

1. Always be honest with each other, there is no such thing as a little white lie. A lie is a lie is a lie period.
2. Don't keep secrets, I do not believe in them. A secret is supposed to be something that is not known by other's something private but the thing I've found with secrets is that someone else always knows so how is it a secret? For me a secret based on what it is, is sometimes no better than a lie.
3. Don't have sex before you marry. People have asked me if my wives were virgins when I married them and I always they were to me. Remember what I said sex is a part of any marriage but it's just that a part.
4. Be faithful. You can't keep your eye on two pots in two different rooms at the same time. Somehow one of them will get burnt and if not both of them and you at the same time.
5. Don't live together before you get married. Some people say that you need to live together before you marry so you can learn about your partner's bad habits before you take that leap and I say rubbish. If you don't know your partner by the time you get married you never will and besides can you ever truly know a person?
6. Try never to be alone together, that way you can never be tempted into committing a sin.
7. Learn to forgive each other. This is the time when you learn about each other including all the faults and if you can't forgive the small things while you're still dating how will you forgive the big things when you're married
8. A Wedding is just that a day in which you celebrate the coming together of two families, a marriage is a lifetime commitment which should be celebrated each day.
9. Before you marry ask yourself what you are looking forward to the most, your wedding day or your married life and if the answer is your wedding day than you are not marrying the right person.

- 10.** Keep in contact, if you can't see each other then call but make it a point that you connect at least once in the day.
- 11.** Don't say it unless you mean it.
- 12.** Keep your promises this is the time that you learn to trust each other don't mess it up by not keeping your word.

Courting Diana

If you remember I told you that Diana and I had our first date really at the church. During that time we promised each other that we would not see anyone else.

This is what a lot of people do when they start going out with someone they still have an eye open for the next best thing. It's almost like hedging a bet, I hope I'm using it correctly, you have a bet but just incase it doesn't work out you have a spare.

Tell me how on this green earth do you expect it to work.

If you are interested in someone then give them your full attention your relationship might work it might not work but if you aren't focused on them then it will never work.

Every failed or wrong relationship is just a stepping stone on your way to the right one.

So Diana and I started courting and we'd see each other almost on a daily basis, sometimes we'd go to the movies, other times we'd go out to eat, other times we'd just take a walk or picnic in the park but my favorite was when we sat in her parent's lounge and just talked.

During this period Diana and I were never alone together except for maybe in the movie theaters and even then nothing happened past us holding hands.

Diana and I shared our first kiss on the day of our engagement party and it was uncomfortable for both of us because our parents were watching us.

The first time we had intercourse was on our wedding night. Because that is what sex was meant for a sacred meeting of two bodies who've been joined together in holy matrimony.

With Roxanne it was different as I had to be a lot more careful because I was a married man and I had to be careful not to hurt Diana so my actions had to be more deliberate more thought out.

Which is why when Roxanne and I started courting Diana was aware of it, she knew where we'd be and how long we were going to be and I made sure that if I told her that I'd be home at ten, I'd be home then even if it meant cutting my time with Roxanne short.

I did this because I was trying to prove to my wife that I was trustworthy and that I would not do anything with Roxanne that would jeopardize what we had.

Courting Roxanne

Roxanne and Diana are so different that at times I wonder how they get along so well. Where Diana was all about the down time and enjoying nature, Roxanne was all about the party and just discovering new things and I loved it.

The most physical Roxanne and I would get would be hugging each other at the end of a date and they were dates but at the same time I still had to pay attention to my wife because I knew that if I couldn't give them both what they needed then I shouldn't embark on this course of action.

When we both felt sure that this was what we wanted we asked Diana to join us on some of these dates. During those dates and even now I was not physical with either of them. I didn't kiss them, I didn't hold their hand I did not hug them.

I was just cool because I knew that if I kissed Diana, Roxanne would be jealous because that was a part of our relationship which was still off limits and if I showed any affection towards Roxanne then Diana would have every right in being outraged with me because she was not my wife just my girlfriend and something's are meant as I said before for the sanctity of marriage.

Diana, Roxanne and I went out as a unit, Diana and Roxanne would go out on their own, a few times we had her over and she would spend the entire day with me, Diana and Moses the whole point of this was to see if she could live with us and also to see if she and Diana could get along not as friends but as two women who share a husband as Sister Wives. (I did the same thing with Lina and Jennifer).

So when Roxanne and I felt we were ready to marry I had to get permission from the two people whose opinion mattered the most to us her mother and my wife.

The first person I approached was Diana because this was going to affect her, the most she'd go from being my only wife to being my first wife. So I sat her down and I told her that Roxanne and I both felt that

we were ready to take our relationship to the next level but before we moved to that level I needed her permission.

Yes that's right I sought my wife's permission to marry my second wife and she said no. I was bowled over; I mean I'd thought that she was okay with the idea after all she was the one who'd convinced Roxanne to start courting me and she'd seemed cool with the idea every time we went out. So what happened?

I told her that I accepted her decision and I would tell Roxanne the next day that it was over, when she stopped me and gave me that look she'd given the very first day we met.

"You have my permission but when you ask her I want to be there, I don't care if you have to propose twice but when you do it I want to be there because it's important that she knows that she's not just marrying you but she's marrying me too."

I told her that wasn't something that was practiced in Christianity and she laughed and told me that I knew what she meant, which I did. I guess people forget this when you marry someone you marry their family and their problems as well.

So I had Diana's permission and it was really important to me that we get her mother's permission and when she said no I wasn't at all surprised and I told Roxanne that we'd just have to wait until she came around but she insisted that we get married that her mother would accept us sooner rather than later and even though I was bit hesitant we got married and she was right in the end her mother did accept our marriage in fact she's one of our biggest supporters.

Courting Lina

With Lina it was a struggle for us to find alone time, because as I said before she just draws you in. So I found myself, what am I saying I still find myself competing with my other wives for her attention.

Lina is similar to Diana but not exactly like her she's more quite than Diana which is probably why we all love having her around so much but the thing with Lina that we still have issues with is that she bottles things up and it was the same when we were courting.

I remember one time I took her to an Italian Restaurant and she couldn't decide what she wanted so I ordered for her and she just snapped because that was the third time I'd taken her to this restaurant and she was pretty sick of it.

When I asked her why she hadn't said anything before she said that "when a man takes you out be grateful and don't complain."

Perfect woman right? Wrong who wants to marry a woman who won't challenge him, who'll do exactly what they say when they say it? Not me and on that day I told her that if we were to have a future together she couldn't keep secrets from me.

When the time came for me to ask for her hand my wives beat me to the punch by the time I asked for her hand after I'd gained her father's permission she was already engaged to me.

Courting Jennifer

Nothing about my courtship with Jennifer was easy from starting it to completing it.

When Jen and I first met I was meeting with all my wives and the instant I caught her starring at us I knew that she had to be a part of our family, she had the saddest eyes I'd ever seen and more than anything else in the world I wanted to bring a smile back to these eyes.

But I knew that she was the one for us and before we courted we were friends all four of us because more than anybody else she needed to see that we were a normal loving family.

With Jennifer everything was slower more paced out because we had to think of her children as well. So for just one year we were nothing but friends we explored each other and we learned about each other in that year and in that year I learned something about her that I had to keep secret from my wives because she wasn't ready to share it with them yet.

Jennifer had worked as an Adult Star to supplement her income and before your mind starts to wonder it was limited to just the phone and some people might say "how do you know she's not lying?"

I know because she told me and remember what I said in the Chapter: Marriage, trust your partner. So if she was to say to me tomorrow that the sky is yellow and the grass purple I would believe her because I trust her.

So the second year of our courtship we dated, we did things that couples do together and it was during this year that we started going out as a unit so that she could see me as a husband and how she'd fit in with the family dynamic.

In the third year of our courtship we went out as a family at first it was just me, her and her kids we'd gone out on a few dates with them but now we introduced them to fact that I would be their new stepfather.

We also had dates were it was just Jennifer, the wives and them because they had to learn that they were going to have more than one mother now and we also had play dates at our house so that they could acclimatize to the area and the other children.

At the end of the third year and the beginning of the first year I asked for her hand but before I did I spoke to the children and made sure that they understood and where okay with the situation.

Once this was done Jennifer and I had to reveal our secret to my wives and when they heard this they refused to provide their blessing and on that day I'd never felt more ashamed of them. In fact when I think about it that was probably the only time I'd ever felt anything less than pride, love and joy where they were concerned.

There was a great row over my taking Jennifer as a fourth and at the end of it all I moved out because I could not believe that they were acting that way after all who were they to judge how Jennifer had lived before she came to us?

I didn't judge them on what they'd done in the past so who were they?

I spent a month away from my wives, I saw my children on the weekends when the wives would leave the homestead and I'd come on but after a month they finally saw reason and granted their blessing and Jennifer joined our family.

The reason why I was against Jennifer joining the family was because of her past. For me it became an issue of not seeing past her past. From that day John told us her secret I just kept thinking of her having sex with strange men and I was ashamed of myself but at the same time I felt justified what kind of mother would expose her children to this and that was how I justified it to myself. I even convinced myself that that was the reason why her husband had abused her. So I turned to the Bible and to God and one thing kept resonating with me "judge not least ye be judged" so I found her and apologized to her because she was the one I'd wronged and then I apologized to John because I had doubted him and that was wrong of me.

It wasn't her past that made me refuse, it was my own insecurities. When Lina joined the family I didn't feel anything other than joy but when Jen was to join the family I was hit by this uncontrollable jealousy. Reflecting on it now I think that it was because I felt that she would be taking away from my time with him and I wasn't willing to do that because there is so little of it. But then I remembered all that his done for us and all that his given up for us so how could I deny him this?

Now after all these years I am so glad that we initially opposed it because it made us appreciate her even more.

I personal didn't have a problem with her because we are taught that a man is never wrong and the mere fact that he had asked our permission to marry her was a surprise to me. I would have said yes but since both my Sister Wives were against the idea I just went along with them.

What happens if you break the Courting Rules?

Don't get me wrong there are couples who have broken those rules, who've gone on to make it.

There are couples who've broken those rules and gotten married only to divorce later.

There are couples who've broken those rules that never made it past the courting phase.

Those rules are simply a guideline.

I always say that when you want to spend your life with someone then you don't want to cheapen it hence those guidelines.

I Love You

Don't say it unless you mean it.

People think that those three words are the hardest to say but I disagree. Saying I love you is the easiest thing to do in the world and so often we use it to gain something. Like with teenagers a boy says he loves a girl so that he could sleep with her.

A woman says she loves a man because he brought her something nice and she doesn't want the gifts to end.

Which is why I say don't say it unless you mean it because to you it might just be words but to someone else the world.



Chapter Four - The Role of a Man

A Man Needs To Be Needed

A man needs to be needed pure and simple. As humans we need something to believe in and we need to have a reason for being. This need exists far greater in a man than in a woman because it doesn't matter how much women's liberation has done boys are still taught that they need to be providers, they need to be strong and if they fail to do so then they are ridiculed sometimes even in their own homes.

Take me for example before I got married I thought I had fulfilled that need because I had a job (provider), I believed in myself and the power of me (reason for being) and I was engaged (protection and someone to provide for) but she left and I was left wondering and questioning who I am and that all changed when I met Diana because on that day I knew what my purpose was it was to be whatever she needed me to be.

Not all of us are meant for marriage example priests but even then you know what you're purpose for being is to serve the Lord.

Back to me when my wives need me to play babysitter than that's what I am, if they want a cook here I am and the same with my kids if they need a shoulder to cry on here's daddy, if they need a playmate pick me.

Because I know by fulfilling those needs I fulfill my need of being needed and that for me is the only thing that matters.

You can have all the money in the world but if you aren't fulfilling your basic purpose on this earth which is to be needed than you are just an empty shell.

A lot of my single friends don't understand this when I say it so I always say that as a man you need to imagine yourself as a rudderless ship and until you find your anchor you will continue to wander about aimlessly without a place to settle, for me that anchor is my family and I would move mountains if they were in the way of my family being happy.

For other's it's their faith some have said that it's their job and I say nonsense, it's like those couples I told you about who work their butts off all in the name of their kids but their never see those kids.

The same with them their work sixty hours a week for what, a flashy new car, fancy clothes and accessories? If you have nobody to provide for then who are you working so hard for because when you die you can't take it with you or can you?

If you are working for a purpose then it just fills you up with pride because you know that you are fulfilling your most basic reason for living to be needed.

Respect

Most people need this but for a man once more it's different, it's not self respect that he seeks but the respect of other's. I think that this is a rather sad aspect of being a man.

Remember what Jessica said to me when I worried about her reputation, she said that the only opinion that mattered to her was that of her husband's.

And I've lived my life by this philosophy since then, so often when we do things we do them because so and so is watching and that is no reason for doing anything. When I buy a car for my father am I buying that car for him or for the peeping Toms and Julies behind their curtains?

This is why I say that the only opinion that should matter to a man is the opinion of those who know him nobody else's just those who know him.

So for a real man the only respect he should seek and crave is that of his wife, his children, his parents and his friends. If he doesn't have this than he has no respect no matter how much other's out there might respect him.

Man and their Fathers

All men whether they know it or not are always trying to prove something to their father's whether or not they have a good relationship is irrelevant, all that is relevant is that he will try to prove something to his father.

I had a friend who had a terrible relationship with his dad, the history behind it is not pretty, but every time he'd achieve something he'd make a toast to his father and one day I asked him about this and he said that he did it because his father had died before he had a chance to prove to him that he wasn't useless.

I had another friend raised by his mother and grandmother, his father left when he was seven and his mother and grandmother struggled to raise him but they did and he grew up and became a doctor. So I couldn't understand it when at the age of thirty three he went in search of his father. When he found him his father rejected him once more. So as I listened to him bemoan all that had happened to him I found myself questioning his decision and I was puzzled and angry with him for this so I can only imagine how his poor mother and grandmother felt?

For some reason boy's are always trying to impress their father's good or bad. Whether it's just an issue of proving that I made it despite you, or showing you how great I am so why don't you love me, or I just want to be like you.

Boys want to impress their father's whether out of spite or simply because they are proud of themselves and they want their father's to join in that I can't say.

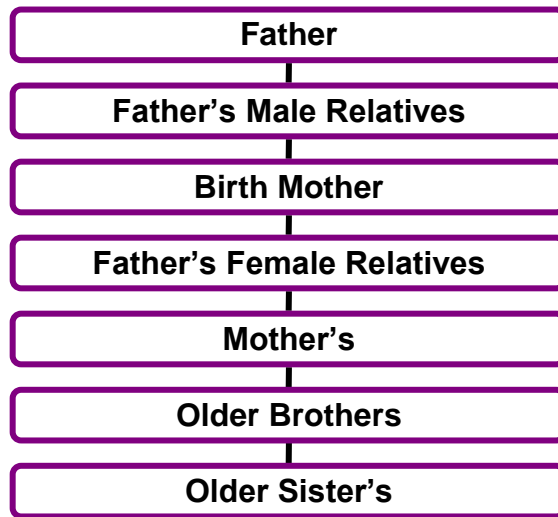
However I will say that for me a man is not a man unless he knows who he is and that is a man in his own right. For me as long as you are seeking your father's approval for all that you do than you are not this. It's one thing to have him respect you and another to have him validate you.

Stand Up and be a Man

In the beginning of the book I said that as soon as I finished High School my father gave me some money, instructions and his blessing and told me to be my own man.

Which is what I did and I guess until I moved back home I didn't actually realize that this was all just a bunch of crap on his part.

I actually began to understand this when I moved back home, remember this.



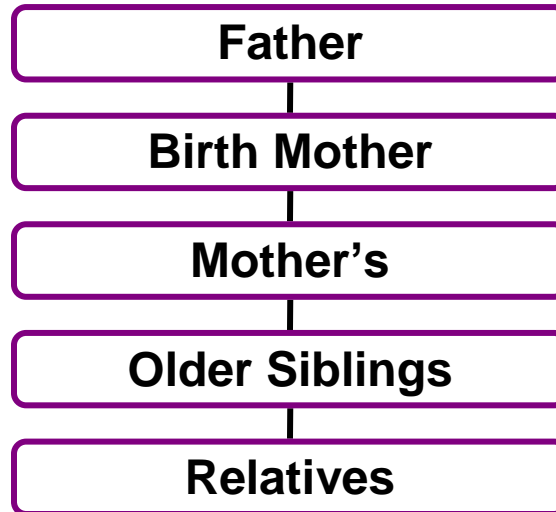
Well believe it or not my father expected all of us to abide by this even after we'd left his home and were heads of our own homes for the boys and my wives kept complaining to me about it because they were afraid to disagree with him when he gave instructions.

The same thing with our kids we've always taught our children that chores are something that everyone has to do but then he comes along with the rule that housework is women's work and the kids start getting confused.

So with all things in all our houses we were expected to defer to our father's instructions, his rules and one day I had had enough. It was after Diana had given Sophie an instruction which my father immediately overturned. That's when I snapped and I went to confront him and on that day I earned his respect as the man in my

house, even though I wasn't intentionally seeking. I just wanted my house to go back to normal.

After he left this became the parental hierarchy in our house:



The reason for this hierarchy is simple:

1. As the head of the house my instructions supersede all the other's except of course God's.
2. The Birth Mother as much as we teach our children to see all four wives as their mother's these four women are different and don't share the same views on everything so in a case where they is a disagreement the ruling of the Birth Mother supersedes the other's.
3. Mother's after the Birth Mother because after all they are their mother's just not by blood.
4. Older Siblings because they know the rules that we live by in this house and it is their job to enforce them in our absence.
5. Relatives they have to listen to them and show them respect as their elders but if what they want goes against what they are taught in this house and by the Bible then there are to know ignore those instructions.

So even though you need to honor your parents you still need to define yourself as a man even if it means standing up to your parents and if it's for your family and for your beliefs all the better.

A Man Accepts His Responsibilities

Now we get back to the family, a family man is nothing if not burdened down by responsibilities and how he deals with those responsibilities defines the kind of man that he is.

I myself am faced with being a husband, lover and friend to my wives. A father, disciplinarian, councilor, cheerleader and friend to my children, an advisor, shoulder to cry on, a cheerleader, a wing man and a drinking buddy to my friends and I love it because it fulfills my basic purpose or the reason for my being here to be needed.

I always teach my kids that if you do something than you need to stand up for it whether it was right or wrong if you did the deed than you need to face the consequences.

I'm reminded of the time I confronted Jennifer's ex with regards to him beating her up and threatening to take her children away from her. On that day I wanted to break one of my own rule's and exact vengeance upon him but I didn't and I told him a few home truths at the end of it all he backed off.

When we parted he knew that the only way he would be allowed anywhere near my children and that's what I told him on that day that from that day until the day he could prove that he was able to handle the responsibility of being a father then his children ceased to be his and were mine. Only after he'd proven himself worthy of the title father would he be allowed near my children.

Next we look at blending a family.

Blending a Family¹

A woman may be the heart of the family but it falls upon the head to unite the family and you as a man are that head. Some parts of this section continue in the Role of a Woman.

When we married Roxanne and I use we because Diana was as involved in the decision as I was. So when we married Roxanne Diana had Moses and that meant that Roxanne would have to get used to the idea of not only sharing a husband but children as well.

Because you have to remember, when you marry a person you marry them with all their baggage, if it's an alcoholic mother then that becomes your problem as well. If it is children they become your children, which is why as the head of the house you need to make sure that everyone works together for the good of the family.

So when Roxanne joined the family I told her that she was to think of Moses as her own and when she gave birth to Sarah and Penelope, Diana did the same sometimes we would take the girls and Moses out for a walk and people would always say what beautiful children we have and she'd thank them without batting an eyelid because to her they are her children as well if you ask any of my wives how many children they have the answer is always the same sixteen.

So it was with me when Jennifer joined the family Carl and Greg Jr. are not mine by blood but I love them just as much as I do any of my other children.

When it comes to blending a family the way that you as the head of the house behave sets the tone for how the family will work and how that child will be treated. If you have a child and you expect your wife to treat him as her own why then won't you do the same for her child?

If you as the head of the house treat your own flesh badly how do you expect any women to trust you with her children?

I always say that children belong to the father because it is his surname they bear and if you can't treat your children as a father

¹ See also Role of a Woman

should then you don't deserve the title of father and more importantly you don't deserve the title of man.

Blending a Family Where the Child is from the Father and the Mother is still in the Picture

Your role in this is to support your wife, treat her as an equal and not just someone who is meddling in your affairs and remember your relationship with your child is different to that of yours and your ex.

So if for example Roxanne was to tell Jessica that it's bedtime I would back her up because our daughter needs to understand that even if Roxanne is not her mother by blood she is still her mother because of the mere fact that she married me. (See also role of a woman).

Blending a Family Where the Child is from the Father and the Mother is not in the Picture

Support your wife. See her as an equal and not just a stand in for the woman that left you and your child or children. (See also role of a woman).

Blending a Family Where the Child is from the Mother and the Father is still in the Picture

Just as you would expect your wife to accept and love your children when you blend a family you need to do the same. When Carl and Greg joined our family on the first day they moved on to the farm I asked them to call me dad but that was only if they were comfortable with the idea and before that I had them call me John.

Even though you will never be the final authority figure you still need to be seen as one. Never once in your actions or words should you show this child that you feel anything but love for him or her because to do so would mean that you feel exactly the same about your wife because as I've said before the child is a part of her and you need to see it as a gift and not as her excess "baggage". (See also role of a woman).

Blending a Family Where the Child is from the Mother and the Father is not in the Picture

Take the child as your own never let the child know that you are not its father not by your words nor by your deeds, if the father should make a return than you as that child's parents (with your wife) need to decide whether or not you will allow him to see him or her. (See also role of a woman).

Lust

You would think that I would cover this topic while dealing with the reason's why I'm a polygamist but that wouldn't be appropriate because I married my wives out of love and not because of lust.

Human's are visually stimulated creatures so usully if our eyes find something stimulating then we are instantly drawn to it.

Back when I was still living with my parents, I don't use the term growing up because I believe that we are constantly growing, I always got excited on Christmas because when you got a present on Christimas it was usually something you wanted instead of the clothes and books we got on our birthdays.

So Christmas morning my father would make his rounds to the three houses and only when he entered could we open our presents. So each mother tried to make the presents underneath the tree as coulourful as possible so for me it really didn't matter what was underneath all that wrapping what mattered to me was that it looked beautiful. That is an example of how humans are visually stimulated creatures.

Fastworward to my early adulthood just after I'd left my father's house when I had my first encounter with a prostitute, it was my eyes which first caused me to sin it was my eyes which led to my body being tempted. If I was blind do you think that would have happened?

The devil works through a woman to bring about the downfall of men.

Think about it before you get all high and mighty think about it, remember Lust is one of the seven deadly sins and one of the easiest ways, after pride, for the devil to corrupt you and I'll admit it my eyes have led me to stray. Recall if you will what Jessica and Tim said to me when I told them about my feelings for Roxanne.

Had I been another man and Roxanne another women we would have given into that lust and the devil would have corrupted both of us, but it would have been through her that he'd gained access to me.

Not convinced think about it have you ever met a women whose willing to sleep her way to the top? The devil is working through her and through her he will bring about the downfall of many men who will fall prey to her temptation and also through the women who will envy her success and emulate her behaviour.

Another example you hurt a friend of yours and instead of forgiving you and moving past the transgression she plots and one day she uses her anger and his lust to commit a sin and the devil wins that battle.

Over the years I have myself fallen prey to this sin and whenever it comes upon me I separate myself from my wives because if I was to lay with them while consumed by this lust I would be infecting them as well so I stay at my place and I pray, I ask the Lord to help me avoid this pit trap and until I've rid my heart of it I won't touch my wives because not only would I be infecting them but I would be cheating on them even as I recomitted myself to them and wouldn't the devil just enjoy that?

But just to close my statement answer this why are woman cursed with having a menstrual cycle and the pain of childbirth?

See how easy it is to fall?

See how the sins are intertwined?

How one influences the other until they eventually bring about your downfall?

Listed below are the seven deadly sins and virtues as per:
deadlysins.com

Pride is excessive belief in one's own abilities that interferes with the individual's recognition of the grace of God. It has been called the sin from which all others arise. Pride is also known as Vanity.

Your punishment in Hell will be: You'll be broken on the wheel.

Associated symbols & suchlike: Pride is linked with the horse and the color violet.

Envy is the desire for others' traits, status, abilities, or situation.

Your punishment in Hell will be: You'll be put in freezing water.

Associated symbols & suchlike: Envy is linked with the dog and the color green.

Gluttony is an inordinate desire to consume more than that which one requires.

Your punishment in Hell will be: You'll be force-fed rats, toads, and snakes.

Associated symbols & suchlike: Gluttony is linked with the pig and the color orange.

Lust is an inordinate craving for the pleasures of the body.

Your punishment in Hell will be: You'll be smothered in fire and brimstone. Not kisses.

Associated symbols & suchlike: Lust is linked with the cow and the color blue.

Anger is manifested in the individual who spurns love and opts instead for fury. It is also known as Wrath.

Your punishment in Hell will be: You'll be dismembered alive.

Associated symbols & suchlike: Anger is linked with the bear and the color red.

Greed is the desire for material wealth or gain, ignoring the realm of the spiritual. It is also called Avarice or Covetousness.

Your punishment in Hell will be: You'll be boiled alive in oil. Bear in mind that it's the finest, most luxurious boiling oil that money can buy, but it's still boiling.

Associated symbols & suchlike: Greed is linked with the frog and the color yellow.

Sloth is the avoidance of physical or spiritual work.

Your punishment in Hell will be: You'll be thrown into snake pits.

Associated symbols & suchlike: Sloth is linked with the goat and the color light blue.



The Way to try and contradict those sins

The Seven Contrary Virtues:

Humility, kindness, abstinence, chastity, patience, liberality, diligence

The Contrary Virtues were derived from the *Psychomachia* ("Battle for the Soul"), an epic poem written by Prudentius (c. 410). Practicing these virtues is alleged to protect one against temptation toward the Seven Deadly Sins: *humility* against pride, *kindness* against envy, *abstinence* against gluttony, *chastity* against lust, *patience* against anger, *liberality* against greed, and *diligence* against sloth.

The Seven Heavenly Virtues:

Faith, hope, charity, fortitude, justice, temperance, prudence

The Heavenly Virtues combine the four Cardinal Virtues: prudence, temperance, fortitude -- or courage, and justice, with a variation of the

theological virtues: faith, hope, and charity. I'm still researching the origins and popular usage of this formulation.

The Seven Corporal Works of Mercy

Continuing the numerological mysticism of Seven, the Christian Church assembled a list of seven good works that was included in medieval catechisms.

They are: feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, give shelter to strangers, clothe the naked, visit the sick, minister to prisoners, and bury the dead.

The One

Over the years I've been accused of simply succumbing to lust and using marriage as an excuse to justify it.

And what a joke if it was really lust that was motivating all this then I would have more than four wives, in fact I would have a harem because like the kings of old I could just pick and choose from the many, many women I have available to me.

Oh wait that's still being done to this day, but now we don't call them concubines we have other names for them like whores, sluts, booty calls and I'm sure that they are many more but I'm not too familiar with them.

So I always find it hilarious that a woman will say that she's independent and she doesn't need a man, but she'll still be waiting for her phone to ring and even if he calls at three o'clock in the morning just so that she could pick him up because his drunk or he needs someone to cuddle with she'll be there but in the glaring light of day she'll still insist that she's independent.

Such a girl is never seen as the one such a girl is seen as a sponge someone you use to rid yourself of the lust in your heart until the day you actually meet the one.

Remember when I got engaged for the first time and how it ended? After all these years I finally understand why she left me because I wasn't the one, the feeling that Jessica and I say we felt when we met our respective halves.

So how do you know the difference between lust and the one?

Well for me I always go back to what my mama said, "if you can't imagine your life without them," then for me it's a pretty good sign that that is the one.

If when you look at this person all you see is you and them having intercourse than it's definitely lust. When I first saw Jessica all I saw was what she could do for me. Cleaning, cooking and ironing all the domestic chores I refused to do back then. The fact that we could

have sex was a bonus but for me she was just a tool that I needed to take care of something I refused to do. I didn't see her as a partner or an equal to me she was just the hired help and her payment was my false affection.

She wasn't the one and I knew and she most probably knew it as well but every failed relationship is just another stepping stone onto the right one.

For me the sign hit me with all my wives because with each of them it felt like nothing I'd ever felt before and the instant that they disappeared from my view it made me feel physically ill. I still get that way whenever they leave the house because when they do I'm not with them and can't protect them. But when that feeling first started I'd feel like someone had hit me in stomach when they disappeared.

For all my wives, I knew that they were meant for me but I knew that if they didn't feel the same way than the whole issue was mute but for me as long as I was a part of her life I didn't care. Case and point me and Roxanne I was willing to be just be a friend to her if that was all she wanted of me.

See that is what the one is someone you are willing to do absolutely anything for, someone you're willing to change for that is the one.

What if you find The One and they don't feel the same?

1. Re-examine your feelings and be sure that what you feel for this person is the real thing and not just some infatuation. God makes no mistakes. So he wouldn't show you someone who was meant for you and not given them the same vision. (Jessica and I).
2. If you are really sure that this person is meant to be yours be patient. God's Plan is the only one that matters. (Diana and I).

What do you do when you think you've found the one?

You began the courting process and during this time it's very important that you follow the Rules of Courting it is during this period that you will either confirm what you heart already knows (that person is the one) or have your heart broken (if you were wrong).

How can you be sure that they are the one?

I always say that in life only three things are guaranteed you will be born, you will live and you will die the only unknown in this equation is the time you have and the quality of life you will have.

Even a stillborn child will experience this, they will be born, they lived in their mother's stomach and they died at birth.

I can't speak for everyone but for me my mother's words are always my litmus test.

I always say that as a man you need to put this potential wife through a series of tests to see if they are truly the one and ready to settle.

1. Test their trust it can be anything as long as it's something meaningful to you, something which if you were to discover later would absolutely destroy you and your relationship.
2. See how she is around your family because when she marries you she becomes part of you and by extension your family.
3. How much does she support you and your decisions? Once you are married you become the head of the house and the last thing you need is to be constantly explaining yourself. I'm not saying that she should be submissive all the time but that when it really counts she has your back. (Courting Lina).
4. She must never contradict you or humiliate you in public. You are her husband and the head of her household and as my mother always said you don't show your problems to the world.
5. Who does she turn to when things get hard? The answer will show you if this is the woman God meant for you to be with or if it's just a crush.

To close the issue of the one for me the second I saw each of these women I knew because the feelings which coursed through my body were like nothing I'd ever felt before or since. I always say it's like someone just punched you right in the stomach and the force of the blow was enough to push you backwards a few steps. But the funny thing about this blow is that even though it hurts it still feels good.

Well when I first saw John I had these butterflies in my stomach but he was starring at me weirdly and I thought that maybe something was wrong with me so I stared back at him and he seemed to be fazed a bit. Then he just disappeared and I made enquiries but no one knew where to find him so I told myself that it was one of those once in a lifetime chances and I'd blown it when he reappeared. And the minute I saw him again I knew that we were meant to be together which is why I acted and when he eventually asked me to marry him I breathed a sigh of relief because the year of our courtship was the longest of my life.

I've already said how I felt the instant I saw John when I look at him I want to cry and smile because he just makes me so happy that sometimes I find it hard to describe how I feel, and that's what I always tell my friends when they ask what first made him attractive to me and why I married him. I knew John was the one because by the time we started our courtship I already saw him as my husband and the father of my children.

Well earlier I said that I knew I wanted to be a Sister Wife, I knew I wanted to marry into the Phillips family but the reason I chose John is because when I saw him after all those years I just felt home and safe just by looking into his eyes.

When John first smiled at me I was caught the second I looked at him. It was for me and it still is a warm fuzzy feeling, a feeling of belonging and being loved and safe that I just don't get anywhere else and that all came from a look.

When I saw her I knew that she was my reason, you know that thing we all have of being created for a reason? Well she is mine, when I saw Jess for the first time my heart literally stopped and I struggled to breath and when she spoke to me her voice. It was like; I've never heard and Angel before; but in my mind that was what they should

sound like. To this day when I think about the day I saw her I still feel this way even though we've been married for nearly twenty years I still get Goosebumps when she touches me.

After what happened with John my self confidence was pretty much shattered but then I bumped into Tim and all those feelings I'd had for John returned but there was something different this time round because the feelings I felt for him were so much more intense. It's like what I told John when we reunited that what I felt for him was like a puddle of water left over from the rain compared to what I felt for Tim.

You see it's different for everyone but the one thing we all agree upon is that when The One appears and the Sign hits you it's like nothing you've felt before.

Settling

So many of us do this we settle for less than what we deserve, you settle for a job, you settle for a car and you even settle for a wife or husband.

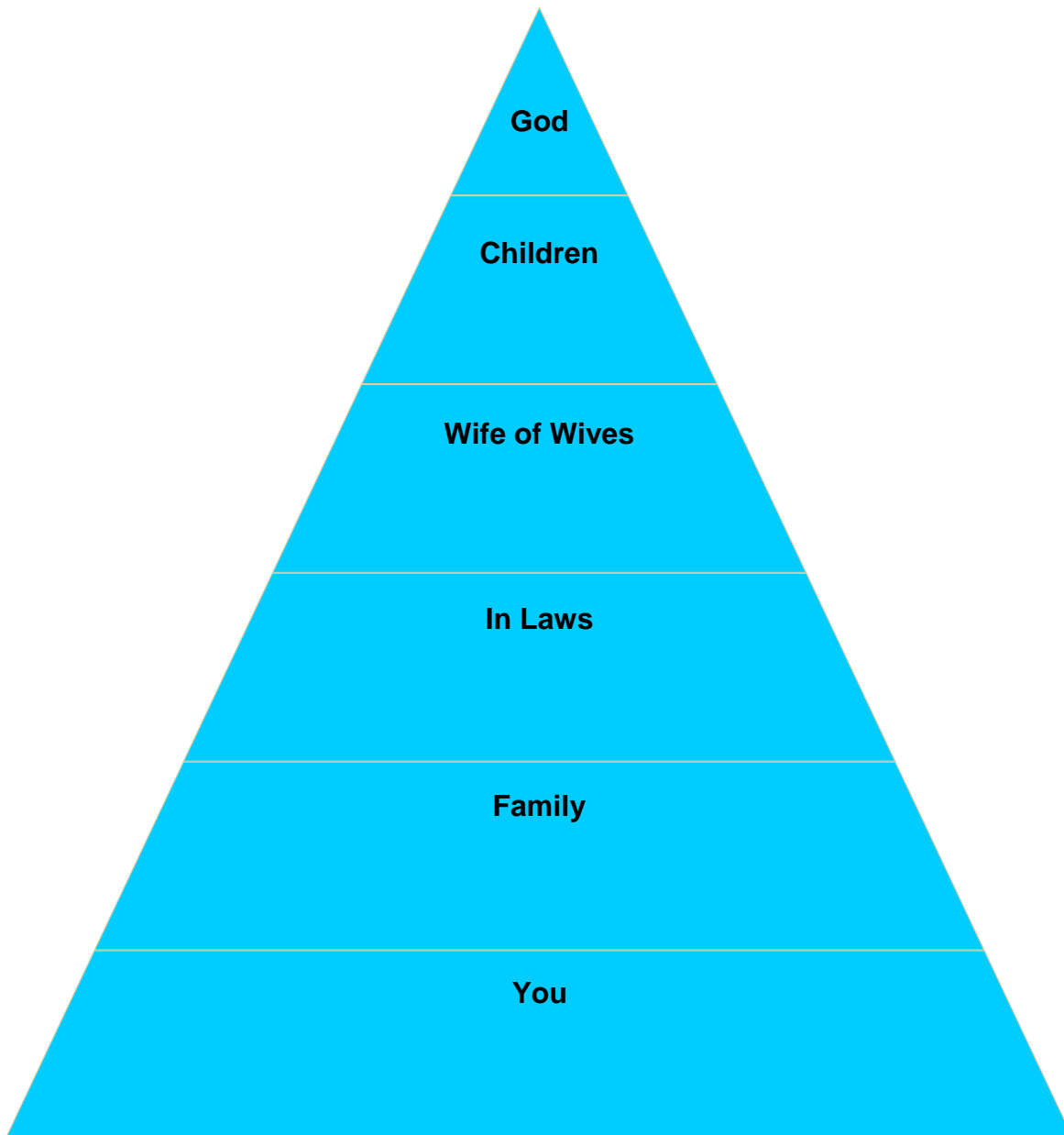
Why?

I'll always be grateful to my first fiancée because she saw what I knew but refused to acknowledge that by getting married we would be settling for each other. Sure we loved each other but like Jessica said what we felt for each other was nothing more than a puddle left behind by the rain and what I feel for my wives is like all the ocean's on this planet combined times a million.

People settle for many reasons, I can't think of all them so here are a few:

- a. You've been together for a long time and it's expected.
- b. You doubt yourself, take my wife Jennifer for example after she got divorced her self-esteem had taken a beating and she'd told herself that she'd never find love but she has. Jessica when she and I broke up she thought that she was never go to meet the right man for her and then she meets Tim. God will always give you what you need all you need do is ask.
- c. You had a child with them and you think it's the right thing. If you marry for anything but love you cheat yourself of the joy that other's experience and you cheat your child as well. (You're not just parents).
- d. You don't think you'll ever meet the one. God happens while you're busy making plans. God's time is His own. This just means that it will happen all you have to do is be patient and believe.

A Man's Pyramid of Happiness



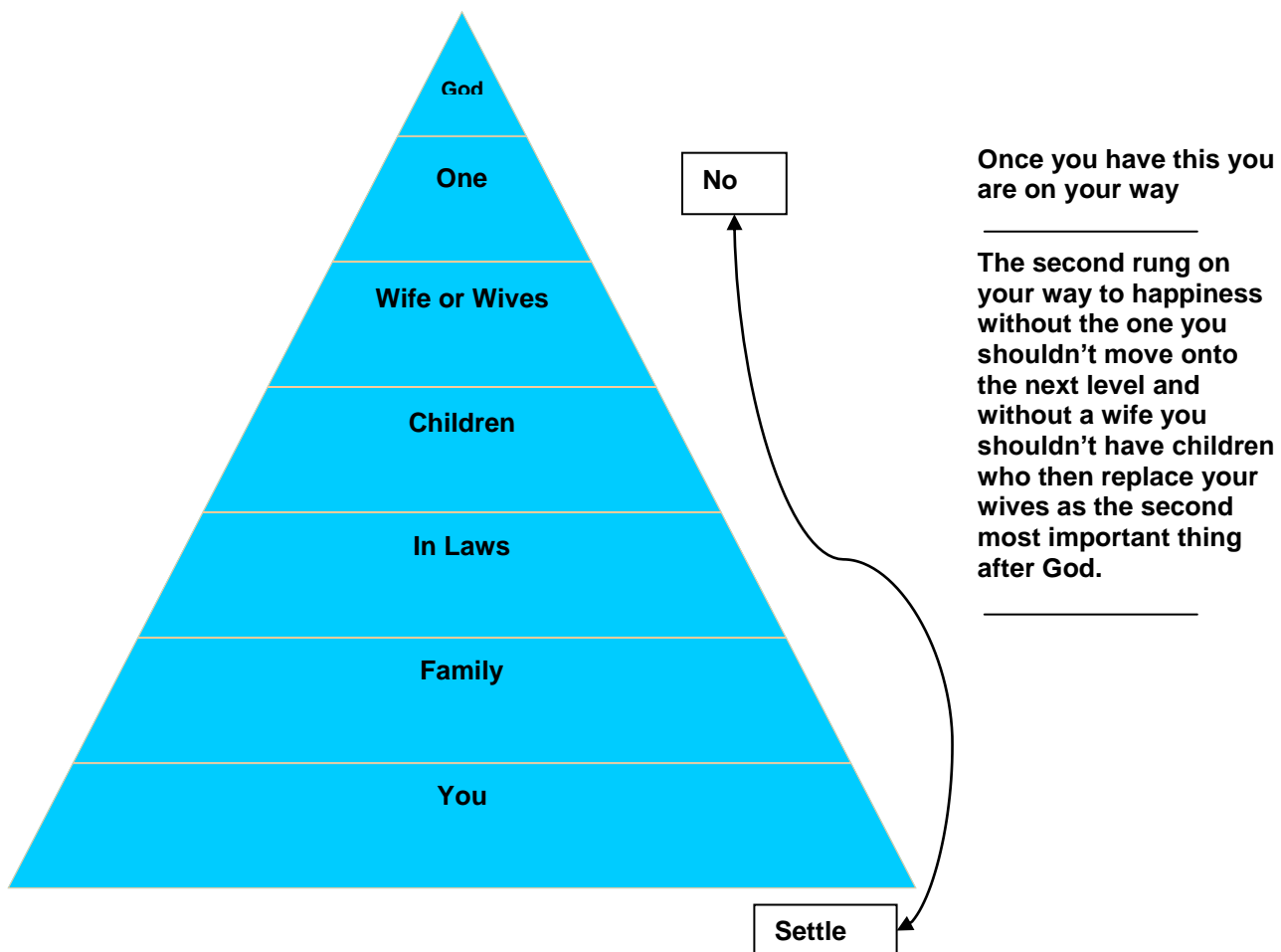
What happens when you settle?

You become a no one because one day you will find the one but you'll be married so to act on those feelings would be adultery.

What about taking her as a second wife?

You could but for me it's the same thing because now you'll have a favorite and how much time will you want to spend with your first wife now?

To achieve the second tier of your pyramid of happiness you need to have the one else you are settling and when you eventually meet the one you will be a no one. Because you cannot act on those feeling towards the one and you are now stuck in a marriage you no longer want to be part of or you commit adultery with you mind and heart and maybe with your body.



Let's Examine a Man's Pyramid of Happiness

The First Tier

God – I truly believe that if you have no faith than you have nothing, yes I say that when I married I became complete but that transformation started with me accepting Jesus as my Lord and Savior once more and allowing His hand to guide my life.

The Second Tier

Children – Whether or not they were conceived before or after marriage your children should be the most important thing, after God, in your life. Their needs supersede everything else, your children and their needs should come before your needs, your wife's needs and your friend's needs they need to be your first and last priority at all times.

The Third Tier

Wife or Wives – In most cases it's just the one wife but in my case it's four after my children my wives and their needs are the most important thing to me and because of this I need to make sure that I meet their needs and they happiness because it all once again goes to my basic purpose for existing to be needed.

The Fourth Tier

In Laws – As I've said before when you marry someone you marry them with all their baggage and sometimes you're In Laws can be hellish but remember that they gave you your wife so you need to consider them in all that you do.

The Fifth Tier

Family – Honor your parents.

The Sixth Tier

You – after you've met everyone else's needs have been met only then should you consider yourself.

Forgiveness

Is a personal choice which is why I cover it here and not in marriage, what happens when someone betrays your trust?

Do you cut them out of your life or do you forgive them?

It's said that to err is human but to forgive is divine but we are after all still human so it's kind of hard to be divine, which is why forgiveness is something that you don't see being done too regularly.

The Bible teaches us that Jesus died for our sins and that we should try and emulate him as much as possible.

Easier said than done to truly forgive someone is probably one of the hardest things for us to do. People think that starting and ending a relationship is hard, they think saying I love is hard but have you ever tried to truly forgive someone?

It's not that easy for me to say that you forgive someone means you doing two things the first: accept their apology and the second: move on.

I always say to people how can you say that you forgave someone if you are constantly bringing up their past transgression? If you forgave them then why are you constantly judging them by what they did?

Which brings us back to marriage and forgiveness there, if I do something wrong and I ask for forgiveness I expect my wives to never bring that issue up again if they forgive me but if they do that means that haven't forgiven me.

So before you say that you forgive someone truly think about it because if you don't forget you haven't actually forgiven.

So my friends always ask this so I'm just going to include it.

What if you're Wife Cheats on You?

Difficult question because it all depends on the individual me personally I would have to ask myself some questions the first being why?

What was I doing wrong because if you are honest with yourself a person will never cheat on you if there is nothing wrong with you, there must be something about that other person that makes them attractive to them otherwise why would they cheat?

Honestly if a person cheats on your or breaks up with you it has to be you that's the problem so that is what I would do first find out why.

The second thing for me would be to see if she wants to remain in the marriage and also how she feels about the person she had the affair with and the final thing would be to see if I still want to be in the marriage and if the answer is yes.

Then I need to forgive them and most importantly to forgive her if we both choose to remain in the marriage then it needs to be as if it never happened.

People find this hard to accept so let me share a story with you.

A friend of mine cheated on her husband and the man she cheated with was someone she worked with her husband caught her and they both chose to stay in the marriage. But he hadn't really forgiven her and one day he went to her job and saw her talking to a man. When she got home he accused her of cheating on him once more and of course she denied it but he wasn't having any of it and he demanded she choose her job or her family.

This is a case of not forgiving someone because he couldn't let the issue go and to this day he still doubts her.

People have also asked me about this thing I have of it being your fault and they say what if a man beats his wife?

That is not a man because a real man treats his wife like a queen and puts her above himself. I always say that a man who hits a woman is frustrated with the world and is unable to deal with the pressures exerted on him and so takes it out on his wife.

A Man is known by his Word

All a man has is his word without it his nothing. Remember when I said trust is important in a marriage well it applies for any relationship you have whether it's a friendship, a working relationship, your relationship with your children and most importantly your relationship with God.

If you say you'll do something you need to do it, if I tell my friend that I will help him paint his house and I deliver on that promise he knows that he can trust me.

Trust is something which is developed over time and once it's broken it takes four times longer to rebuild it than it had been to develop it.

If I say will do something than I do it, yes actions do speak louder than words but remember that with almost anything before you can act on it you first have to speak it.

Ask my friends to give you one word to describe me and the answer is always the same dependable and I didn't get that easily I had to prove myself to them and I did that by being constant like I said when I was courting Roxanne if I said it'd be home by ten than I'd be home by ten no excuses and it was through that my wives learned to trust me and to take me at my word when I say something.

Remember never make a promise you can't keep especially to God.

Bride Price

The only reason I'm adding this is because during my research for the book I found some countries where before you marry you are expected to pay a bride price, plus I have a friend who originated from those parts and we've often gotten into heated debates over this issue.

Should a bride price be paid, yes but only if that is the culture of the land although the Bible does teach us to leave our old life's behind when we take the Lord's faith as our own but since we find it hard to do so let's work on the assumption that as a prospective suitor you have to pay a bride price.

How much is too much?

ANYTHING THAT WILL STRAIN YOUR FUTURE FINANCES IS TOO MUCH.

Let's explore this if I have three thousand available and my future wife's bride price is ten thousand what must I do obtain a loan and start my new life with her in debt?

When he first told me about this custom I was taken back because to me it almost seemed as if that the men were almost buying their wives from their families but he explained to me that wasn't the case.

In white culture it was often the woman who was sent to her husband's house with a dowry because a girl child is a burden to her parents who have to ensure that she remains untarnished in the eyes of the world. A girl child cannot carry on the family name and not a lot was expected of her except to bear children which was why parents had to pay the man's family. To show their gratitude to them for taking the child off their hands.

But in his culture the man pays a price to show the girls family that he appreciates the good job they've done with her.

Which is a real good thing because it helps you to appreciate what you have but for me if the price is set too high it dampens the marriage because until that debt is paid she is not really his is she?

And in the meantime they still have to start a life together and that is not cheap especially in this day and age.

How much is too much?

ANYTHING THAT WILL STRAIN YOUR FUTURE FINANCES IS TOO MUCH.



Chapter Five – The Role of a Woman

A Woman is a Nurturer

For a woman to be complete she only needs two things a husband and children because by having these things she fulfills her need to nurture by looking after her husband and their children.

Let's be honest most of us men are completely useless without our wives and it's because of this need that women have that they pick up this losers that they know they have no future with because they want something to look after no they need something to look after because only then do they feel like they are fulfilling their most basic need which is to nurture.

A Women is Submissive

I hate women's liberation; I absolutely hate those two words because it makes it seem as if before all this women were oppressed and in the Chapter: The Role of a Man we covered what kind of man abuses his wife.

I was watching a show one time and this woman asked the question what does she need a man for? If she wants some sexual gratification she can use a toy, she makes her own money and if she wanted a child she could just go to a sperm bank.

That day I wanted to put my foot through the television if this is what women's liberation means than I want no part of it.

A woman's greatest trait is submission, a woman who submits to her husband is a woman any man would be glad to call his own, a women who puts her own needs before her husband's is not someone you want to call wife and mother of my children.

A woman who puts her husband's needs before her own is one that is to be treasured and held up as an example to others. The secret to why my family works is that my wives put the family first, to them the family comes before everything else before their friends before their job and before their own needs which is why I have four wives who like and respect each other.

People have often said that no two women can share a man and I challenge them to prove it. Is it not sharing if you are not aware of it? I had a friend who was always going on about how polygamy is wrong and that what I was doing was tantamount to cheating and his wife was so proud of him and every time he would start this conversation I'd ask him to stop because he was insulting not just me but my wives as well and he'd do so.

Then weeks later he'd start up on the issue again and each time his wife would pipe in about how it's not in a woman's nature to share. Now this friend of mine was a sales rep like I was back in the day and his job included a lot of travel so it wasn't uncommon for him to be out of town and sometimes out of state on business.

One day he gets into an accident I'm sure you've all seen it before but when his wife arrives at the hospital she finds a woman and child sitting in the room with him she walks in and he has to confess that his married to them both, the funny thing is that he didn't want to have children with her.

So this begs the question how do you know that you are not sharing your husband with someone else or are you happy in your ignorance or do you trust him that much?

So before you start passing judgment reflect on this and then let me know how you feel.

A woman is submissive am I saying that she docilely sits in the corner while her husband makes every decision for her? No who wants that but what I am saying is that a woman puts her family first because by doing so she fulfills her basic need of being a nurturer and of being a wife and mother.

To close this issue I always say to women like this who think that they don't need a man, a woman is born a nurturer and from birth this gift this need of hers to be complete is cultivated by her mother and once she's of age she completes this cultivation by becoming a wife and mother.

Just because you own a pair doesn't mean you wear the pants in the house.

Should a Woman Work?

Well for me personally I'm gratefully that my wives work because I know that had it not been for their salaries our family would have struggled after I left my job to start my own business.

But the question was should a woman work and the answer is no, ideally the man as the head of the house should be the sole provider but in these modern times the ideal situation is not the practical situation.

A woman can work and should work if the situation calls for it but she must never forget one thing that her family comes first. But I always say that if you want to work after marriage you should obtain your husband's permission.

You see my real issue when it comes to women and them working isn't that I'm trying to dominate them it's because this is another way to undermine the role of a man.

When I left my job and sometimes even during my tenure as a sales rep my wives earned more than I did but never once did they make me feel like anything less than the man of the house.

I mean when it was just the three of us we'd all go to work and leave the kids at a nursery and where their salaries are guaranteed mine was based on my performance and if I didn't perform than you can just imagine how I felt when at the end of the month we'd see the balance in the account and my salary was the least.

This made me feel two feet tall and as the man of the house I just wanted to run away because I was ashamed of myself for a whole week after that I couldn't face my wives because I was failing them I'd promised to look after and this was a promise I made to them in the presence of our loved ones and most importantly God.

And I was failing miserably so I couldn't face them or my children I just spent all my time trying to make more money and after the move it was worse until one day they confronted me.

Well when he was making more money than us he was always happy but then things started getting harder for him and at the end of each month he seemed to withdraw further and further away from us and then he met Lina and the spark came back to his eyes but then it disappeared once more when the month came to an end and this was before Lina joined the family during our move, so we confronted him on this.

That day was the first time since the birth of Moses, Jessica, Sarah and Penelope that I'd seen him cry and it broke my heart because for me I just couldn't understand why he would feel like that. The thing about our marriage that always made me happy was that there was no separation between us there was none of that my stuff it was ours.

And it took a lot of convincing but eventually we were able to convince him that there was nothing wrong with us helping him out during this transitional phase.

Diana is right during that time it was hard for him because he felt like an utter and complete failure and no matter what we said or did we weren't able to get him out his funk and were Diana wanted to confront him I was of the school of thought that we should leave him alone in the end we did both we confronted him and then we left him alone and eventually he straightened himself out.

It's because of my wives that we were able to survive as long as we have without having to file for bankruptcy and I am grateful for them working.

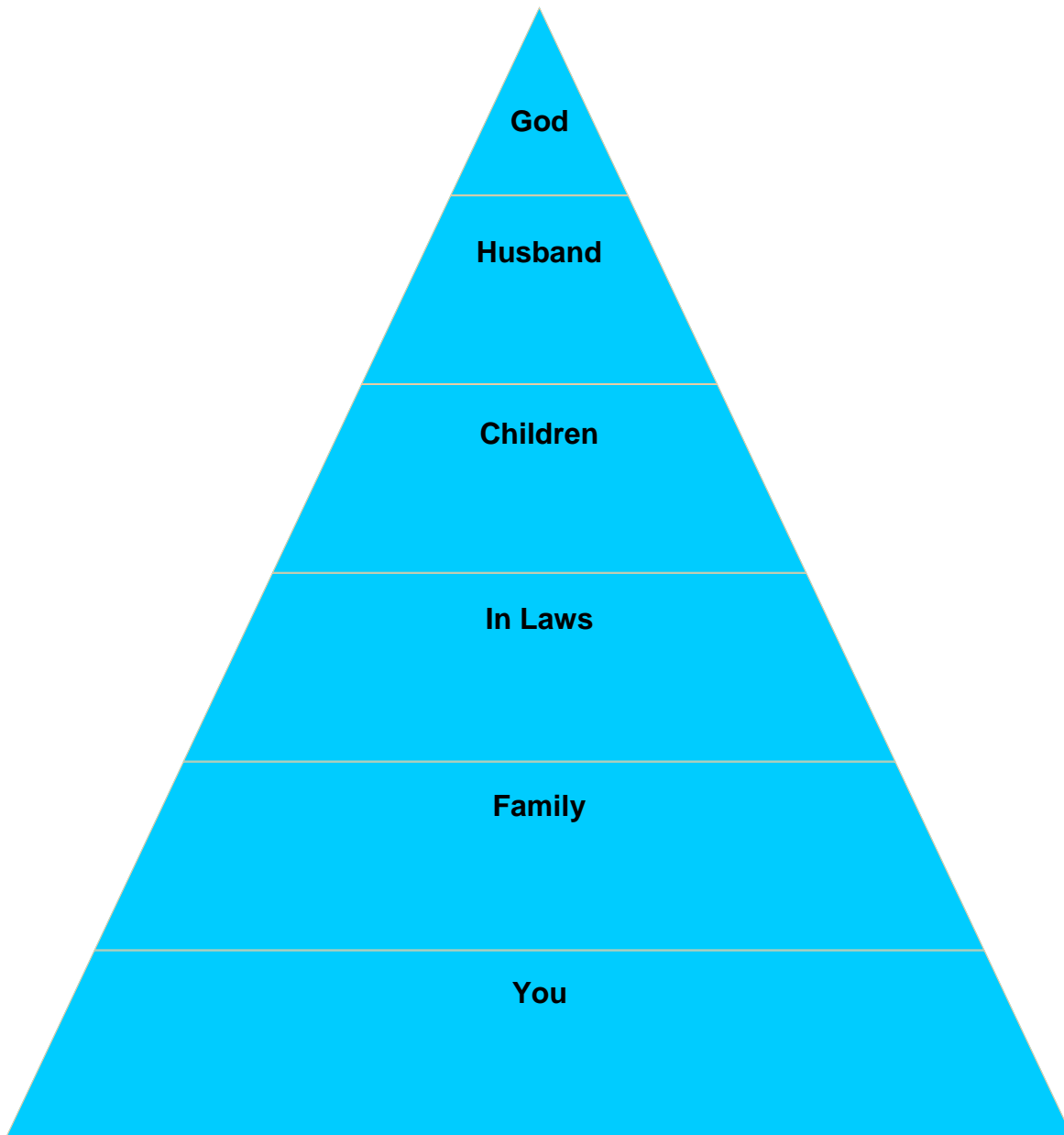
And I love the fact that they work because for Diana as a teacher she feels like she's making a difference to someone else's child and it adds to making her the person she is today.

Roxanne saves people's lives. Lina looks after our home and children and Jennifer's obsessive compulsions are exorcised at the office.

For me a woman should work but only if she has her husband's permission and she never forgets to treat him as the head of the house just because he earns less than you doesn't mean his less than you. He is still the head of the household and should be treated as such.

Just because you own a pair doesn't mean you wear the pants in the house.

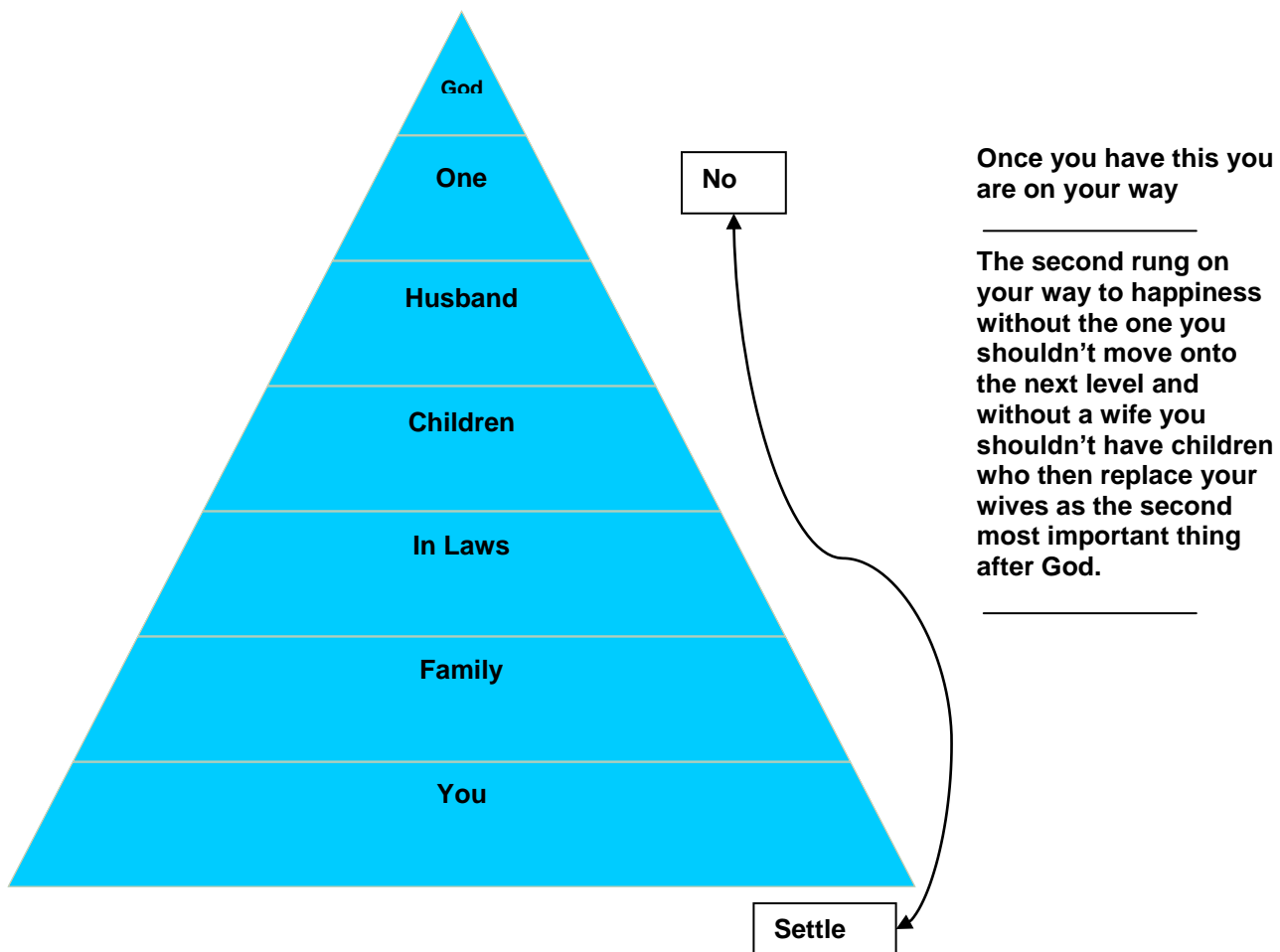
A Women's Pyramid of Happiness



What happens when you settle?

You become a no one because one day you will find the one but you'll be married so to act on those feelings would be adultery.

To achieve the second tier of your pyramid of happiness you need to have the one else you are settling and when you eventually meet the one you will be a no one. Because you cannot act on those feeling towards the one and you are now stuck in a marriage you no longer want to be part of or you commit adultery with you mind and heart.



Let's Examine a Woman's Pyramid of Happiness

The First Tier

God – I truly believe that if you have no faith than you have nothing, yes I say that when I married I became complete but that transformation started with me accepting Jesus as my Lord and Savior once more and allowing His hand to guide my life.

The Second Tier

Husband – In the role of a man I've said that children belong to their father. Yes the mother carries them for nine months, gives birth to them and nurtures them but at the end of the day they belong to him. Which is why for a woman's pyramid of happiness I put her husband above her children, in the Role of a Man I explained why this is so because to a man his children are the most important beings in his life. When should a woman put her husband's needs secondary to her children's? Only when the situation calls for it because no real man would do anything that would put his children in harms way.

The Third Tier

Children – Your job is to nurture them and in all matters except where he is in the wrong defer to your husband because he knows best.

The Fourth Tier

In Laws – As I've said before when you marry someone you marry them with all their baggage and sometimes you're In Laws can be hellish but remember that they gave you your husband so you need to consider them in all that you do.

The Fifth Tier

Family – Honor your parents.

The Sixth Tier

You – after you've met everyone else's needs only then should you consider yourself.

What if you're Husband Cheats on You?²

Difficult question because it all depends on the individual the first thing you need to know is why?

What was I doing wrong because if you are honest with yourself a person will never cheat on you if there is nothing wrong with you, there must be something about that other person that makes them attractive to them otherwise why would they cheat?

Honestly if a person cheats on your or breaks up with you it has to be you that's the problem so that is what I would do first find out why.

The second thing would be to see if he wants to remain in the marriage and also how he feels about the person he had the affair with and the final thing would be to see if you still want to be in the marriage and if the answer is yes.

Then you need to forgive³ them and most importantly to forgive him if you both choose to remain in the marriage then it needs to be as if it never happened.

People find this hard to accept so let me share another story with you.

A couple we knew had been married for ten years and they were the poster Childs for a good marriage when a few weeks before their eleventh wedding anniversary it's revealed that he cheated on her.

He met a woman at a bar and one thing led to another and they had sex, he immediately regretted the decision and confessed all to her and she was mad but she stayed with him I don't know why but she did it.

But from that day onwards she was constantly on his case if he was a second late she'd be on him accusing him of cheating again and eventually it eroded their marriage, but they stayed together.

² See the same title in the role of a man

³ See forgiveness in the roles of a man

Stuck in a loveless marriage, which is why I say in this case it's best to be apart.

I always say forgiveness is a two part process you need to accept that person's apology and then you need to forget the reason for this is because if you harbor feelings of anger and resentment you provide another avenue for the devil to corrupt you and to cause your downfall.⁴

So earlier I'd said that with a woman not only should she forgive her husband but she should if the circumstances are correct encourage him to take her as a second wife.

Which begs the question what are those right circumstances?

Well an affair as we've stated before is not just limited to what the flesh does but in this case it's a good starting place for me a good candidate is a woman he hasn't slept with yet because it proves to me that he isn't interested in her just because of her body.

But what if they have done the deed?

The first thing is does he want to stay in the marriage if yes, then ask yourself and him this question does he still want to be with her if the answer is yes than you need to figure out what kind of woman is she and if she will fit in with your family. For me a woman who sleeps with a man knowing full that his married is not one to recommend because her sole intention is destroy him and that which was sanctioned by the Lord marriage.

If she didn't know that he was married then the fault is with him because what man who truly loves his wife would lie about being married?

So what woman do you recommend? For me it all boils down to the sign for the one and whether or not the rules of courtship were followed.

⁴ See seven deadly sins

Because more often than not men are serial cheaters so how many times are you supposed to forgive and encourage?

Once is a mistake twice it's a habit.

At the beginning of the book while I was still living with my uncle I stopped praying and asking for forgiveness and the reason for this is that I didn't see a point in asking for forgiveness if I was just going to do the same thing tomorrow.

The Bible does teach us to forgive and I'm not disagreeing with that however to forgive them doesn't mean that you have to stick around while they make a fool of you.

Blending a Family⁵

Blending a Family Where the Child is from the Father and the Mother is still in the Picture

Well as I said before the child belongs to the father and when you marry someone you marry them with all their baggage.

The first thing that needs to happen here is that you need to stop seeing this child as a burden but a gift and a part of the man you love and married.

Just off the topic here this is one of the reasons why I advocate abstinence.

While the child is in your house and under your protection your rules outweigh those of his biological mother because in those instances you will be acting under the guidance of your husband who is the first and last authority on the wellbeing of the child.

You need to accept the child as your own and not because you are trying to impress someone or prove that you are willing to accept his “baggage” but because you want to. I always say to women who find themselves in this situation make it clear that you aren’t trying to replace the biological mother you are just trying to be a part of your husband life and that includes his children.

Blending a Family Where the Child is from the Father and the Mother is not in the Picture

Take the child as your own never let the child know that you are not its mother not by your words nor by your deeds, if the mother should make a return than you as that child’s parents need to decide whether or not you will allow her to see him or her.

⁵ See also the Role of a Man

Blending a Family Where the Child is from the Mother and the Father is still in the Picture

Support your husband.

So if for example I was to tell Carl that its bedtime Jennifer would back me up because our son needs to understand that even if I'm not his father by blood I am still his father because of the mere fact that I married their mother.

Blending a Family Where the Child is from the Mother and the Father is not in the Picture

Support your husband.

The One ⁶

Over the years I've been accused of simply succumbing to lust and using marriage as an excuse to justify it.

And what a joke if it was really lust that was motivating all this then I would have more than four wives, in fact I would have a harem because like the kings of old I could just pick and choose from the many, many women I have available to me.

Oh wait that's still being done to this day, but now we don't call them concubines we have other names for them like whores, sluts, booty calls and I'm sure that they are many more but I'm not too familiar with them.

So I always find it hilarious that a woman will say that she's independent and she doesn't need a man, but she'll still be waiting for her phone to ring and even if he calls at three o'clock in the morning just so that she could pick him up because his drunk or he needs someone to cuddle with she'll be there but in the glaring light of day she'll still insist that she's independent.

Such a girl is never seen as the one such a girl is seen as a sponge someone you use to rid yourself of the lust in your heart until the day you actually meet the one.

Remember when I got engaged for the first time and how it ended? After all these years I finally understand why she left me because I wasn't the one, the feeling that Jessica and I say we felt when we met our respective halves.

So how do you know the difference between lust and the one?

Well for me I always go back to what my mama said, "if you can't imagine your life without them," then for me it's a pretty good sign that that is the one.

If when you look at this person all you see is you and them having intercourse than it's definitely lust. When I first saw Jessica all I saw

⁶ I deliberately added this piece to both the Role of a Man and of a Woman because it is so important

was what she could do for me. Cleaning, cooking and ironing all the domestic chores I refused to do back then. The fact that we could have sex was a bonus but for me she was just a tool that I needed to take care of something I refused to do. I didn't see her as a partner or an equal to me she was just the hired help and her payment was my false affection.

She wasn't the one and I knew and she most probably knew it as well but every failed relationship is just another stepping stone onto the right one.

For me the sign hit me with all my wives because with each of them it felt like nothing I'd ever felt before and the instant that they disappeared from my view it made me feel physically ill. I still get that way whenever they leave the house because when they do I'm not with them and can't protect them. But when that feeling first started I'd feel like someone had hit me in stomach.

For all my wives, I knew that they were meant for me but I knew that if they didn't feel the same way then the whole issue was mute but for me as long as I was a part of her life I didn't care. Case and point me and Roxanne I was willing to be just a friend to her if that was all she wanted for me.

See that is what the one is someone you are willing to do absolutely anything for, someone you're willing to change for that is the one.

What if you find The One and they don't feel the same?

1. Re-examine your feeling and be sure that what you feel for this person is the real thing and not just some infatuation. God makes no mistakes. So he wouldn't show you someone who was meant for you and not given them the same vision. (Jessica and I).
2. If you are really sure that this person is meant to be yours be patient. God's Plan is the only that matters. (Diana and I).

What do you do when you think you've found the one?

You began the courting process and during this time it's very important that you follow the Rules of Courting it is during this period that you will either confirm what your heart already knows (that person is the one) or have your heart broken (if you were wrong).

How can you be sure that they are the one?

I always say that in life only three things are guaranteed you will be born, you will live and you will die the only unknown in this equation is the time you have and the quality of life you will have.

Even a stillborn child will experience this, they will be born, they lived in their mother's stomach and they died at birth.

I can't speak for everyone but for me my mother's words are always my litmus test.

The test to perform as a woman:

1. Test their trust it can be anything as long as it's something meaningful to you, something which if you were to discover later would absolutely destroy you and your relationship.
2. Leave him alone in a room filled with women of all shapes and sizes to see if he is tempted and what he does will tell you all you need to know.
3. Mood swings, never let him feel at ease change your moods constantly if something in your life has happened that upset you or made you happy tell him first and see how he reacts. Because if he is the one he celebrates in your happiness and shares in your sadness.
4. See how he is around your family because when he marries you he becomes part of you and by extension your family.
5. Who does he turn to when things get hard? The answer will show you if this is the man God meant for you to be with or if it's just a crush.

To close the issue of the one for me the second I saw each of these women I knew because the feelings which coursed through my body were like nothing I'd felt before or since. I always say it's like someone just punched you right in the stomach and the force of the blow was enough to push you backwards a few steps. But the funny thing about this blow is that even though it hurts it still feels good.

Well when I first saw John I had these butterflies in my stomach but he was starring at me weirdly and I thought that maybe something was wrong with me so I stared back at him and he seemed to be fazed a bit. Then he just disappeared and I made enquiries but no one knew where to find him so I told myself that it was one of those once in a lifetime chances and I'd blown it when he reappeared. And the minute I saw him again I knew that we were meant to be together which is why I acted and when he eventually asked me to marry him I breathed a sigh of relief because the year of our courtship was the longest of my life.

I've already said how I felt the instant I saw John when I look at him I want to cry and smile because he just makes me so happy that sometimes I find it hard to describe how I feel, and that's what I always tell my friends when they ask what first made him attractive to me and why I married him. I knew John was the one because by the time we started our courtship I already saw him as my husband and the father of my children.

Well earlier I said that I knew I wanted to be a Sister Wife, I knew I wanted to marry into the Phillips family but the reason I chose John is because when I saw him after all those years I just felt home and safe just by looking into his eyes.

When John first smiled at me I was caught the second I looked at him. It was for me and it still is a warm fuzzy feeling, a feeling of belonging and being loved and safe that I just don't get anywhere else and that all came from a look.

When I saw her I knew that she was my reason, you know that thing we all have of being created for a reason? Well she is mine, when I saw Jess for the first time my heart literally stopped and I struggled to breath and when she spoke to me her voice. It was like; I've never heard and Angel before; but in my mind that was what they should

sound like. To this day when I think about the day I saw her I still feel this way even though we've been married for nearly twenty years and I still get Goosebumps when she touches me.

After what happened with John my self confidence was pretty much shattered but then I bumped into Tim and all those feelings I'd had for John returned but there was something different this time round because the feelings I felt for him were so much more intense. It's like what I told John when we reunited that what I felt for him was like a puddle of water left over from the rain compared to what I felt for Tim.

You see it's different for everyone but the one thing we all agree upon is that when The One appears and the Sign hits you it's like nothing you've felt before.

All a Woman has is her Reputation

Consider if you will why parents are so over protective of their little girls.

Because they know something that we don't know until we ourselves become parents just as all a man has is his word all a woman has is her reputation or honor.

It's the reason why when a boy has two or three girlfriends at onetime his considered The Man and admired by his peers but should a woman do the same she is called all kinds of names even by those of her own sex who are probably harsher on her than her male counterparts.

Why?

Because they understand how important a girl's reputation is to her and let's be honest boys love to talk. Sometimes when it comes to gossiping we're almost as bad as a gossip magazines.

That's the thing if a girl succumbs quickly to a boy's charm after his had his way with her he'll tell all his friends about it and of course they'll try their hand as well. Is this always the case, no.

But once a girl gains a certain reputation it's hard to come back from it or to shake it off which is why until she is married a girl needs to be aware of what others out there think of her because it not only reflects on her but on her parents as well.

You've all heard that old saying: There's that girl you take home to mama and there's that girl you have fun with until you find the one to home to mama.

Don't be the girl to have fun with.

I'm going to let my wives close this section.

Diana

What is the Role of a Woman to You?

For me being a woman meant different things to me at the various stages of my life.

When I was a child womanhood seemed like the ultimate Holy Grail because everything you tried to do you were told not until your older so that was what a woman was supposed to be someone with unlimited power, someone who could be what they want when they want.

In my teens womanhood was something I dreaded because now whenever I disagreed with my mother she'd say "wait until you're older than you'll see." And it was a threat so I was afraid of growing up and besides all that it meant getting old you know when you're sixteen twenty looks really old.

In my twenties I was sort of finding myself and had just started teaching so I was very relaxed and just kind of enjoying myself.

In my mid-twenties my sister got married and a lot of people were sort of looking at me like when are you taking that step but I still felt like I had a lot to do before I settled down and that all changed when I met John and I don't think either of us expected it to happen so soon but it did and I was happy.

As a married woman the only thing I thought about was just enjoying my husband and just enjoying being with him and I know he was thinking about us having children but I just wanted us to have more us time.

So we struck a bargain I wouldn't use contraceptive and he wouldn't try too hard to get me pregnant two years passed and he was getting worried when we discovered that I was pregnant. When I was pregnant I won't lie I resented my baby because John's attention was focused solely on him and he was neglecting me. But then the first time he kicked.

Oh what an incredible feeling that day my heart just busted with love and I began to understand what John was so obsessed with and the reason why he wanted us to have kids became clear when Moses was born and I held him in my arms. He was just so beautiful and as I looked at him I knew what my purpose was to look after this little angel.

Do you enjoy being a Sister Wife?

When John and I started hanging out with Roxanne it was kind of odd but I thought that maybe it was because she was the nurse who'd helped deliver our son and as time went by I grew to like and admire her but that all changed when he told me of his feelings for her I was angry and hurt and after I walked out on him I went to confront her.

She was as confused as I was by John's sudden declaration of his feelings for her and I returned to my parent's home a month passed and I realized that my home was with him and I returned to him.

He was a mess and the second he saw me he promised me that he'd cut all ties with her because no matter what he felt for her he wasn't willing to lose our family over it.

A month or so passed and he just seemed to get more miserable but as promised he didn't raise the issue of Roxanne again. So I went in search of advice from my mother-in-law, his mother, and she told me that it was completely up to me and if I believed that he would get over his feelings for her than I should stick to my guns but if I didn't then maybe I should give it a chance.

So I sought Roxanne and we had a lot to talk about but eventually I began to understand why he would want this wonderful woman to join our family so I spoke to John and gave him my permission to begin courting Roxanne.

The thing I've always appreciated about John is his honesty and the fact that you can always count on him. So during their courtship I was never worried about him doing anything with Roxanne that would jeopardize what we had.

In my late twenties I faced a challenge that I wasn't ready for even though I'd prepared myself for it being a Sister Wife.

It's one thing to share toys with your siblings, makeup with your friends and work with your colleagues and another thing completely to share your husband.

But we adapted well to the situation it was a first for all of us and John who was supposed to be the know it all on the situation was completely useless.

So we muddled along but it was still hard we each had three nights with him and on Sundays as he does to this day he slept alone. But it was hard for me because we all shared one house and I knew what we did as newlyweds so.

The next phase of my life was being a mother to Roxanne's children and that surprisingly enough was easier than it had been for me to be a Sister Wife because it just came naturally for me the urge to wanna look after the girls because when I looked at them all I saw was John.

When we went to visit his parents to show off our three little girls he saw Lina and he knows we were both angry because to me it seemed like he was starting a pattern and to Roxanne it seemed as if he really didn't consider her that special.

But before he even began his courtship he introduced her to us and their courtship period was almost like our courtship period because she is so sweet.

Lina is like John described her she is like a sun she draws you to her because she is so warm and before he even made his move Roxanne and I had already asked her to join the family.

With Jen it was difficult for me because of her past as I've said before because we've learnt not to question his decisions and it's not because we are so submissive that we just go along with everything he says but because we've learnt to trust his calls. I mean his usually right eight times out of ten as he was with Jen.

The one thing I love about being a Sister Wife is the support I get from the others.

For example after we had Moses it was really great having Roxanne in the picture because I knew that I was leaving him with someone I could trust and who loved him as her own.

When Roxanne was pregnant with Sarah and Penelope, I had just given birth to Jessica and when I went back to work she was on maternity leave so I enjoyed that. When Lina joined us it was like a weight lifted off our shoulders because she was there to look after them if all three of hours were working late.

With Jen she's always trying she's been with us for nine years but she's always doing little things to try and fit which is completely unnecessary but we won't complain.

It's like living with my sisters when I'm sick they look after me, after my kids and after my husband.

When I need a shoulder to cry on they're the.

When I wanna bitch and moan about John they join in because nobody knows him better so yes I love being a Sister Wife.

What about jealousy?

Do I get jealous of the time he spends with the other's yes I do but then again I feel anger and jealousy towards anything or anyone that I feel is taking his attention away from me.

The reason why it's so easy for us to live in harmony is:

1. We each have our own space.
2. We have lives away from the family.
3. We have relationships with each other apart from John and the family
4. John, he is considerate of us, which is why he has that whole no touching us in front of each other rule and
5. Time alone.

When his with you, you are the center of his world so it's hard to feel jealous unless you allow your mind to go there. I don't want to know what he does when his with the others that's their time the only thing that matters to me is what he does when his with me.

What happens if he dies?

John always says that if he was to die what would happen to us? I like to think that we'd still be a part of each other's lives maybe not as Sister Wives but more as Sisters because we have so much connecting us. Our husband, our children and most importantly our friendship because like I always tell people the four of us we are individuals in our own rights. It's just that in this case we happen to be four individuals who happen to share our lives with the same person.

We had lives before we met John, we have lives of our own apart from him and after he passes if we're still alive than we'll still be alive and living sure not the life we have now but a life nonetheless.

What if he was to take a fifth?

Would I stay if he found a fifth? I highly doubt that he'll marry for a fifth time because we are all happy with the situation as it is we've been married to each for a long time and we know each other so to rock the boat now wouldn't do, but if he was to come in the house one day and tell me that he'd found a fifth then Roxanne would become the first wife because I'd leave him.

And it wouldn't be because I suddenly doubt the man I've married but because that would mean even less time with him and I'm not willing to give that up.

Roxanne

What is the Role of a Woman to You?

For me being a woman could only be described in one strong. Being raised by a single mother who'd come back from nothing helped shape me into the woman I am today and I'll for ever be grateful to my father for that and people are always surprised when I say this because the man abandoned us.

But it's like we always say: trials and tribulations are just a stumbling block on the way to happiness. My father leaving us was just a stumbling block because if he had stayed our lives would've have turned out completely different whether or not for the better I'll never know but it was because of his choices that my life turned out the way it did.

When I told my friends that I was going to be a second wife they all thought that it was because of what my father had done and that I thought I didn't deserve better but what they fail to understand is that I married John because he is my reward.

All you have to do is just spend a few minutes with him and instantly you are drawn in his funny, exciting, smart, lovable, kind and he just happens to be married to four women.

For me I retained all that which makes a strong woman, and just because I put my husband and children before myself doesn't make me weak it makes me strong.

Do you enjoy being a Sister Wife?

Absolutely we've all said it a hundred times we love the life we live. Would I do this with anyone else? No, I did it with John because he is the one, you know the second I saw him I knew it and when this opportunity to be with him was presented to me I jumped at and I haven't looked back yet.

What about jealousy?

Absolutely it exists but it's because of what your mind does to you because John himself doesn't do anything to aggravate that jealousy it all comes from you.

He doesn't kiss us in front of each other.

He doesn't say I love you to any of us in front of the others.

He basically won't show any emotions towards one of us if the other is around.

So if you get jealous it's because the little green monster is whispering in your ear, do I think about what he does when his with the others?

I try not to because that's how I open myself up to these feelings of jealousy.

What happens if he dies?

Well I'd mourn him after all he is my husband and if he dies before me than a big chunk of me would die with him.

But honestly I like to think my life as being divided into four, $\frac{1}{4}$ belongs to God, $\frac{1}{4}$ belongs to the children, $\frac{1}{4}$ belongs to John and the final $\frac{1}{4}$ belongs to my Sister Wives so if he was to die I'd still have $\frac{3}{4}$ of my support structure there for me.

What if he was to take a fifth?

He'll need a doctor to recover from what I'll do to him.

Caroline

What is the Role of a Woman to You?

My father always said that a man needs three things to be happy, family, friends and an obedient wife.

He also said that a woman needs only one thing a man to keep her in line.

So he should be proud of me.

Seriously I think John is right in his assertion that a woman needs to nurture you know I saw it with my own mother's the second we started growing up and stopped needing them as much they changed became sadder. So they started focusing their attention on my father, charities anything that would make them feel needed because they were looking after something.

I think I'll go through the same thing when all the kids are out of the house, empty nest syndrome.

But for me that is what a woman is a nurturer.

What about jealousy?

I don't get it it's honestly something that I've never experienced when it comes to this marriage. Like John always says he loves all of us but he loves us for different reasons.

So I don't compare what we have to what he has with Diana or with Roxanne or with Jennifer because they are three different women and his with them and loves them for three different reasons.

What happens if he dies?

A part of me would die with him but I would have my family with me and we'd get through it.

What if he was to take a fifth?

My opposition of this union would be real. I love what we have right now; more kids would be great but another wife. No.

Jennifer

What is the Role of a Woman to You?

I think that I have to agree with Diana as a woman your role changes at the different stages of your life.

What it was when you were in your early twenties will change completely to what it is when you are in your thirties.

To me right now my role as a woman is to be the best mother, wife and sister I can be.

What about jealousy?

There is definitely some but it's only when you allow it to come upon you do you think about it.

I mean do I wonder? Definitely but when that feeling starts I remind myself of the following three things:

1. If he wasn't a polygamous than I never would have been in this family.
2. Jealousy is just another way for the devil and his agents to try and bring me down.
3. When his with me I'm the only thing that matters. (Which is the most important thing to me).

What happens if he dies?

I think John forced us to develop the friendships we have for a specific reason. He did it with all of us when he knew that we were ready for the next step marriage he would encourage us to go out without him specifically with the intention of us getting to know each other and to also show the other's that this was someone who would fit in well with the family.

So I think he did that specifically for this purpose, even to this day he'll plan something special for us wives while he looks after the children.

He understands that jealousy exists which is why he has that whole no affection in front of the other's rule.

The including his wives in the courtship process is to show his wives what he sees, yes they won't see exactly what he sees but he does this so that they see what kind of person he wants to bring into the family and if they can live with her.

So if he were to die we would still be there for each other, heck if we re-marry our new husbands would have ready-made houses to move in.

What if he was to take a fifth?

Diana and Roxanne have explained to me why they were so opposed to him marrying me but through hard work and years together I've proven to them that he didn't make a mistake.

At the moment John spends two days a week with two of us and if he were to add a fifth where would he find the time to be with her?

If he was to take a fifth I think it would cause a lot of friction and tension in the house and besides all that Diana and Roxanne would kill him.

People need to understand that when it comes to marriage it is a debate because it affects all of us, talking from experience he had to go to bat for me to join the family because they were so violently opposed to the marriage and to this day I still find myself trying to prove to them that it wasn't a mistake.

So if he were to take a fifth I would support him because I've been on the outside looking in but in this marriage almost everything is a debate and I doubt that the committee would vote in his favor this time.



The Role of a Child

Well a child needs only know how to do the following, be respectful, be honest, be compassionate and be appreciative.

The basis of what and how a child will be start right here. You know when God gives you a child He is essentially giving you a blank slate to fill or a slab of marble to shape.

I always say to my children until you are old enough to decide for yourself then by my rules and decisions you shall live.

This simply means that as parents we often know what's best for our children but eventually they get to a point where they no longer need us to make those decisions for them.

Does that mean that I won't be there for them? Absolutely not, something else I always say to them is that the day you stop needing me is the day I die and I mean that literally the day they pronounce you dead is the day you kids stopping needing you because you will no longer be there to help them out.

Which is why I refer to a child as a blank state waiting to be filled, when I die I hope the lesson's I've taught my children will still be there to help them when I'm not.

Respect

A mistake lot's of people make is that they think that they automatically have their children's respect, which is true. I suppose though the real question here is what you are doing to keep it. Children when they are born are born instinctively trusting the world, I guess it starts with the doctors and nurses who handle it after birth and then its parents who are charged with looking after it until either they or it dies.

So they are born trusting us and respecting because they don't know better and for me personally every day in little ways I try to prove to them that I am worthy of their trust, respect and love.

Children are smart and they're like little sponges with their eyes and ears wide open just watching and listening. Which is why we never argue in front of them, for example if I do something that upsets

Roxanne or vice versa we wait for them to go to bed or outside and then we argue, if they are outside were on the outside are they and can they hear us if they are in bed we go to my quarters.

Some children know when their parents are about to fight because they give them a signal like, "guys please go to your rooms your dad and I need to talk." There is the signal whenever they hear this they know a fight is about to start.

Also by waiting to be alone we allow emotions to cool so when we do talk cooler heads reign.

Another thing that parents do but shouldn't do is that they ask their children to pick sides, I'm warning you don't this because by doing so you force your children to not only lose respect for your significant other but for you as well.

To close the respect issue this is also how I also teach my children not to lie I always tell them that no matter what always respect someone enough to not lie to them.

Compassion

Satan loves corrupting the young and innocent because the Kingdom of God is promised to them and he's jealous of that.

This is why he tries to corrupt them when they are young that way they can spend the rest of their lives corrupting others.

Teach your children to be compassionate, that's the problem with today's world there isn't enough compassion in it if we teach our children compassion while they are still young imagine the good deeds we could achieve as a species.

Today's youth is mainly consumed with the material and what other's think of them instead of focusing on the real important things.

I always say to my children instead of asking for a new toy or gadget ask yourself what you can do to glorify the Lord today and because of this our teenagers volunteer at an old age home because they have

so much and the Bible teaches that just as you are willing to receive so should you be willing to give.

Appreciation

I remember one day Tim came up to me and asked me to buy him a new bicycle, this wouldn't be a problem if we hadn't bought him a new bike just a few months ago and he wanted the bike because one of his friends had just gotten that model.

So he runs into my study and he asks me for a bike, he'd already tried Diana and she'd said no, he walks in and presents his case stressing heavily the fact that he needed it to get around.

When he was done I picked him up turned him upside down and told him to get me a glass of water, he immediately straightened himself up and started walking towards the kitchen. When he returned I asked why he needed the bike again and this time he had no answer for me.

I said it before what we needed was always provided and he didn't need a new bike because he already had one and he has two functioning legs which he can use to get around.

When is it a good time for them to start dating?

Kids are smart and my kids personally are always challenging me which I appreciate because as parents we often tell our kids not to do things without actually explaining to them why.

So for me whenever I tell them not to do something I always explain why because for kids if you tell them not to do something they want to rebel especially with teenagers so they know in this house that once you turn thirteen there is a whole new set of rules waiting for you.

The first rule is that you are not allowed to date until your thirteen and even then all your dates have to be chaperoned until you turn sixteen and people question this because that's when their hormones are raging. But I tell them what I tell my kids our relationship is based on trust I will never do anything to break it and I hope you do the same.

The second rule is that you are not allowed to drink until you turn twenty one, the law says that you shouldn't drink before the age of twenty one and I'm sure they have their reasons, for me I would prefer if they didn't drink at all but that's an unrealistic goal.

The third rule is that you don't have sex before you're eighteen the reason for this for me is because I hope at that age you're mature enough to appreciate the consequences of your actions. Ideally they wouldn't have sex until the night of their wedding but again unrealistic goal.

Fourth rule is for the girls don't wear makeup in my house, I've seen my daughters without makeup and for me they are perfect so I always say why mess with perfection, it's the same with my wives I know what they look like when they wake up and they are gorgeous so why mess with that? They wear make up on occasion but never around because if I see them wearing it I always ask the question what are you hiding and if they were clothes which are to revealing I ask them what them what are you selling?

Fifth rule for the boys look after your sister's because in my absence you are their protector.

So those are the rules that the teenagers have to live by in addition to all other rules in the house and if someday they question those rules I will hopefully have an answer.

Chores

From the second that they understand what we are saying they have chores to do, they have to pick up their toys as toddlers, when they are about five or so we expect them to not only pick up after themselves but to also help keep their bedrooms clean

When they are about eight they have to help with the dishes and when they enter their teens we teach them how to cook but they are not allowed cook on their own until they turn sixteen.

And this is something that we do with both our boys and girls.

Part Two – The Church



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Chapter One – Money and the Church



When I found God again I went to Church because to me it was the natural thing to do after all it is the house of the Lord so what better way to communicate with the Lord?

But let me tell you a secret the conversation I had with God in my apartment that day gave me a feeling that I've never experienced in Church since then.

After Diana and I married Roxanne we changed churches because we were no longer welcome there but it was a blessing because it was due to this change that I discovered something which made me change my mind about churches as a whole.

Now don't get me wrong not all churches are like this but after going to a few like that it soured the whole experience for me.

The first church we went to we enjoyed but when Roxanne joined the family we were ostracized so we left.

The next church we went to the priest was always on us to give. You know I think he intentionally sought lessons from the Bible which spoke about giving so that he could just teach us on that. And boy did we give, I remember one time someone came to the church with a hundred dollars and that was the only money they had, so the ushers were walking around collecting when he reached into his wallet and saw that that was all he had. He put the money back in his wallet and looked away.

I'm sure that one of the ushers saw this because they'd gone around with the baskets one remained in front of the pulpit and waited for the priest to continue his sermon on giving.

It was beautiful to watch, he sought of looked down with this pained look on his face and when he eventually looked up he was looking directly at the man who'd failed to give, "brothers and sisters, brothers and sisters why do we find it so hard to give? Why is it that when the Lord has given so much we refuse to give back?" The congregation was enthralled by now as he paced in front of the pulpit.

By the time he'd finished his speech we were all looking at each other nervously when he pulled his ace our saving grace according to him,

“but I’m going to give you a chance to prove to the Lord not me the Lord that you appreciate all that his done and I hope I really hope that you won’t disappoint Him.” Then the usher went around once more and to my great amazement not only the man who hadn’t contributed but others as well pulled out their wallets and gave money.

The thing that made me decide to leave this church was that this poor guy was sole provider in his home and that was his last money. He wouldn’t have another cent until he got paid at the end of the month.

I knew this guy and just before we left he walks up to me and tells me that that was his last dollar and he just didn’t know how he was going to make it until the end of the month. I asked him to give me his banking details and when we got home I asked my wives if we could give him some of the money we had saved just to help him and his family and they agreed.

Then the following back in church the priest was once more on us to give again this guy held back and once more the priest lamented the virtues of giving and like before he relented and gave from what little he had gotten from me.

At the end of the service he comes up to me and says to me, “hey man I really appreciate what you did for me and I know I must seem like the most selfish and ungrateful SOB on the planet but I had to give.” I understood but what pushed me over the limit was when the priest came up to us and said something about how the Lord will never forsake those who give and that he hoped that the next time we were in church we would remember that.

Than he gets into this big fancy car and drives away while this poor man and his family use public transport.

So we left that church and moved to another one and it was the same thing every Sunday, every lesson was about giving and how money is the root of all evil.

In fact he actually based one of his sermons on this and he said that the way to rid yourself of this evil is to give it to the church to look after it.

I was bowled over, I almost fell out of my seat and after the service I was still pretty shocked by what he said so we were outside, me, Roxanne and another one of the parishioners when I brought up the sermon.

And I was just bitching about it when another one of the parishioners came up to us and this particular parishioner was actually the treasurer at the church.

So she walks up to us and starts explaining to us where the money goes, part of it goes to the upkeep of the church, part of it was used to pay the water and lights and of course there is the priests salary as well as money for his quarters.

Now from this conversation I could only accept two of the four things she'd said to be true. The water and lights true, his salary also true but the upkeep of the church and his quarters I just couldn't understand this justification of how our money was spent. So I challenged her on it.

"Well brother Phillips you have to remember that this is the Temple of the Lord and as such it must be looked after." She then launched into a tirade of sorts as she tried to convince me that they were using some of collection funds to maintain the church. (We also had fundraising events for just this thing as well). I let carry on before I asked her a question.

"And what exactly have you done to maintain the Temple of the Lord?" I hoped by this time she'd hear and understand what I was trying to tell her and she'd drop it but she was persistent as she kept pointing around the building, the benches around the church yard and the swings we had for the kids to play on.

But looking around the courtyard I wondered if she was seeing what I was seeing, nothing in the church itself or even in the yard looked new or even maintained. Some of the stuff in there had been there when we got there and here was this woman telling me that they had just bought them.

As for the priests rental for his quarters again she had no answer for me because he lived in a cottage at back of the church with his wife

and two sons and they electricity and lights were paid for as part of the church and they paid no rental because the property was owned by the church.

That made me mad so I confronted her on what I felt where her blatant lies because like our priest she kept exulting the need to maintain the house of the Lord when I finally snapped and called her a liar.

She stepped back from me shocked and I repeated what I'd told her that she was a liar and not only was she a liar she was a thief.

I looked at her, obese, her face caked over with makeup and a cigarette dangling from her mouth and she had the audacity to tell me that she was using my hard earned money to maintain the house of the Lord but from where I was standing she was using my money to destroy the house of the Lord.

So there we stood competing against us each me insisting that she was a liar and a thief who was destroying the temple of the Lord and her insisting that I was the liar and a blind fool if I couldn't see all that they were doing for the church and the congregation.

She listed everything that she felt I needed to hear and pointed to those ornaments around the church which she said that they needed my money to purchase and maintain.

Then I looked her in the eyes once more and called her a liar, "you and your so called priest disgust me, using the Lords name to further your own status in life tell what did the devil promise you to make you pervert the name of the Lord and his house of worship in such a manner?" Roxanne was tugging at my sleeve in an effort to try and pull me away but I was on a roll.

"You claim to be using our money," now it was my turn to gesture around as I pointed to the members of the congregation, "to maintain the house of the Lord, but I'm starring at the temple of the Lord right now and all I see you doing is destroying it. You claim to be using the money to help the congregation but how many of our brothers and sisters come here every Sunday and give away their last monies only to have you and that charlatan use it for your own selfish needs and

then demand that they give because the Lord will provide and that the Lord hate's a selfish heart."

By now the charlatan I was referring had come to join our discussion but as I said before I was on a roll and I wasn't about to stop now, "yes the Lord will provide and he did. He helped those men and women find jobs with the expectation that they would use that money to look after themselves and their families and then along comes people like you who say that the Lord will provide all they have to do is to give and give.

"The Lord did provide and now every night He has to listen to those same people His provided for beg and plead with Him to provide more than what He already has." I pointed at him and demanded to know the following of him, "is your intention to condemn these innocent souls to damnation because the Lord has provided and yet they keep demanding that He provide. Is it your intention to label them as selfish?"

If he had an answer I wasn't interested, "your treasurer here has stated that the donations we make are in part used for the upkeep of the temple of the Lord yet here in front of me is the temple of the Lord and I see nothing that shows that what she's saying is true.

"She has desecrated the temple of the Lord with food, alcohol, sex and cigarettes and she has stated publicly for all to see that she thinks that Lord made a mistake when He created her because she is using make up to hide what He created from the world.

"You both claim that part of this money is used for the upkeep of the Lord's place of worship but I look around and in the nearly two years that I've been a member I have yet to see these so called changes and upkeep you speak of constantly.

"You've said that the money is used to help the less fortunate, which less fortunate are you referring to? Certainly not the ones in this congregation or are you referring to charities outside the church if so, why not tell us what they are so that we too can help were we can. Because the Bible does teach us to help those less fortunate than us so why not share that burden with us because even if we can't help financial I'm sure there are other ways we can help.

“The most ludicrous statement I’ve heard you both say is that you have a salary but you cannot use that salary to pay for your own accommodation? But to prove what crooks you are you actually live on the church grounds and a fund actually exists which is used to pay for your children’s fees because the salary you earn is so “little.” My voice was filled with contempt and Diana and Roxanne were just standing a little behind me with shocked looks on their faces but I wasn’t done yet.

“But from that “little” salary you’ve managed to not only buy yourself but your wife and sons new cars, you don’t even buy your own groceries they are all donated but you still have the audacity to demand that we give and give and give. Now my question for you is this what exactly are you giving to the Lord?”

Then I turned away and headed for the car Diana and Roxanne behind me and from that day onwards I refused to go to church.

My wives and children are free to go there but for me the Church was destroyed by those greedy bastards who used the Lord’s name to line their own pockets.

After we moved to our current home and the ladies found a church they tried their best to convince me to go with them but my experiences had soured me and I refused to go.

So on Sundays while they are at church I have my own conversation with God, I reflect on the week that I’d had and what I’ve done to serve the Lord and what I’ve done to disgrace myself in His and how I could improve on both those issues and then I talk to him, like I had done after my last night with Jessica.

Then I read from the Bible and finally close the whole thing with a prayer.

Now some of my friends started noticing that I didn’t go to church but I was always talking about God and Jesus and the Bible so one day while we were having a barbeque they asked me about this and I told them about how I spend my Sundays. One day I was shocked when some of them came over to join me.

I told that I wasn't a priest nor would I ever claim to be and they said they understood.

So now that is how I spend my Sundays a group of us meet, we discuss how the Lord has helped us during the past week, what we've done to glorify His name, what we've done to disgrace ourselves in His eyes and how we can improve on both.

We do take up a collection but like I said to them when they first joined me, "I will never ask you for money, the day I do that know that is the day I aligned myself with the devil."

The collection idea came up after we'd been meeting for a year and one of our members had some financial problems so at the end of the month we each donated some money to him.

And it became a continuous thing at the end of each month we all deposit some money into an account and if by the end of the year none of our members had a need for it we donate it to a charity.

The money from the account can only be withdrawn if two members approve it and we rotate who can approve the withdrawal every month.

You and God



Beware of wolves in sheep's clothing.

You know in this modern age of ours I think that religion has got to be one of the biggest money makers out there, I mean think about in the Christian faith alone how many churches are there in the world?

I know our faith demands that we give to the Lord I can't speak on other religions so I won't.

And it is this part of the Bible that these wolves use to exploit our weakness for forgiveness, salvation to line their pockets.

My father always said that you pay a man an honest wage for a hard day's work and I agree with him which is why I don't have a problem with using part of the donations made to the church to pay a priest.

However what I do have a problem with is someone using the Lord's name to make themselves rich. I have a problem with someone forcing someone to give way beyond their means because they are too lazy to work.

I always say that when you are doing the work of the Lord than you need no thanks because your reward awaits you in heaven but more and more I am proven wrong because almost every day a new prophet who has been touched by the spirit emerges and for a small fee they can teach you how to communicate with God, or how to ask Him for favors and all sorts of things and it makes me sick.

Like I said before the answer is in you and you don't need anybody else to tell you how to find them.

The answer is in you, that's what I always tell my kids the answer is in you.

So often in this life we look to others to provide solutions to problems in our lives, whenever my kids come to me with a problem I ask them what they've done to resolve it and only if they failed to resolve it themselves do they come to me.

I find that the Bible has solutions to our all our problems even in these modern times.

Which is why I always look within when I have a problem if that fails I turn to the Bible and if that fails I look to my family and friends, sometimes I get the solutions from my kids, they truly are wonderful creatures.

Tara Cards, Palm Readers, Fortune Tellers and Astrological Signs

My God is a jealous God, I'm sure you've all heard this before so why is it that Christians continually seek the advice of these people on how to live their lives and on what the future holds for them.

If you believe those people than you are the biggest fool out there because only the Lord knows what you're future holds. He has already planned out your life even the hard times and the only person who can derail that plan is you.

God's Plan for You

I always tell people that God has a plan for them and my two favorite examples are Job and the Son of Man, Jesus Christ.

I always say that God has a plan for and the only person who can derail that plan is you.

The Chinese had it right you know life is all about balance, you cannot live your life constantly being on the winning side because when the hard times hit. You won't know how to deal with them.

I truly believe that everything in my life happened for a reason because if it hadn't happened than I would not be the man I am today and I wouldn't have the life I live.

The path of the righteous is not an easy one; one that is peppered with many pitfalls and stumbling blocks it is only by overcoming those blocks and avoiding those pitfalls are we able to receive our reward which is a place in heaven and the many rewards we get on this earth, friends, family, children. So many rewards like I've said before He is always talking to you and all you need to do is listen.

Which is why, I always say like my father did when the devil knocks on your door he will knock loud enough to not only draw your attention but the attention of those around and when he enters your house he will not be alone.

The Devil

Some people believe in him other's don't. I believe in him because my Bible tells me so.

We all know the story of the devil, he was an angel in fact one of God's favorites that is until God created men and the devil was jealous of this because he was no longer the favorite he was no longer the favorite, secondly because the Lord had created us in his own image and thirdly because the Lord held his Angels to a higher standard than he did us.

The devil is a spirit nothing more nothing less he is a spirit.

Earlier I said that men have an inherent need to prove themselves in their father's eyes well that's exactly what's going on between the devil and his father.

By corrupting us he is essentially saying to his father look, look what you've created, the creatures you say are your greatest creation look at what they do, are you not proud of them are they still your greatest creation look, pay attention to me. I was right all along are you not sorry now because you chose them before me and the rest of my brethren?

God has a plan for you and the only person who can derail it is you. God is patient but even He has his limits, which is why we have Judgment Day.

The devil is weak which is why he needs you and he enters you in many different ways you see the devil is like someone who hates you and they hate you with such a passion that they rejoice anytime anything bad happens to you.

The same with the devil any small victory he can get and he rejoices over it, you lust after your neighbor's wife, score one for the devil.

You envy your friends life, another point to the devil.

You are angry with your brother and refuse to forgive him, the devils count is getting high now.

You steal from the poor only too line your own pockets, that hot oil is waiting for you.

You dishonor your parents.

You are lazy and not ashamed of it.

You are not humble.

You destroy the temple of the Lord with food, drink, sex and drugs.

You worship false gods, think about it how many times have you said you worship a certain star or mock bowed in front of them?

Like I said all it takes is one thing and his in and when he enters he enters with his friends.

To the devil you are just another soul he can use in his quest to try and prove himself to his father and when he approaches you it won't be as the cartoon characters we have come to associate with him but as a person who looks just like you, as an opportunity that you just can't miss out on, it will always be something small because that's how he does it.

He eases you into a false sense of security and convinces you what you are doing isn't wrong and by the time you realize it it's too late.

Like his brethren who are angels he can take the shape of many things which is why I always say that if you have to justify it you know you're doing wrong.

The Word of God

I said earlier that people interpret the Bible differently few times do you find two people who agree on any verse in the Bible.

Some people have said that the word of God is too difficult for them but I say that the path to God is what is too difficult for them not his word because his word can be understood by even a child.

Look don't get me wrong I have nothing against priests some of them are really good man who have dedicated their lives to the Lord and who in return ask for nothing because they know that their reward awaits them in heaven.

I just dislike the people who use people's laziness to gain financial wealth.

The answer is within you I always say to the group of friends I meet with every Sunday that if anyone doubts what they are saying or what they believe ignore them and if you have to cut them out then do so.

However if this is not an option ask them to ask you five questions and if after providing them with answers they are still not satisfied then know that they are agents of the devil sent to bring about you destruction.

The road to hell is paved with good intentions.

Let your actions speak louder than your words it does no good for you to constantly carry on about the Lord and how powerful He is when your actions do not echo that statement.

I've said it before I don't like giving away money, I am like my father in the belief that a hard day's work deserves an honest pay and I've been challenged on this because of what the Bible teaches that we should give.

I don't dispute this and I do give just not financially. In the group we have we give money to each other when we are in need of it but even then the person or people who are receiving it contributed to this total in some way.

And when we give to a charity we don't give them the money we instead speak to the head of the organization and ask them what they need then we provide this.

Some people say that this is enough, but we don't agree it doesn't help for you to say you help the poor and less fortunate just because you give money to a charity every month, or you give that homeless man a slice of bread at the end of the day.

What matters is what you do every day which is why we don't just buy the things that they need but we also give our time, just like with my wives every day in the littlest ways I try to help others.

You will never be poor as long as you believe.

People pride themselves on the fact that they help a stranger once a week or a month or a year but those that are supposed to be nearest to their hearts they ignore.

Someone will say I'm a soldier for the Lord because they preach every Sunday in church or they go out and preach the word of the Lord in the streets or because they visit the sick and offer them comfort.

But those same soldiers will stand back and watch while evil occurs; these are the same soldiers who will turn the sound on their TV's higher while their neighbor beats on his wife. Those soldiers will stand back and say not my problem while their own brother kills himself slowly with alcohol and drugs.

Soldiers who will allow their sisters to enter into prostitution instead of offering them a helping hand, soldiers who will put their brother's children in an orphanage because they are just too "expensive" or they forget the commandment the Lord gave for us to go forth and multiply because of the same reason.

He had a reason for this if they are more of us that means more of us to share the word, more of us to combat the forces of evil but we chose to ignore this because we can't afford it. Really?

When you are judged it will not be by your words but by your actions and this is what you need to remember before you declare yourself a soldier of the Lord.

A true soldier of the Lord is one that keeps the laws of the Lord and shares that law with others and asks for no thanks or payment because the work they do is reward enough for them and more importantly they know their reward awaits them in heaven.

Some have said isn't that similar to hiding your light under a bushel and the answer is no I'm not hiding my light under a bushel I'm praising the Lord, I'm sharing the word of the Lord and I'm keeping the word of the Lord the only difference between me and those who proclaim that there are soldiers of the Lord is that I need no recognition for what I do.

To me the greatest reward I can get is to see those people beginning to live their lives in accordance with His word.

Heaven and Hell

Do I believe in heaven yes do I believe in hell no, unless you call the existence that some of us choose to live as hell.

Which brings us to the question what happens when you die?

Nothing you are dead what were you thinking would happen your soul would leave your body and enter heaven. If you've really read the word you would know that this is not so when you die your soul dies with you.

The soul is a part of you and if your soul dies so does your body and vice versa.

When you die you are dead and dead you shall remain until the Day of Judgment when the Lord returns to take His children home and until that day dead you shall be.

So what about hell, the Bible teaches us that there is one but I refuse to believe that the God I know and love would condemn His children to an eternity in the pits of hell. I believe He will banish them to purgatory to burn there for five life times or until they have truly repented for their sins.

The Soul

The soul is what makes us, when God created us He created the soul so that a part of Him would always be with us and it is this part that the devil wants because he knows that when the End of Days arrives this will be the commodity which will be traded in which is why he works so hard to corrupt us because he knows that by gaining more souls than his father than he will have finally proven what he'd said all along about the human species.

Just like your life your soul doesn't truly belong to you so I'm always surprised at how cheaply people take it. Even as a joke you should never utter the words, "I'd sell my soul to the devil for ..." because he is listening and this is an opportunity for him to try and corrupt you.

A saw a movie once were a man sold his soul to the devil and the devil granted him seven wishes after the first wish he begins to truly realize what a trickster and liar the devil is.

But the time they get to the fourth and fifth wishes his wishing that he'd never entered into this agreement and at the end of it all the Lord appears because by now his turned to the one being he should have turned to in the first place, God.

And you know what the character of God said He said how can you barter with something that isn't yours to barter with in the first place?

God is always talking to you all you have to do is listen

To end this book let me say what I said right at the beginning He is always talking to you all you have to do is listen, sometimes the Lord will talk to you through someone else but even then it will never be something that will hurt you.

Only the answer to your prayers.

God is around you always I'm sure we are all familiar with the story:

God and a man are walking down the beach and as they walk the leave behind a set of footprints they'd been walking for a while when the man turned around and saw the footprints reflected in the sand.

There were two sets of prints when they began their walk but at some points of the journey instead of two only one set of prints was imprinted in the sand so he turns towards God and says, "Father we have been walking for a while now and when I looked back I saw that at the start of the journey they were two sets of prints but as we carried on some parts of the journey I only saw one set of prints reflected in the sand why have you forsaken me?"

To which God replied, "I did not forsake you when we started our journey together things were good and so I walked by your side but then things got hard and that was when I carried you hence the reason for you seeing one set of prints and so I carried you until things got better. All the times you

see a single set of prints know that these were difficult periods in your life when I was carrying you.”

I know it doesn't go exactly like that but you get the point.

To finally end the book when you need to communicate to the Lord all you need do is recite the prayer below and He will answer just remember to listen.

**Our Father, which art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy Name.
Thy Kingdom come.
Thy will be done in earth,
As it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
The power, and the glory,
For ever and ever.
Amen.**

The End

As I said before this is just an opinion piece mainly my opinion on Life, Marriage and most importantly my relationship with my maker.

I hope that you gained something from reading this book, even if it's just the one thing.

God Bless and remember in all things keep the Lord with you.

I have no issues with you quoting from this work or even distributing it, in fact I encourage.

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For those of you with comments and question please feel free to email them to me at stevenro23@gmail.com