

UPWARD THOUGHT

SEARCH



Explaining the prophecies and the scriptures to all who desire to hear them. (Mosiah 27:35-36)

To Whoever is Spreading Rumors

By Rob • January 08, 2017

In the last 6 months I've gotten a few comments that have surprised me:

SHARE

- "Did you take a plural wife?" (at least 3 times from different people)
- "I heard you proposed plural marriage to <name withheld 1>. Is that true?"
- "I heard you took <name withheld 2> as a plural wife. Is that true?"

Labels*gossip**plural marriage*

Because this is apparently established itself as a pattern, I'm going to write up my thoughts on the matter here so I can respond with a link instead of having to rewrite my thoughts every time.

First, what I find even more surprising than the content of these questions is that anyone would

have the audacity to ask in the first place. Don't
you know that gossip is a sin?

- Whoever secretly slanders his neighbor,
him I will destroy; No one who has a
haughty look and an arrogant heart will I
endure. (Psalm 101:5)
- Let no unwholesome word proceed from
your mouth, but only such a word as is good
for edification according to the need of the
moment, so that it will give grace to those
who hear. (Ephesians 4:29)
- Keep your tongue from evil And your lips
from speaking deceit. (Psalm 34:13)
- ...to malign no one, to be peaceable, gentle,
showing every consideration for all men.

(Titus 3:2)

- At the same time they also learn to be idle, as they go around from house to house; and not merely idle, but also gossips and busybodies, talking about things not proper to mention. (1 Timothy 5:13)

The troubling thing about it is that I have yet to hear from the originator(s) of the rumor(s), only people further down the chain. At some point, one or more people spun up false statements and sent them out. To them I say:

- You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. (Exodus 20:16)

- You shall not go about as a slanderer among your people, and you are not to act against the life of your neighbor; I am the LORD.
(Leviticus 19:16)
- Argue your case with your neighbor, And do not reveal the secret of another, Or he who hears it will reproach you, And the evil report about you will not pass away.
(Proverbs 25:9-10)
- You shall not bear a false report; do not join your hand with a wicked man to be a malicious witness. (Exodus 23:1)

Now, none of what I have said so far has anything to do with the subject matter. Let's get on to that.

I have written extensively about plural marriage. My position on the issue is no secret. My reasons for holding that position are also no secret, and no one has yet to give me any good reason to change my position. That being said, I don't really care if people think I have more than one wife, am looking for more than one wife, have proposed to women after my first wife, etc.

But almost all of you think very differently about plural marriage. You think it is an abomination, a violation of God's commandments, a filthy affair, etc. Did you ever stop to think of the people you are hurting by coming up with or spreading accusations such as this? Not me, but the name withhelds above? These are good people, people that I know would be very upset to know their names are being associated with plural

marriage.

While you may not care about vilifying me, you ought to think twice before hurting people that are not only innocent but would be horrified to be associated with plural marriage. It's one thing to insult someone who claims to be keeping God's commandments to them. It is another to drag someone into it who has nothing to do with it.

I know of at least two women who caught wind of their names being included in these false rumors. You really ought to reconsider your sinful behavior in starting and/or spreading these rumors.

Now, onto the third point I need to make. As I

said, my position on this issue is no secret.

Knowledge of whether or not I have multiple wives does not add to the discussion. Oddly enough, your perverse obsession with it is exactly what you (the anti-polygamists) are accusing people like me (who understand God's word to indicate it is something he has, can, and may command individuals to practice) of being guilty of, when the opposite seems to be the case.

For the record, as of today (8 January 2017), I have not ever proposed plural marriage to anyone. I have not asked anyone out on on any dates other than my one and only wife since we were originally engaged. I will not update this record, or answer any further questions about the issue. Don't ask.

It is kind of funny to me that people would assume that plural marriage is something I would rush headlong into. It took me over 100 first dates in four states before meeting and proposing to my wife. That huge labor was conducted as a single person with very little other responsibilities. I am married, have a very demanding job, an equally demanding farm, a lengthy list of books God has asked me to write, and a quiver of young children to take care of. I do not have free time. I live in a rural area in an isolated region. My social networks are saturated with people who think plural marriage is an abomination. How on earth a person in my situation would manage to even meet someone who wasn't instantly repulsed from the concept, let alone find myself in a situation where

enough time would be available to get to know and vet this person, let alone find someone who meets the requirements (given that the bar would be at least as high as it was in my initial search, if not higher) is a mystery to me. Nothing is impossible to God, but I would set the odds about equal with God raising up a son of Abraham from one of the rocks in my backyard. I'm not holding my breath.

Finally, I anticipate fully that one principle reason these rumors are being spread is to discredit the things I teach, which tend to chafe against the traditions we love so much.

How many wives I have or don't have doesn't give anyone license to dismiss out of hand what I write. Quoting from [this post](#),

*“ Teachings can be
true or false.
Teachers are
neither.
There are several
ways we can
misunderstand the
way this works.
God makes use of
vessels to do his*

*work. Sometimes
these are righteous
vessels (like Isaiah),
and sometimes
these are wicked
vessels (like
Nebuchadnezzar).
Most times,
however, they are a
little righteous
and a little wicked
(like Gideon, who*

*did some things
right and some
things wrong). The
righteousness of a
man does not
indicate that
anything he says is
true. The Bible is
full of examples of
true messages from
God being
delivered by men*

*who were not
worthy of
emulation. On the
other hand, the
wickedness of a
man does not
indicate that a
particular belief
he has is not from
God. The high
priest who killed
Jesus delivered a*

*true prophecy (see
John 11:49-51)!
We ought to
assume that God
will use anyone
and anything
around us to teach
us all the truth we
are willing to
receive. We ought
to prove all things,
instead of just*

*assuming
something is false
because it doesn't
agree with what
we currently
understand. In
fact, if we expect
that there are
things we do not
yet know, and
glory to which we
have not yet*

*attained, we ought
to assume that the
space between
where we are and
where we want to
be will be spanned
by new truth that
will necessarily
clash with what we
currently
understand, for if
it did not, would*

*we not already
embrace it? We
ought to avoid
dismissing people
out of hand
because they
believe differently
than we do. Did
Moses dismiss
Jethro out of hand
when he possessed
truth that Moses*

*had not yet heard?
No. Rather, he
proved all things,
and found that
much of what
Jethro taught was
useful to advance
his own
understanding.
Jesus himself was
dismissed as
wicked by the*

*majority of people
that witnessed his
mortal ministry.
Isaiah said that
Jesus "hath no
form nor
comeliness; and
when we shall see
him, there is no
beauty that we
should desire
him." (Isaiah*

*53:2) There was
nothing overtly
obvious about
Jesus' true role that
would have caused
people to listen to
what he said.*

*Instead, those who
followed him did
so on the merit of
his message.*

When we dismiss

*truth presented to
us by our fellows,
we are cutting
ourselves off from
the blessings God
intends to give us.
I have personally
witnessed many
occasions where
someone I know
has prayed for
certain blessings or*

*deliverance from
God only to reject
the person he sent
to provide the
requested blessings.
We should not look
for true
messengers, or
disqualify
messengers as false.
We should not
listen more to*

*people (ministers,
spiritual giants,
popes, priests) we
assume are
righteous. We
should not listen
less to people we
assume are wicked.
Instead, we ought
to try all things
and hold fast to
what is true.*

*By testing all
things, you are
relying on the Holy
Ghost for truth,
and not man,
despite recognizing
that God might be
sending you new
truth via
association with
other individuals
who know*

*something that you
don't."*



Archive

If people worked half as hard to read what I
write as they do to discredit what I write, well,

Labels

I'd have to write a whole lot less!

Report Abuse

I hope that satisfies your lusty desire to pry into

YouTube Channel

UpwardThought YouTube
Channel

my life. Hopefully now that we got that taken
care of, we can all get back to repenting of our

sins.

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