

Is Monogamy Natural for Man?

By

Rabbi Levi bar Ido / B'nai Avraham

For those who identify with their old nature set their minds on the things of the old nature, but those who identify with the Ruach set their minds on the things of the Ruach. Having one's mind controlled by the old nature is death, but having one's mind controlled by the Ruach is life and shalom. For the mind controlled by the old nature is hostile towards Elohim, because it does not submit itself to Elohim's Torah- indeed it cannot. Thus, those who identify with their old nature cannot please Elohim. Romans 8:5-8

Marriage is not easy, even for those who understand all the implications of commitments. Very few couples adjust to marriage after being on their own, free, and single. One of the greatest statements of love of one individual to another is the constant ongoing effort to remain loyal, faithful, loving, and caring despite the natural inclination of man to be selfish, egotistical, and sexually promiscuous. Any couple whose marriage comes easy is missing out on the powerful statement to one another-I love you so much and with such commitment that I will transcend my natural desires, lust, sexual impulses and remain totally and faithfully focused on you and you alone. We must make an effort to be loving, caring, and faithful partners, even while we feel a natural attraction to other women or men outside the marriage. **MONOGAMY IS NOT A CONCESSION THAT RELIGION ASKS MANKIND TO MAKE IN THE NAME OF HOLINESS AND DECENCY.IT IS THE VEHICLE THROUGH WHICH THE ULTIMATE SEXUAL PASSION CAN BE EXPERIENCED AND SUSTAINED TO MAKE THE MARRIAGE PLEASURABLE, AND HOLY.**

So, is monogamy natural? Emphatically NO! Monogamy is as unnatural as the desire to remain hungry constantly. This is the key to a great marriage. This knowledge will keep us alert to protect, guard, and make the marriage work. Torah (the Torah of Moshe and the Torah of Messiah) teaches us that the challenge of being human is to rise above our animal like nature (*nefesh*) and not allow the evil inclination to control us (the *yetzer hara*). We have to focus and be vigilant to keep our inclinations aligned and under control.

The fact that your natural desire and lusts lead you astray and cause you to desire other partners is not an excuse for hurting your spouse, emotionally scarring the children, and destroying your marriage. Marriage is a holy institution and we need to be aware of that single word-HOLY (set-apart). **MARRIAGE IS NOT A NATURAL INSTITUTION BUT A SUPERNATURAL ONE.** Humans do not easily adapt to marriage and monogamy due to their natural lusts and desires of the flesh. These institutions have to be worked at constantly.

Marriage is a sacred commitment to another person for a lifetime. Attached to that commitment is a price tag that one must be willing to pay. One has to be prepared to commit oneself to that other person for a lifetime. The fact that someone is prepared and committed to becoming the planet orbiting our sun substantiates the truth that we have much LIGHT to give that person.

This is not natural or easily accomplished. The aversion man seems to have towards monogamy seems rampant among men today and in other species. Ninety percent of all species and ninety seven percent of all mammals are promiscuous. But, man is not just an animal. He is created in the image of the Creator and has been given the gift of free will. He has the power to rise above his animal-like earth tied soul and transcend his lusts and desires to become holy and unique.

Marriage, commitment, and monogamy do not seem natural or even logical to the natural earthy man. Happiness and contentment in a monogamous marriage requires a great effort. Because marriage is a Divine rather than a human construct it requires the blessings of the Creator and a strong healthy spiritual life to endure and last a lifetime.