

Did the early church believe those serving and teaching were not to be married?

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An individual working and serving in the church was able to have a wife and she would sometimes travel with him (1Cor. 9:5). One of the conditions associated with a man being ordained as an elder/deacon included having only one wife (Eph. 5:30-31; 1Tim. 3:2, 12; Ti. 1:6). Hence, the true church of God taught that its elders could be married, but only to one woman as polygamy is unlawful (Mt. 19:5-6). This law applies to everyone otherwise it would be showing a respect of persons, which is contrary to God's will (Lev. 19:15; Ac. 10:34). In addition, the early church continued to obey the divine instructions of God in the law pertaining to homosexuality (Lev. 18:22; cf. Rom. 1:26-27).

This document is the collaborative work of individuals who believe God's truth should be given freely (Mt. 10:8; 1Cor. 2:12; 2Cor. 11:7; Rom. 10:14-21) and the message of the one true God should be made available to all nations (Mt. 24:14) as a prerequisite to the return of Jesus Christ as King of kings (Mt. 17:10; 19:17; Mk. 9:11; Lk. 1:17; Rev. 19:11-16).

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