**Why Do We Hide?**

Last month's discussion centered around the question “Do Black people really do this?” Judging from the success of the first Meet Up, the size of the B&P community, and the lively discussions that took place around the country, this was answered with a resounding YES. This month we will discuss the reasons we feel the need to hide when so many of us live this way.

* The Stronghold of Religion in the African American Community
* B&P Blogs

<http://blackandpoly.org/2014/07/20/is-polyamory-sanctioned-by-christianity/>

<http://blackandpoly.org/2014/07/22/coming-out-poly-in-a-christian-family-all-in-good-time/>

**Questions for Discussion:**

1. Not including the argument made in the B&P blog, are there any other ways the Bible makes a case for Polyamory?
2. If more poly families came out of hiding and brought their families to religious services, do you feel that they would be embraced or shunned?
3. Is it possible for polyamorous families to stay within the confines of their religion without compromising who they truly are as people?

* Sexual Repression in the African American Community
* European Views on Sex and Religion forced on Blacks through Slavery

**Cultural Hegemony and African American Development**

 By Clovis E. Semmes

 (pages 130, 131)

<http://books.google.com/books?id=OU2vSHLUZuMC&pg=PA130&lpg=PA130&dq=cultural+hegemony+and+african+development+sexual+repression&source=bl&ots=i_Ti5bvxzx&sig=s-_VFfj82sQltXfLSgmPUsv8ZMs&hl=en&sa=X&ei=jg0yVNHpJpHtoATbiYLYAw&ved=0CCMQ6AEwAA#v=onepage&q=cultural%20hegemony%20and%20african%20development%20sexual%20repression&f=false>

<http://books.google.com/books?id=aH-MWT3Gtb0C&printsec=frontcover&dq=book+history+of+marriage&hl=en&sa=X&ei=nw8yVOaZJYXyoASk8YGQCg&ved=0CC0Q6AEwAA#v=onepage&q=book%20history%20of%20marriage&f=false>

* Black Women Judged When They Discuss Sex Openly Vs. White Counterparts

<http://madamenoire.com/168738/no-judgment-zone-are-black-women-free-to-talk-about-sexuality-on-their-own-terms/2/>

<http://books.google.com/books?hl=en&lr=&id=aBRUjxPk_YUC&oi=fnd&pg=PA93&dq=sexual+repression+in+african+americans&ots=F-FlxLAKle&sig=F4-krkgsWWzB1uVFO_9Qg0SNi5M#v=onepage&q&f=false>

* Homosexuality Taboo in the Black Community

<http://www.amazon.com/The-Greatest-Taboo-Homosexuality-Communities/dp/1555835643>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ngkXIpuMJVs>

 **Questions for Discussion:**

1. How much does the oversexualization of black women by the media play a part in this desire to repress in our daily lives? (i.e. Black women are freaks stereotype, video vixens, the winning of an Oscar for Monsters Ball by Halle Barry)
2. How can we fight the homophobia in our community negating the need to live on the down low by our brothas in an age where gay marriage and gay rights are now mainstream?
3. How can we stop the practice of sex shaming in our community?
* Fear of Further Marginalization
* Manifestations of Prejudice in the Workplace due to Sexual Orientation

http://rhrealitycheck.org/article/2014/07/22/equal-pay-day-african-american-women/

* The Psychological Toll it Takes on Us

https://www.umass.edu/sphhs/sites/default/files/Graham\_Social%20Determinants%20BSMM.pdf

* Being Seen as the Nubian Princess or Mandingo Warrior with which White Poly Couples Can Play

 **Questions for Discussion:**

1. Will discussing our Poly lives in the workplace help or harm efforts toward Polynormativity?
2. If you have come out as Poly, what are the psychological effects that you have felt as a result of your openness?
3. Does it bother you to be seen as the exotic one with which to play in Poly circles? Or does it make you feel powerful to possess something that others cannot?