

A Conversation With an Alleged Criminal: Polygamist Joe Darger on Faith and Freedom

Editor's Pick. Interview by the Libertas Institute.

Libertas Institute: For the benefit of our readers who may not know who you are, please explain who you are and why your story is important.

Joe Darger: My name is Joe Darger, and I published a book along with my wives, and co-author Brooke Adams, titled Love Times Three. It's our true story of a polygamous marriage. I have three wives and 24 children all together. I'm a strong advocate for the decriminalization of the polygamous culture and plural families.

LI: Many people who have seen you in the news, or the cover of your book, observe that you and your wives don't look like polygamists they've seen in the media who are part of the FLDS. Why is that?

Darger: It's a natural tendency to judge everybody on outside appearance. We make strong judgments on what a polygamist looks like, and many don't understand that there's huge diversity in the polygamist community. One size doesn't fit all. Even the FLDS didn't quite dress the way they do now until Warren Jeffs took over, so even they became more extreme.

One of the first things that has been helpful in shifting paradigms is people realizing "Oh, you look like us!" The reality is, even if we didn't look like the average person on the street, I don't think people are that far different. We're all people.

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