

Q&A

PASTORAL COUNSEL

A Part of the Rise Up Men of God Ministry

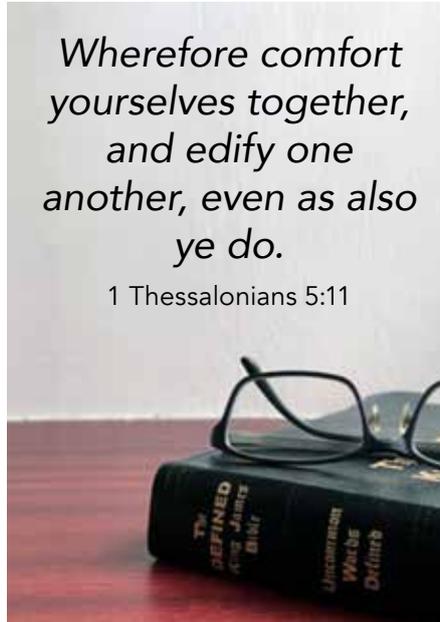
Greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. At the last RMG meeting held on 30 October 2021, there were some questions posted for the Q&A that were unanswered due to time constraints. They have been reproduced here, along with Rev Quek's answers.

I have family members who attend a non-VPP BP church. They are lay members but are in active service. Have told them about VPP etc but they either do not listen, dismiss as unimportant or get angry. Can I pray and read Bible with them? Is it right for me to warn their young children (<10yo) about the errors of the church?

They are ignorant of the Truth just as we were before we were taught. Pray for the Lord to open their eyes to see the truth. Be gracious to them. Pray and read the Bible with them only when you are leading. We should not mislead them into thinking that it is not a serious sin against God to say that He makes mistakes (which is what believing the Bible has mistakes mean). To ask them to pray or to read the Bible as if it is all well with their soul is not right and helpful to them. It will hurt them. Speaking with their children about the errors

Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.

1 Thessalonians 5:11



of the church is always on a case by case basis. The responsibility in caring for the children belongs to the parents. Teach the children the truth and let them see the errors in their church themselves. If you were to be asked by them a specific doctrinal issue then by all means explain to them the truth. But in the case of you raising the issue, teach the truth and the truth will set them free.

How to relate with these family members and their family who make a purposeful decision to remain in non-VPP churches even after being warned repeatedly?

Relate to them as one would relate to someone who has sinned in ignorance. They need help that they do not know of like a sinner

who needs the Saviour but ignorant of it. Do not do anything that will compromise your spiritual stance such as pray with them or asking them to pray when you have a family gathering. They are in sin and their prayer will not be heard by God. Also by asking them to pray after you have tried to tell them to change their wrong understanding of God's Word and how it teaches that God makes mistakes is to say to them "that is it OK, God will still hear your prayer even though you reject His truth and believe that He makes mistakes."

How would you respond to close family friends who say God doesn't want them to be vaccinated and they have asked Him many times?

Ask them how God spoke to them. To be vaccinated is not a sin just like our children are vaccinated soon after they are born. It is a medical choice. If they are afraid of being vaccinated because they are afraid of death then that is a sin. This is also true for those who are vaccinated. The reason why we are vaccinated is important. This is to improve the effectiveness of our service unto the LORD with a healthy body and also to care for others by taking every precaution not to be a burden. The reason behind what we do in cases that are not sinful is crucial in helping us

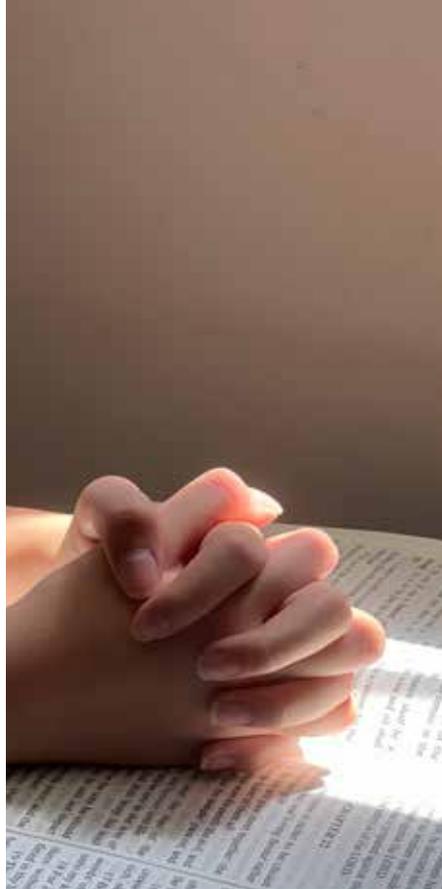
decide whether what we do is a sin or not. For whatever we do that is not of faith is sin. **Romans 14:23** *“And he that doubteth is damned if he eat, because he eateth not of faith: for whatsoever is not of faith is sin.”*

How can we impact our unbelieving parents (especially those who are adverse towards our faith) in the hope that they'll accept Jesus as their Lord and Saviour?

Be holy and do not compromise. Your parents have seen the old you and the new you. They will know the amazing difference. Share the gospel of Christ with them whenever possible. Know that salvation is of the LORD. The gospel shared plus your life of holiness are powerful means that the LORD can use to bring salvation in His time. Keep on praying for it is a spiritual battle for souls.

There are opportunities to serve in church during MWS, but I will not be worshipping with my family at home. Should I serve in church or worship at home with my family?

Worshipping with the family is always good. But when we are overseas on business or missions we cannot do so. But what is the spiritual significance of worshipping together with family? The significance is that of a covenantal blessing where God says when one parent is a believer the whole family is holy in His sight (cf. 1Corinthians 7:14). This helps



to teach our children the importance of their salvation in Christ. Just as we worship the LORD together as a family on earth how more wonderful it will be when we all worship the LORD together in heaven. In the case of a choice of serving in church or staying home and worship as a family, COVID cases are trying times. In some cases it is not wise and in other cases it is fine to do so. It depends on the family as this is a case by case situation.

Is it right to teach our children to save their pocket money? After they have given their tithe.

Teaching our children to do all things from a biblical perspective is important. The reason for asking our children to save is more important than the mere act of saving. Explain to them that all things come from our heavenly Father above. They need to use all

things wisely and judiciously for the glory of God. Teach our children to use all things for their growth in grace and in the knowledge of God in Christ. Teach them to use them to help others know Christ and be better Christians.

Young children e.g. 1-2 years old are unbelievers. But parents pray with them like they are believers. How should we pray with them? What if they grow up and think they are believers (when they are not) because their parents/grandparents pray with them as if they are believers since young? Will this harm them? Should we pray for them or pray with them? Since unbelievers cannot pray to God, when they grow up to primary school and still don't believe, can we still pray with them?

Parents are supposed to pray with them and for them. They are your children. It is your God given duty to provide for your children a Christ-centred environment where the Word of God is taught and obeyed and prayers are heard constantly. The children will then know that they have been living the Christian life outwardly but not inwardly. Through that experience they will want to live the Christian life inwardly as well. By the conviction of the Spirit of God they will come to know Christ.

How to explain to my young children when my wife occasionally becomes spiteful/provocative to them when they resist her sometimes unrealistic demands on them?

This question is unclear as the ages of the children are not stated. The biblical guideline is that children must honour parents in the LORD. If by “explaining” to the children the children dishonour the parent or even lower their honour for the parent, then it is wrong to “explain.” Speak to your wife. Let her know that what she is doing is unrealistic. This approach will be safer and better as parents are not to provoke the children to wrath (cf. Ephesians 6:1-4). This is more of a husband and wife issue rather than a mother and children issue.

Hi pastor, what is the biblical view of family planning and the use of various contraceptives in light of it?

Family planning is not a sin. Do know that the LORD is the One who blesses us with children and not our “family planning.” Use only methods of birth control that will not contravene the Bible. For example any method that takes a life is a sin. Life begins the moment there is conception. **Psalm 139:14-17** “*I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well. 15 My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts*

of the earth. 16 Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them. 17 How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God! how great is the sum of them!” [Emphasis added] The word “substance” in verses 15 and 16 (though two different Hebrew words) but they refer to the embryo.

Is family planning ok? E.g. should we stop with three children? Can we plan the time of birth (first half of year so that they will not be disadvantaged in class)

The answer is given above.

Some have taken up Qigong as their preferred form of exercise. And some learning it even from Masters in Facebook, etc. How should we advise these brethren?

Wikipedia says, “The history of qigong, the Chinese practice of aligning breath, movement, and awareness for exercise, healing, and martial arts training, extends back more than 4,000 years.

Contemporary qigong is a complex accretion of the ancient Chinese meditative practice xing qi (行氣) or “circulating qi” and the gymnastic breathing exercise tao yin (導引) or “guiding and pulling”, with roots in the I Ching and occult arts; philosophical traditions of Confucianism, Taoism, and Buddhism,

Traditional Chinese Medicine and martial arts; along with influences of contemporary concepts of health, science, meditation, and exercise.” Qigong is a mixture of physical exercises and spirituality. It still contains such associations. Therefore as a child of God it is better to abstain from all appearance of evil as God has commanded us to do at all times. It is not wise to practice Qigong even though one might think that it is purely for exercise. But the association qigong brings with it makes it a transgression. **1 Corinthians 10:31-33** “*Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God. 32 Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God: 33 Even as I please all men in all things, not seeking mine own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved.*”

Rise Up Men of God Ministry

Our next meeting will be on **29th Jan 2022** (5th Sat). The message will be

Stand Fast!
(2 Thessalonians 2:1-17)

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