

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. Questions posted at the RMG meeting held on 29 January 2022, that were unanswered due to time constraints, have been reproduced here, along with Rev. Quek's answers.

Some questions have been edited for clarity.

Is it ok to meet and 'fellowship' with [people] who leave to go to non-VPP church? Can pray with them? How to tell [people] who have fellowship with these ppl about this?

A non-VPP church is a church that believes that God makes mistakes. A VPP church is a church that believes God makes no mistakes. This is a very serious and huge difference. Both believe in a different God. If the word "fellowship" means that your doctrines and the other person's doctrines are one and the same and therefore "sharing your lives" is pleasing in the sight of God, then it is not acceptable to God to have fellowship with those from a non-VPP church. They believe that the Bible has mistakes and therefore God makes mistakes you do not. Do you think the prayers of a person to his "God" who makes mistakes is the same as you praying to your

God who is perfect and makes no mistakes? Did Elijah up on Mount Carmel pray together with the Baal prophets? If these people have "fellowship" with them with the purpose of helping them know the truth then the "fellowship" is acceptable to God (being our brother's keeper to help them see the truth). But if the "fellowship" is seen as condoning their compromise then it is best to stop the "fellowship" for it will be seen as partaker of their compromise. It is important that truth be told with grace at the right time and place and always with much prayer.

Our girl completed the BBK recently but informed us that she is not ready for Reaffirmation as she cannot answer all the questions positively. Any advice, please?

What are the questions that she cannot answer positively? Reaffirmation of the faith simply means that a person has truly accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour. This cannot be forced but encouraged. She is honest with you and before God. Just continue to encourage her. Salvation is of the LORD. When she is truly convicted and converted you will know that she is truly saved as she is serious about her relationship with Christ. Continue to pray for the Lord to convict and convert her for salvation is of the LORD.

Please enlighten us on your view of cryptocurrency. Is it of the antichrist and the devil?

"Definition of cryptocurrency : any form of currency that only exists digitally, that usually has no central issuing or regulating authority but





instead uses a decentralized system to record transactions and manage the issuance of new units, and that relies on cryptography to prevent counterfeiting and fraudulent transactions.” (Merriam Webster Dictionary)

– Everything that is done on earth is of the god of this world. This is his influence in blinding the minds of those who do not believe (cf. 2Cor 4:4). Jesus says to us that He sent His disciples forth as sheep among wolves. We are serving and witnessing for Christ in the devil’s world. The whole monetary system will be controlled by the Antichrist one day, otherwise how will he be able to ensure that those who do not have the mark of the beast (his devilish mark) cannot buy or sell?

My parents-in-law are long-time believers but don’t show Christlike traits (quarrel, selfish). I’m concerned about their spiritual health. How can I help them?

Pray for them. Quarrels and selfish behaviour between husbands and wives are part of a married life.

People keep on changing. The question is after they sin do they make up and remain married? Watch out for their lives after transgression. Do not expect sinless perfection in marriage. If they repent and forgive one another then it is fine. If they quarrel lesser and lesser with time it is also fine.

Dear pastor, my family has been attending Pandan for a while, we enjoy the preaching but we find the fellowship cold. We attend SAF, but find it hard to integrate. What should we do? Are we doing something wrongly?

“Cold” fellowship is hard to define. Pieces of coal need to be placed together in contact before the heat of one can warm up the others. When you attend SAF or any fellowship the primary purpose is to know God better by knowing His Word. This is fellowship with God first. If this is accomplished then you have experienced a “warm” fellowship already. When

it comes to fellowship with a fellow believer it takes time. Try to make the first move. Do the approaching. Having a superficial “warm” fellowship is not true fellowship like a smile and a hug in many western churches. This is one of the reasons for much sinful behaviour. A proper fellowship is one that shares life sincerely where the parties pray together, serve together, protect each other’s spiritual wellbeing and are not easily undermined by the gossip of others. To accomplish this, it takes time and plenty of forgiveness, patience, and mutual understanding and acceptance. Some of us have thought that we had good fellowship because we knew each other, served together and had meals together for more than two decades but the moment a hurt or a rebuke entered into the picture the 20 plus years long relationship disintegrated overnight! Was there a real fellowship from the beginning? I do not think so. Because true fellowship in Christ does not evaporate like that. True fellowship is one where we protect each other’s spiritual wellbeing. Forgiveness and being forgiven, rebuke and being rebuked are part of this spiritual protection. **Proverbs 27:5-6** “*Open rebuke is better than secret love. 6 Faithful are the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful.*” Also 1Cor 13:4-7.

Why is the Lord’s Prayer [that] we recite different from the Lord’s Prayer in the Bible? My son is asking.

When we “recite” the Lord’s Prayer we are not saying that we are quoting the KJV. **Matthew 6:9-15** “*After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. 10 Thy*

kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. **11** Give us this day our daily bread. **12** And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. **13** And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen. **14** For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: **15** But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."

[Emphasis added] Praying with understanding is more important. The word "debts" means "faults." But the word "debts" has changed with time and it now means "money owed." Look at verses 14 and 15 where the Lord Jesus Christ explains that if we do not forgive the trespasses of others neither will God forgive our trespasses. To avoid any misunderstanding the word "debts" is replaced with "trespasses."

Does leaving behind a legacy (i.e. assets) for my child help or harm him spiritually? We're concerned our child may struggle in this increasingly difficult world.

Leaving a legacy (financial or material) is fine because it is not a sinful thing to do. King David left behind a very good material "legacy" for Solomon. So did Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and many others. But most important of all is your spiritual legacy that you leave behind. If your child is godly, he will know that his heart is with God in Christ and he will seek first God's righteousness and His kingdom. The material legacy will not ruin him. **Matthew 6:20-24** "*But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither*

"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things will be added unto you."

Matthew 6:33

*moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: **21** For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. **22** The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light. **23** But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness! **24** No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon."* And **Matthew 6:33** "*But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.*"

If you say that 1 + 1 = 2, and your wife says that 1 + 1 = 3, and quarrel, yet you swallow your pride and apologise. Wouldn't that mislead the children?

Is it not partly your fault that your wife has become a "1+1=3" person after marrying you since you are the head of the home? Evaluate how it has come to this. Help her to become "1+1=2" with much prayer and patience with the Word

of God as the guide. I am sure there were times when most of us were the "1+1=3" personality.

My uni friend is from Life Church and he says that he, his pastor and his church do not believe that the Bible has mistakes. Have they changed their stand?

This is called deception. Ask him to ask his pastor, and get a signed statement from his pastor that he believes the Bible is perfect in the past and in the present i.e. he believes in verbal plenary preservation (VPP) of God's Word. His pastor was a faculty member of FEBC before he resigned. He resigned from FEBC because he could not sign the statement of faith that states "we have a perfect Bible today." This is an eye witness account. Then led by him and his BOE, LBPC took FEBC to court defending the view that the Bible has mistakes. One of their witnesses was the pastor of Galilee BPC who declared, after swearing on the Bible to tell the truth, that "God forbid that the Bible is perfect." Please go to the court and read the affidavits for yourself to know the truth. If they have changed their stance then there would have been a written apology and evidence of repentance such as returning LBPC to True Life BPC. They ought to publish a retraction of their erroneous position of the past i.e. teaching that the Bible has mistakes and that God did not preserve His perfect Word perfectly. Clearly there was no such retraction and restoration.

Is there any reason why we do not adopt discipleship like what Christ where he trained 12 disciples? Sometimes

classroom program makes it one-way due to time.

Jesus did not ask us to imitate Him in terms of His culture. He wore open sandals and a long robe as His outer garment. He did not ask us to die by crucifixion because this was the way He died. Jesus called His 12 disciples to leave everything and live, eat and sleep with Him. He was on earth for His disciples to do so. After His resurrection and ascension all that stopped. Paul trained Timothy, Titus and others when they travelled with him on mission trips, for that were their way of church life at that time. They did not have Bible Colleges and seminaries. They did not drive cars or fly in airplanes.

Discipleship depends on the culture and times that believers lived and served in. Discipleship in the times of the first 300 years was one of persecution, hiding in catacombs and caves. Discipleship in the time of the Dark Ages was

to ride horses and donkeys, hiding from the powerful Roman Catholic Church and bringing the gospel on horseback from place to place.

Discipleship in the time of Martin Luther and John Calvin was in the battle field as they defended themselves as Protestants vs. the Roman Catholics. Different times, different application of discipleship.

However the fundamental meaning of discipleship is to walk in the footsteps of Christ. Classroom situation is the education of the mind. Living is where true discipleship begins when what is learned in the classroom is translated into life experiences. This understanding of discipleship has not changed. The manner of hearing God's Word varies with time from persecution to classroom but the application to life is true discipleship. Methods differ but the conclusion must be the same deny yourself, take up the cross and follow Christ.

James 1:22-27 *"But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. 23 For if*

any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: 24 For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. 25 But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed. 26 If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain. 27 Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world."

Parable of [the Wheat and the Tares] (Matt 13:24-30, 36-43). How to understand Biblical Separation in the light of our Lord Jesus' explanation?

This is a parable that teaches us the **need** for the doctrine of biblical separation and not be against it. Jesus reveals to us that God's sheep are serving and witnessing among wolves. Some of these wolves have and will continue to masquerade as sheep, hence the term "wolves in sheep's clothing." They are semi-nary and Bible College professors with many theological degrees to make their masquerade deceptively more potent. The coexistence of these enemies of God, Christ and of the believers must make God's children to be on guard and more prayerful. In heaven there is no need to pray and be on guard at all because there are no enemies there. We are in the devil's world saving souls who are in bondage to sin and serving the devil, until they are saved like Saul who became the Apostle Paul.



Pandan's YouTube: "We maintain close spiritual links with all Bible-believing Christians regardless of denominational boundaries. However..." Please elaborate.

CPBPC maintains and defends the fundamentalist position in our uncompromising stand on the Word of God. We hold that the Holy Scriptures (Hebrew and Greek texts) are God's Word, inerrant and infallible and the supreme authority in faith and practice. They are the Hebrew and Greek texts underlying the King James Bible. The King James Bible is the most faithful English Translation and to be used exclusively in our Church. We also endeavour to "earnestly contend for the faith once delivered unto the saints" (Jude 3) in an age of increasing apostasy and departure from the fundamentals of the historic Christian faith. We maintain close spiritual links with all Bible-believing Christians regardless of denominational boundaries. However, we refrain from any form of involvement or association with individuals or churches or organizations which are known to be linked with the apostasy, the unfaithful "Christian" bodies.

The context of the above words is inserted here for easy reference. The statement means that we believe that there are other Bible believing churches in Christendom that have not yet compromised and fallen prey to the deception of the last days. One of the signs of the last days is the falling away of Christianity i.e. Christianity will become apostate (cf. 2Thessalonians 2:1-3). The official date of start of this apostasy was 1948 with the birth of the World

Council of Churches, the seed of the ecumenical movement. Today it has enveloped the world and control over a very large part of Christendom. Some of the fundamentalist churches that have not joined the ecumenical movement are Baptists, Brethren churches, and independent churches that are not Bible-Presbyterians. We associate with them in areas that we have a common doctrinal understanding such as the versions of the Bible (KJV only), the doctrine of biblical separation, etc.

BBK is the best complete set of materials to follow up new believers. This is good but [too] heavy for laymen to use with new believers. Can we [have] an abridged version?

BBK is not meant to be follow-up material for new believers on a one on one basis, unless the person using it can explain simply and clearly to the new believer. He can adapt and use the lessons in it that are more appropriate. For example, he can avoid the lessons on church constitution. BBK was designed for membership so that all who join will have a more complete understanding of the basic doctrines and of the church he is joining.

Our parents/parents-in-law disagree at times with how we take care of our baby or raise our child. How to balance between respecting them and asserting our roles?

Parents do not stop parenting even though children have left home and started their lives as parents. They cannot help themselves loving and forever remembering and

cares for their children's wellbeing. However they need to learn to be less controlling parents just as children need to be more independent as they leave home. This balance is a lifelong lesson whereby both parties need to adjust and learn without doubting each other's motive of love. Your parents mean well and wish for you to make fewer mistakes which you will do as you learn independence and make mistakes. Therein lies the challenge. Let your parents share



their thoughts and thank them, even as you bring up your children, their grandchildren, in the fear and admonition of the Lord. Enjoy their contribution with thankfulness, for they can only do so till they are no longer with you. Agree to disagree at times and listen to what they say and evaluate their advice according to God's Word. If it is biblical listen to them as if you are listening to Christ. If it is not, be firm but gently let them know, without compromising on your Christian testimony.

Some vaccines use cells that are grown from tissues of aborted fetuses in their research or production. Isn't this unethical? The Bible says we must not kill.

Assuming that this is true, i.e. the vaccine is made using the tissues of aborted fetuses. There is a difference between direct and secondary actions. If you eat the chicken rice you are not the one charged for killing the chicken. If you drink the milk you cannot say that you milked the cow yourself. You eat the chilli but you cannot say that you grew and plucked the chilli yourself. A vaccine is a vaccine.

My wife and I want to stay home to take care of our child. But my wife is bonded because of her profession. What should we do? Should she finish her bond or should she quit? We can't pay the cost for breaking the bond. What can we do in the mean time?

Situations in life are created by our decisions and actions. It is important to keep our word as Christians. To finish the bond under normal circumstances is to keep our word. There may be extenuating circumstances in life where one is allowed to pay up the balance of the bond with money as part of the bond agreement. One of these circumstances could be the death of a loved one resulting in the need for breaking a bond. If one does not have the funds then the option to break the bond is not a consideration. The only option left is to finish the bond. The reason for breaking the bond is crucial in



deciding whether it is right or wrong to break the bond. If the reason is greed and for personal gain and benefit then it is a sinful motive.

How would you tell your wife to forgive your parents who are unbelievers and have wronged her in the past and still do not like your wife?

Forgive for Jesus sake. **Matthew 18:21-35** “Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times? **22** Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven. **23** Therefore is the kingdom of heaven likened unto a certain king, which would take account of his servants. **24** And when he had begun to reckon, one was brought unto him, which owed him ten thousand talents. **25** But forasmuch as he had not to pay, his lord commanded him to be sold, and his wife, and children, and all that he had, and payment to be made. **26** The servant therefore fell down, and worshipped him, saying, Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay thee all. **27** Then the lord of that servant was

*moved with compassion, and loosed him, and forgave him the debt. **28** But the same servant went out, and found one of his fellowservants, which owed him an hundred pence: and he laid hands on him, and took him by the throat, saying, Pay me that thou owest. **29** And his fellowservant fell down at his feet, and besought him, saying, Have patience with me, and I will pay thee all. **30** And he would not: but went and cast him into prison, till he should pay the debt. **31** So when his fellowservants saw what was done, they were very sorry, and came and told unto their lord all that was done. **32** Then his lord, after that he had called him, said unto him, O thou wicked servant, I forgave thee all that debt, because thou desiredst me: **33** Shouldest not thou also have had compassion on thy fellowservant, even as I had pity on thee? **34** And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto him. **35** So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses.”*

The Christian testimony of your wife is important to save the souls of your parents. This is a spiritual

battle for their souls. If she reacts the same way they do, then she is behaving like an unbeliever. There is no temptation that the Lord has allowed that our faith cannot bear.

1 Corinthians 10:13 *“There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.”* It is a test of your wife’s faith, trust and love for the Lord’s sake and to also live in the LORD.

My child learns about non-biblical stuff (Theory of Evolution, Big Bang Theory) in school and may even be tested. Do we tell them not to listen to teachers?

Teach your child to listen carefully to what the teacher is teaching. Teach him/her to discern what is true and what is not. This means you need to teach your child the Word of God especially the doctrine of creation. Always make sure of your child’s salvation in the process.

We stand fast for truth, we must. But we should also be known for mercy and grace, Christ [is] full of grace and truth John 1:14, By mercy and truth... Proverbs 16:6 , yes [sic]?

Mercy, grace and truth are not in contradiction. Truth without mercy and grace is legalistic pharisaism. Grace and mercy without truth is sentimentalism.

Would it be possible to provide the biblical references for one parent to stay home in the pastoral writeup?

Proverbs 1:8-9, *“My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother: For they shall be an ornament of grace unto thy head, and chains about thy neck.”* **Proverbs 3:11-12**, *“My son, despise not the chastening of the LORD; neither be weary of his correction: For whom the LORD loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth.”*

Proverbs 4:1-2, *“Hear, ye children, the instruction of a father, and attend to know understanding. For I give you good doctrine, forsake ye not my law.”* **Proverbs 4:3-4**, *“For I was my father’s son, tender and only beloved in the sight of my mother. He taught me also, and said unto me, Let thine heart retain my words: keep my commandments, and live.”*

Proverbs 6:20-29, *“My son, keep thy father’s commandment, and forsake not the law of thy mother: Bind them continually upon thine heart, and tie them about thy neck. When thou goest, it shall lead thee; when thou sleepest, it shall keep thee; and when thou awakest, it shall talk with thee. For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life: To keep thee from the evil woman, from the flattery of the tongue of a strange woman. Lust not after her beauty in thine heart; neither let her take thee with her*

eyelids. For by means of a whorish woman a man is brought to a piece of bread: and the adulteress will hunt for the precious life. Can a man take fire in his bosom, and his clothes not be burned? Can one go upon hot coals, and his feet not be burned? So he that goeth in to his neighbour’s wife; whosoever toucheth her shall not be innocent.” **Proverbs 10:1**, *“The proverbs of Solomon. A wise son maketh a glad father: but a foolish son is the heaviness of his mother.”*

Proverbs 13:1, *“A wise son heareth his father’s instruction: but a scorner heareth not rebuke.”* **Proverbs 15:5**, *“A fool despiseth his father’s instruction: but he that regardeth reproof is prudent.”* **Proverbs 15:20**, *“A wise son maketh a glad father: but a foolish man despiseth his mother.”*

Proverbs 17:6, *“Children’s children are the crown of old men; and the glory of children are their fathers.”* **Proverbs 17:21**, *“He that begetteth a fool doeth it to his sorrow: and the father of a fool hath no joy.”*

These are just a few Bible verses on the impact of parents on their children whereby the parents are held accountable for their children’s upbringing. If they do not stay home and be responsible for them, then God will hold them accountable. If they abdicate their responsibility and pass it on to someone



else, God will still hold the parents accountable especially the father who is the head of the home.

What is your thought of work from home parent who [stays] home to take care of children?

Staying home is not the end all. Just because a parent stays home does not mean anything good if the parent does not study God's Word and be a godly parent. Besides providing physical nourishment, the parent must also keep the house clean, for cleanliness is next to godliness, as the saying goes. Clean, study God's Word, care for and teach the child or children, bring them up in the fear and nurture of the LORD, serve in church, do groceries shopping, prepare three meals a day, etc. are the necessary duties for the stay home parent. If all these are done well to the glory of God, without compromising any of these important responsibilities, then you may consider a work from home business.

Rise Up Men of God Ministry

Our next meeting will be on **2nd May 2022**. The message will be

Quit Ye Like Men!
(Joshua 1:1-18)

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