

# 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.** Owing to the limited time to respond to the questions posted during the RMG meeting held on 2 May 2022, there were some questions that were unanswered.

The following are Rev. Quek's answers to these questions.

## **Can pastor pls share some advice on the spiritual considerations and counsel in estate planning/writing of will? Any pitfalls to avoid? Thanks**

Know the spiritual well-being of the ones who will be in your will. Know that too much money can result in carnality if the person is not spiritually mature enough to deal with it, especially with a sudden windfall like a will. We know the examples of Daniel and Joseph who were promoted overnight into positions of power and wealth and were not corrupted by them. They knew how to manage because of their spiritual well-being. Provide a will that will have a positive spiritual outcome for the recipients.

## **Are we stumbling others by sending CNY greetings with graphics of a Tiger? If yes, shouldn't we also avoid giving Ang Paos since it is a superstitious belief?**

This is a casuistic question that is open to interpretation. It all depends on how the Tiger is portrayed in that greeting.

The tiger is just an animal created by God. It may be superstitious to some but not to others. If the one that you are greeting is superstitious and you feel that it might cause him grief or cause him to become more superstitious, then avoid the sending the greeting. This is to be handled on a case by case basis. The LORD has given to all believers the general guideline of "as unto the LORD" when it comes to observing our culture. Christians live in different cultures all over the world. We are told by God not to accept the Jewish culture if we are not Jewish even though it is the only culture ordained by God. It was for the purpose of their national witness for Christ. The church is not a national witness. All cultures of gentile nations originated from some degree of idolatry or superstition. With the passage of time, some aspects of these practices have lost their superstitious

and religious natures. They just became cultures. When it has reached such a state then the believer is permitted to observe it as unto the LORD.

## **What is the biblical view towards IVF for married couples and egg freezing for singles?**

IVF involves the fertilization of the eggs outside of the mother's womb. As Christians we know that once there is fertilization, life has begun. As long as Commandment # 6, i.e. "Exodus 20:13 Thou shalt not kill.", is not broken, there is no reason why IVF is not permissible. Having said this, it is more important to seek God's will on this matter of parenthood. Medical science has opened many doors of possibilities for husbands and wives to have children. Just because they are available does not mean that Christians ought to use them without seeking God's will through much prayer and waiting upon the Lord. Being a parent is a lifelong responsibility.

## **Is family planning ok? What should we consider in deciding how many children to have? Does "be fruitful and multiply" apply to us?**

Family planning is not a sin. The reason behind the family planning is important. It can become a sin when the reasons are man-centred and selfish. Consider God's will and His direction on whether potential parents are spiritually prepared to bring the children up in the fear and admonition



of the Lord. The command to be fruitful and multiply was given by the LORD to Noah when the population of the earth then was only 8 souls.

**If I'm a Christian Russian soldier under Putin and ordered to attack another country, what biblical principles should I apply?**

Let your commanding officer know that you do not want to do it and be prepared to pay the ultimate price. God's grace will be your sufficiency.

**If someone can afford a lavish life, should he avoid the opulence for the sake of his family (against materialism) and his brethren (to avoid stoking envy)?**

He should use the wealth that the Lord entrusted to him for God's glory and the blessing of God's people. He needs to view it as a material responsibility that he has to give and account to the Lord for how he uses it. Avoidance is not a solution. Our basis for decision making is whether it is right or wrong according to Scriptures. Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, King David, and many others were entrusted by the LORD with much material responsibilities. They passed the test.

**What is your opinion on options investment (a right to buy shares at certain prices on specified dates) which may sound like gambling to some but if one uses math models (statistics and calculus) and careful study on options features, is it still okay to proceed with it?**

Your heart condition is the key to answering this question. First, is buying or selling shares a sinful thing? It is not. It is just buying and selling shares. The next step is the motive behind the buying and the selling of the shares. Is it greed or not? Jesus says in **Matthew 6:19-24** "Lay not up for

*yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: 20 But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither 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."*

**What does total abstinence mean? Does it mean we should avoid food prepared with alcohol in cooking e.g. Chinese cooking, pastry, chocolates, fermented tea etc.**

Total abstinence means no drinking of alcohol. When food is cooked with alcohol the alcohol evaporates. There is no issue against eating food cooked with alcohol.

**Does total abstinence include not using wine for cooking?**

It does not.



**On discerning God's calling, other than fervent prayer & obeying what's clearly commanded in the bible, does God reveal it mainly thru circumstances in our lives?**

God uses prayer, His Holy Word and circumstances in life to help us know His will. Prayer is when we make known to Him our heart's desire. The Bible has His clear instructions teaching us how to pray and know what is right or wrong. Circumstances in life are the execution of the above two.

**Pastor recently preached during Tues Bible study that there should not be recreation on the Lord's Day. Can pastor please give more exact examples of some recreations that are allowed or not allowed? For example, is jogging in the evening after the end of the day ok? Is attending a friend's birthday party on the Lord's day ok?**

Recreation involves bodily exercise that is planned such as a tennis match or a golf game, etc. There is not a legalistic list of do's and don'ts. The Lord's Day is a day when time is spent with God's people in worship, study of God's Word, Christian fellowship and bodily rest from regular labour. The main purpose is to help every believer remember that this world is not their home. They are to live in holiness for Christ and not for mammon or anything or self or person on earth. The Lord's Day is a foretaste of our eternal worship of God and Christian fellowship with likeminded brothers and sisters in Christ.

**Can you clarify whether Adam was also forbidden from eating from the tree of life in addition to the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (Gen 2:17)?**

Adam was not permitted to eat the fruit of the Tree of Life after he sinned against the LORD. The test was for

man not to eat of the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Genesis 2:16-17 “And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: 17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.” If Adam had passed the test he would probably have been given permission to eat the fruit of the tree of life. But sadly he failed. He had to be cast out and prevented from eating the fruit of the tree of life.



### **I am currently a UNI student and if I choose to work overseas (UK or AUSTRALIA) after grad, what are the spiritual guidelines and verses I should look out for?**

The guideline in seeking God’s will is to answer these questions honestly: Why do you wish to go? How is your present walk with the Lord? Is it spiritually healthy? Which are your areas of service now in the church? How is your daily devotion? What Bible Study program do you have right now to help you grow in grace and knowledge of the LORD? What is your home situation like? Will your absence help your family be more spiritual or not?

### **Pastor mentioned that wives cannot ask questions during ACM. Can you please explain more and why? How about unmarried women?**

**1 Corinthians 14:34-35** “Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience, as also saith the law. 35 And if they will learn any thing, let them ask their husbands at home: for it is a shame for women to speak in the church.” The context is public worship. The husband as the head of the house represents her and the children. He can speak on her behalf if he thinks that the matter is

worth being raised in public. She bears his name after marriage. If there is an incident in the course of the public asking, then the shame that follows will be upon the husband as well. The rift in the home might become a problem. Unmarried ladies can ask the leaders before the public meeting if they have any questions.

### **Unvaccinated cannot attend Sunday worship. If VDS continues long term, what should be done? Will public livestream be available as long as there is VDS? Pandan did not have public livestream before Covid to discourage people from worshipping at home - is this correct? With VDS, has that position changed? Otherwise unvaccinated cannot even worship from home.**

As long as VDS is in place, live stream will continue. One of the reasons for not making live stream publicly available to all is the fear of laziness in members. This decision was taken out of our hands when Covid came. All of us faced the test of expediency in worship. Some passed and some did not. The LORD has His timing. He knows best. **Romans 8:28-30** “And we know that all things work together for

*good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. 29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. 30 Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.”*

### **Hi pastor, one qualification of an elder is dependent on his children. They can qualify (1 Tim 3:4) and disqualify him (Neh 13:28). Is it correct? In this case, how to assess these children (different ages)? Are they held to higher standards if they are not the ones called to be elder?**

The qualifications of an elder are not dependent on his children. One of the qualifications of an elder is dependent on how the elder brought up his children from birth. If a believer is not able to care for his family, how can he care for the church, God’s larger family? **1 Timothy 3:4-5** “One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; 5 (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?)”

**Nehemiah 13:28** “And one of the sons



*a baptised believer and the bride either a baptised believer or a catechumen (2 Cor 6:14; Eph 5:21-33).” [Article. 7.9] The groom will become the head of the new home. He must have made a public confession that Christ is his Lord and Saviour before he can seek God’s blessing as he begins his married life. The bride will submit herself unto her own husband as unto the Lord.*

**Only a Christian can do God’s will. Was Judas doing God’s will when he betrayed Jesus? If he was, then was he a Christian?**

Everyone on earth falls within the sovereign will of God. No one can do anything outside of God’s will. One does not have to be a Christian to be within God’s sovereign will. The moment he begins to exist in his mother’s womb he falls within God’s will.

**Can a person enter into courtship with a person who is a believer but not baptised?**

This is a situation that has to be answered on a case by case basis and considered very carefully. In certain cases it is not advisable. In other cases it is fine.

**Will someone who commits suicide still go to heaven?**

It depends on whether he was a believer or not when he committed suicide. If he was not a believer he would not go to heaven. If he was a believer before he became mentally ill and if it is based upon his mental illness that he committed suicide, then the LORD knows that in the time of his mental illness he was no longer himself. Then by the mercies of God and God’s assurance that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ, he will enter heaven. ✠

*of Joiada, the son of Eliashib the high priest, was son in law to Sanballat the Horonite: therefore I chased him from me.” This is a totally different context. The high priest was not an elder. The qualification of a high priest was by birth according to Aaronic lineage. The assessment is on the believer and not his children.*

**I’m a young man. How can I tell my Christian parents or older Christians when they sin or do something unbiblical in a God honouring way? It is difficult.**

This is a casuistic situation. There are times when you can tell and there are times when it is best that you do not tell personally and ask someone else for help to tell.

**Some parents love their children more than themselves. Is that ok?**

**Matthew 22:36-40** *“Master, which is the great commandment in the law? 37 Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. 40 On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”* The teaching of the Bible is to love God with all our heart, soul,

mind and strength. With this love for God, we love our neighbour including our children. If we love our children more than ourselves then they become our idol-gods. That is why parents fall into sin more often than not because of their children. When the love for our children is based upon our love for God, then we will be able to love them rightly and based upon God’s truth. This Christ-centred love will result in right and appropriate action toward them with eternity’s perspective in view.

**(Gen 22:1-14) God singled out Isaac to be sacrificed instead of Sarah. Does this imply that God knew Abraham loved Isaac even over Sarah? Is this ok?**

The rule of hermeneutics is to understand the Bible based upon what is revealed, and not upon what is not revealed.

**What is the Bible’s teaching on whether a couple is allowed to marry if one party is a baptised Christian while the other is a Christian and not baptised yet.**

The Church Constitution of Calvary Pandan on weddings is: *“The solemnisation of marriages between born-again believers. The groom must be*