



WALKING ON WATER
BIBLE CHURCH

BIBLE STUDY

Q&A

with

PASTOR MIKE

DIVORCE & REMARRIAGE *and* OTHER QUESTIONS...



BRING YOUR BIBLE.
BRING YOUR QUESTIONS.



OPEN DISCUSSION.
BIBLICAL ANSWERS.



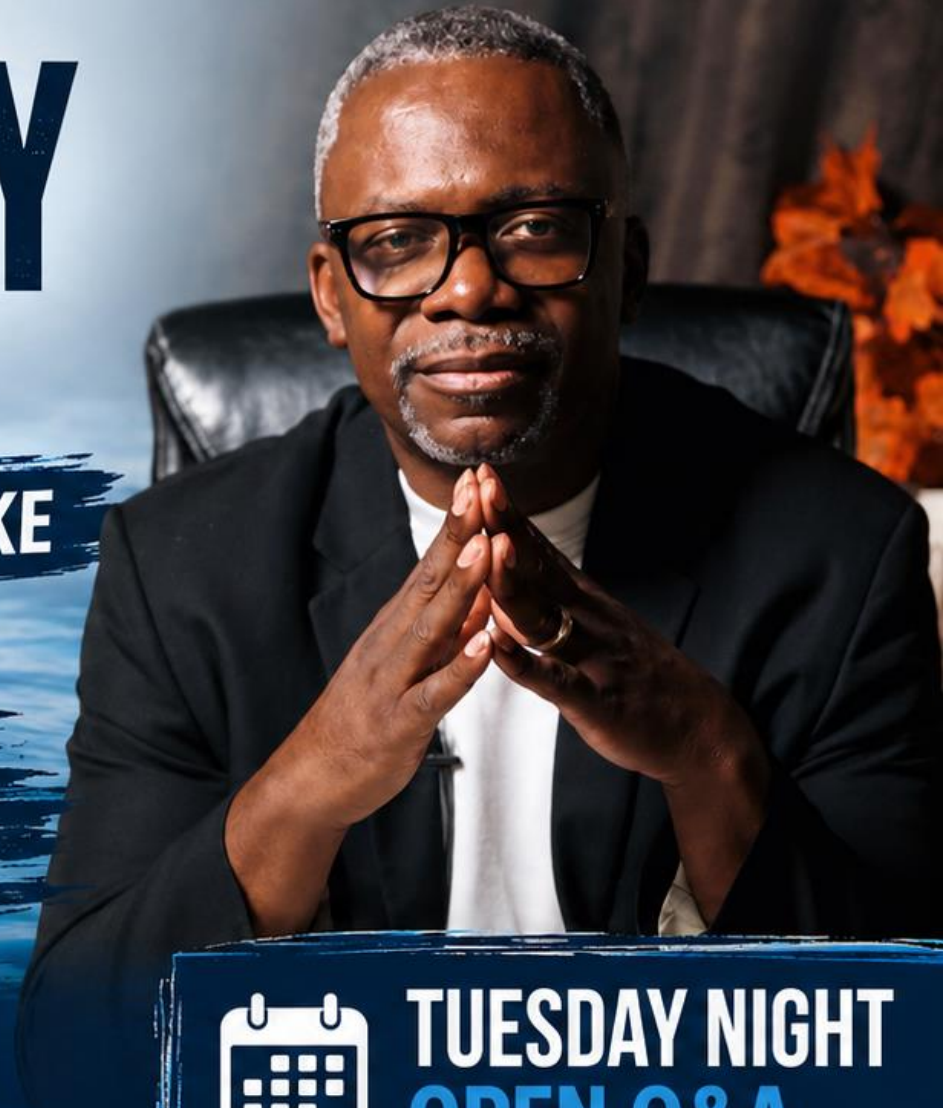
GROW IN TRUTH.
TOGETHER.



**TUESDAY NIGHT
OPEN Q&A**

LET'S GET INTO
GOD'S WORD TOGETHER!

"THY WORD IS A LAMP UNTO MY FEET, AND A LIGHT UNTO MY PATH." – PSALM 119:105



Position Statement:



- Marriage is a sacred, lifelong covenant established by God. Divorce is never God's ideal, but because of human sin, Scripture recognizes limited circumstances in which divorce is permitted. According to this position, the Bible provides **two legitimate grounds for divorce**:
- **Sexual immorality (porneia)** (Matthew 5:31–32; Matthew 19:3–9), including persistent, unrepentant sexual sin such as adultery, pornography, prostitution, and other forms of covenant-breaking sexual immorality.
- **Willful abandonment** (1 Corinthians 7:10–16), whether by an unbeliever or by one who claims to be a believer but, through persistent rebellion and church discipline, demonstrates himself to be functioning as an unbeliever (Matthew 18:15–17).



A. Marriage is a Divine Covenant

- **Genesis 2:24**
- "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh."
- Marriage was God's institution before government, Israel, or the church existed.
- Marriage is: Exclusive; Permanent; Covenantal; One flesh
- Malachi 2:14 - "...she is your companion and your wife by covenant."
- Marriage is not merely a contract. It is a covenant before God.



B. God Hates Divorce

- Malachi 2:16
- "For I hate divorce, says the LORD..."
- God does not hate divorced people.
- He hates what divorce represents:
- broken covenants; betrayal; destruction of families; sin against one's spouse
- Divorce always reflects the tragedy of the Fall.

II. Jesus Restores God's Original Standard



- Matthew 19:3-6
- **The Pharisees asked:** "Is it lawful to divorce one's wife for any cause?"
- Jesus did not begin with Moses.
- He went back to Genesis.
- **His answer:** "What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate."
- The principle: Marriage should never be entered expecting an exit.

III. Why Did Moses Permit Divorce?



- Matthew 19:7-8
- **Jesus answers:**
- "Because of your hardness of heart Moses allowed you to divorce your wives..."
- **Notice carefully:** Moses did not command divorce. He regulated an already sinful practice.
- Divorce exists because sinners break covenants.



IV. The First Biblical Exception:

- **Sexual Immorality**
- Matthew 19:9 - "Whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality (πορνεία, porneia), and marries another commits adultery."
- Matthew 5:32 - But I say to you that whoever divorces his wife for any reason except sexual immorality causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a woman who is divorced commits adultery.



A. What is "Porneia"?

- The Greek word **πορνεία (porneia)** is much broader than adultery.
- It includes every form of unlawful sexual behavior.
- Examples include:
- Adultery; prostitution; fornication; homosexual practice; incest; sexual perversion; habitual pornography; sexual relationships; outside marriage
- Porneia is covenant-breaking sexual sin.

V. The Second Biblical Exception:



- **Abandonment**
- 1 Corinthians 7:15
- But if the unbeliever departs, let him depart; a brother or a sister is not under bondage in such cases. But God has called us to peace.
- Paul introduces another circumstance.
- Not sexual immorality. Abandonment.

VI. What About Someone Who Claims to Be a Christian?



- Suppose a husband claims Christ.
- **Yet he:**
 - abandons his wife; refuses repentance; ignores pastors; rejects church discipline
- **Is he still to be treated as a believer?**
- Jesus answers.

VII. Matthew 18 and Church Discipline



- Matthew 18:15-17
- If someone refuses repeated correction:
- Jesus says: "Let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector."
- Notice:
- **Jesus changes how the church is to regard him.**
- Not because we know the state of his heart with certainty, but because his persistent, unrepentant conduct requires the church to treat him as one outside its fellowship until repentance occurs.
- This is not declaring infallibly that he is unregenerate; it is the church's public judgment regarding his profession and standing.

Application to Marriage



- If an individual:
- professes Christ; abandons his spouse; refuses repentance; refuses church authority;
- is removed through church discipline
- **then the church no longer recognizes him as walking as a believer.**
- "Let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector."

IX. The Goal Is Always Reconciliation



- Before divorce, Scripture calls for:
- Repentance; forgiveness; counseling; accountability; church discipline; restoration
- God delights in reconciliation.
- Divorce is a concession.
- Never the first option.



X. Is Remarriage Permitted?

- If divorce occurred on biblical grounds,
- Jesus says: Matthew 19:9 - "...and marries another..."
- The wording assumes remarriage is lawful where the exception applies.
- Likewise, 1 Corinthians 7 - indicates the abandoned believer is "not not under bondage,"...



Final Conclusions - 1

- Marriage is a lifelong covenant established by God.
- God hates divorce because He loves covenant faithfulness.
- Divorce is never God's ideal, but Scripture permits it in limited circumstances because of sin.
- Sexual immorality (*porneia*) is a biblical ground for divorce.

Final Conclusions - 2



- Abandonment by an unbeliever is a biblical ground for divorce
- (1 Corinthians 7:15).
- When divorce occurs on biblical grounds, remarriage is generally understood to be permitted.
- The church should always labor first for repentance, forgiveness, reconciliation, and restoration before recognizing divorce as biblically permissible.