
PUBLIC CHALLENGE FOR DEBATE (More)

June 16, 2015

This present post is an update concerning the challenge extended to no-exception preachers to step forward and defend their position in public debate.

To read the initial post, click on the following link:

<http://www.willofthelord.com/2015/04/14/public-challenge-for-debate-divorce-remarriage/>

The following preachers were contacted by certified mail, signed-return-receipt:

- Dwight Hendrickson
- Malcomb Kniffen
- Jerry Johnson
- Raymond Stiner

a) Jerry Johnson – wrote a letter stating he had no interest in debating (March 31, 2015).

b) Dwight Hendrickson – called on the phone saying he would not debate me orally (April 14, 2015).

c) Raymond Stiner – wrote a letter on (April 14, 2015) stating, "I am not so sure that an oral debate is the means in which to do this. First of all I have never known of a debate to produce much good, except for to solidify each side." Having stated that debates do no good, Brother Stiner then challenged me to a written debate! (Let me not digress here.)

d) Malcomb Kniffen – after complaining over the phone (December 3, 2014) and during the Open Bible Study (March 14, 2015) about having only 30 minutes to present the no-exception position, never wrote or called in reference to a public debate.

In a final effort to have a four-night debate, I contacted Brother Don Bounds after he wrote a review in *The Voice Of The Turtle* concerning the Seminole Open Bible Study.

Brother Don Bounds, after much writing, simply stated, "I do not want a verbal debate" (April 22, 2015). If there was any public discussion of the marriage question, it must be a written debate. I offered the following propositions for written debate with Brother Don Bounds. As you read over these propositions, please notice he refused to sign a single one of them.

Possible Propositions For Debate On Marriage Question

April 29, 2015

Below are twenty-sets of suggested propositions for debate regarding the division existed on the issue of divorce and remarriage. It is suggested that three-sets be signed by each participant. After discussing three-sets, if both parties are still interested and deem it profitable, more propositions may be signed and the discussion continued.

NOTE: Suggested rules governing this discussion follow the twenty-sets of propositions.

Subject 1 – Joseph & Mary

Resolved: *Joseph believed Mary committed fornication and was planning to divorce her "for fornication" (as per Dt 24:1).*

<u>Refused to Sign</u> Don Bounds – affirms	<u>Signed: George Battey</u> George Battey – denies
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Resolved: *Joseph believed Mary was having a child by the Holy Spirit and was afraid to marry her for that reason.*

<u>Signed: George Battey</u> George Battey – affirms	<u>Refused to Sign</u> Don Bounds – denies
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Subject 2 – Teaching NT law while OT in force

Resolved: *Jesus could not teach New Testament (kingdom) law during His lifetime without violating Old Testament (Mosaic) law.*

<u>Refused to Sign</u> Don Bounds – affirms	<u>Signed: George Battey</u> George Battey – denies
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Resolved: *Jesus could and did teach New Testament (kingdom) law during His lifetime without violating Old Testament (Mosaic) law.*

<u>Signed: George Battey</u> George Battey – affirms	<u>Refused to Sign</u> Don Bounds – denies
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Subject 3 – Only laws repeated in epistles

Resolved: *The only teachings of Jesus allowable in the church are those teachings which are repeated in the New Testament Books of Acts through Revelation.*

<u>Refused to Sign</u> Don Bounds – affirms	<i><u>Signed: George Battey</u></i> George Battey – denies
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Resolved: *Jesus taught New Testament laws (applying to the church) which were never repeated in the New Testament Books of Acts through Revelation.*

<i><u>Signed: George Battey</u></i> George Battey – affirms	<u>Refused to Sign</u> Don Bounds – denies
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Subject 4 – Jesus did not teach NT MDR laws

Resolved: *The teachings of Jesus (which He taught during His life on earth) on divorce and remarriage do not apply to Christians in the gospel age.*

<u>Refused to Sign</u> Don Bounds – affirms	<i><u>Signed: George Battey</u></i> George Battey – denies
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Resolved: *The teaching of Jesus (which He taught during His life on earth) on divorce and remarriage do apply to Christians in the gospel age.*

<i><u>Signed: George Battey</u></i> George Battey – affirms	<u>Refused to Sign</u> Don Bounds – denies
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Subject 5 – Meaning of "fornication"

Resolved: *The word "fornication" (as used in the Bible) means premarital sex only and does not include adultery, homosexuality, incest, pedophilia, or bestiality.*

<u>Refused to Sign</u> Don Bounds – affirms	<i><u>Signed: George Battey</u></i> George Battey – denies
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Resolved: The word "fornication" (as used in the Bible) means "sexual immorality in general" and includes adultery, homosexuality, incest, pedophilia, and bestiality.

<u>Signed: George Battey</u> George Battey – affirms	Refused to Sign Don Bounds – denies
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Subject 6 – The "present tense" argument

Resolved: The present tense used in the phrase, "Is it lawful ...?" (Mt 19:3) limits Jesus to speaking only about Mosaic Law.

Refused to Sign Don Bounds – affirms	<u>Signed: George Battey</u> George Battey – denies
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Resolved: The present tense used in the phrase, "Is it lawful ...?" (Mt 19:3) does not limit Jesus to speaking only about Mosaic Law.

<u>Signed: George Battey</u> George Battey – affirms	Refused to Sign Don Bounds – denies
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Subject 7 – Answering the question of Mt 19:3

Resolved: In Mt 19:7 the Pharisees did not answer their own question which they asked in Mt 19:3.

Refused to Sign Don Bounds – affirms	<u>Signed: George Battey</u> George Battey – denies
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Resolved: In Mt 19:7 the Pharisees answered their own question which they asked in Mt 19:3 and Jesus agrees with their answer.

<u>Signed: George Battey</u> George Battey – affirms	Refused to Sign Don Bounds – denies
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Subject 8 – 1 Cor 6:15-18 – is this the exception?

Resolved: In 1 Cor 6:15-18, Paul is not discussing the exception given by Jesus in Mt 19:9.

Refused to Sign Don Bounds – affirms	<u>Signed: George Battey</u> George Battey – denies
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Resolved: *In 1 Cor 6:15-18, Paul is discussing the exception given by Jesus in Mt 19:9.*

<u>Signed: George Battey</u> George Battey – affirms	Refused to Sign Don Bounds – denies
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Subject 9 – Contrastive teaching of Mt 5

Resolved: *The contrastive teaching of Jesus in Mt 5 is a contrast between perverted teachings of the Pharisees and what Mosaic Law actually taught.*

Refused to Sign Don Bounds – affirms	<u>Signed: George Battey</u> George Battey – denies
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Resolved: *The contrastive teaching of Jesus in Mt 5 is a contrast between what Mosaic Law actually taught and the soon-coming New Testament (kingdom) law.*

<u>Signed: George Battey</u> George Battey – affirms	Refused to Sign Don Bounds – denies
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Subject 10 – The "test" of Mt 19:3

Resolved: *The "test" administered by the Pharisees in Mt 19:3 was a test to see if Jesus would teach something different from what Moses taught.*

Refused to Sign Don Bounds – affirms	<u>Signed: George Battey</u> George Battey – denies
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Resolved: *The "test" administered by the Pharisees in Mt 19:3 was not a test to see if Jesus would teach something different from what Moses taught.*

<u>Signed: George Battey</u> George Battey – affirms	Refused to Sign Don Bounds – denies
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Subject 11 – Menu option: Divorce or kill

Resolved: *A Jewish man, living under Mosaic Law, had a choice when his wife committed adultery: (a) allow her to live, or (b) have her stoned to death.*

<u>Refused to Sign</u> Don Bounds – affirms	<i><u>Signed: George Battey</u></i> George Battey – denies
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Resolved: *A Jewish man, living under Mosaic Law, was not given choices of what to do when their wives committed adultery.*

<i><u>Signed: George Battey</u></i> George Battey – affirms	<u>Refused to Sign</u> Don Bounds – denies
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Subject 12 – "Hard-hearted" men

Resolved: *A man who divorces his unrepentant, cheating wife is being "hard-hearted."*

<u>Refused to Sign</u> Don Bounds – affirms	<i><u>Signed: George Battey</u></i> George Battey – denies
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Resolved: *A man who divorces his unrepentant, cheating wife is not being "hard-hearted."*

<i><u>Signed: George Battey</u></i> George Battey – affirms	<u>Refused to Sign</u> Don Bounds – denies
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Subject 13 – Eph 5:22-33

Resolved: *Eph 5:22-33 contains all the information Christians need to know about marriage, divorce and remarriage.*

<u>Refused to Sign</u> Don Bounds – affirms	<i><u>Signed: George Battey</u></i> George Battey – denies
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Resolved: *Eph 5:22-33 does not contain all the information Christians need to know about marriage divorce and remarriage.*

<i><u>Signed: George Battey</u></i> George Battey – affirms	<u>Refused to Sign</u> Don Bounds – denies
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Subject 14 – Rom 7:1-4

Resolved: Rom 7:1-4 is discussing all cases of divorce – including cases of marital unfaithfulness.

<u>Refused to Sign</u> Don Bounds – affirms	<u>Signed: George Battey</u> George Battey – denies
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Resolved: Rom 7:1-4 is not discussing a faithful spouse divorcing an unrepentant, fornicating spouse.

<u>Signed: George Battey</u> George Battey – affirms	<u>Refused to Sign</u> Don Bounds – denies
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Subject 15 – Only remarriage is wrong

Resolved: Divorcing for trivial causes is not sinful; only when remarriage occurs is sin committed.

<u>Refused to Sign</u> Don Bounds – affirms	<u>Signed: George Battey</u> George Battey – denies
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Resolved: Divorcing for trivial causes is sinful even if no remarriage occurs.

<u>Signed: George Battey</u> George Battey – affirms	<u>Refused to Sign</u> Don Bounds – denies
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Subject 16 – OT polygamy

Resolved: Under Mosaic Law, a man with two or more living wives was living in adultery.

<u>Refused to Sign</u> Don Bounds – affirms	<u>Signed: George Battey</u> George Battey – denies
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Resolved: Under Mosaic Law, a man was allowed to have more than one wife at a time.

<u>Signed: George Battey</u> George Battey – affirms	<u>Refused to Sign</u> Don Bounds – denies
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Subject 17 – Teaching NT law only privately?

Resolved: *Jesus never taught NT law publicly to the multitudes; He only taught NT law privately to His disciples.*

<u>Refused to Sign</u> Don Bounds – affirms	<u>Signed: George Battey</u> George Battey – denies
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Resolved: *Jesus taught NT law publicly to the multitudes.*

<u>Signed: George Battey</u> George Battey – affirms	<u>Refused to Sign</u> Don Bounds – denies
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Subject 18 – Miracles indicate new revelation

Resolved: *The miracles of Jesus do not indicate He taught New Testament legislation.*

<u>Refused to Sign</u> Don Bounds – affirms	<u>Signed: George Battey</u> George Battey – denies
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Resolved: *The miracles of Jesus indicate He taught New Testament legislation.*

<u>Signed: George Battey</u> George Battey – affirms	<u>Refused to Sign</u> Don Bounds – denies
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Subject 19 – Mal 2:16 – God hates divorce

Resolved: *Mal 2:16 teaches that everyone divorcing and remarrying is doing something God hates.*

<u>Refused to Sign</u> Don Bounds – affirms	<u>Signed: George Battey</u> George Battey – denies
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Resolved: *A faithful spouse divorcing an unrepentant, fornicating spouse is not doing something God hates.*

<u>Signed: George Battey</u> George Battey – affirms	<u>Refused to Sign</u> Don Bounds – denies
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Subject 20 – "Doctrine of demons"

Resolved: *Even if Mt 19:9 did apply to the gospel age, it would not be a "doctrine of demons" to teach the no-exception doctrine.*

<u>Refused to Sign</u> Don Bounds – affirms	<u>Signed: George Battey</u> George Battey – denies
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Resolved: *Forbidding marriage to someone possessing the right to marry is a "doctrine of demons."*

<u>Signed: George Battey</u> George Battey – affirms	<u>Refused to Sign</u> Don Bounds – denies
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Suggested rules for written debate

- 1) Three articles shall be written by each disputant on each proposition.
- 2) No article shall exceed 1,000 words (as measured by MS Word 2010 word-counting feature). (A scripture reference, such as the following, is considered to be three words: "**Mt 19:9 (KJV).**")
- 3) Each participant will try to respond within two weeks' time after receiving his opponent's article.
- 4) If more than two weeks is needed, the brother needing the extra time shall write, call, or text requesting the need for more time.
- 5) If more than one month elapses without a finished, written reply, the one delaying shall be deemed as having "quit" the debate.
- 6) Both parties shall be free to publish this debate as they see fit (in hard copy, digital copy, posting on websites, etc.).

<u>Signed: George Battey</u> George Battey – agrees	<u>Refused to Sign</u> Don Bounds – agrees
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FINAL OBSERVATIONS

After refusing to sign a single one of these propositions, I considered the case closed. These leaders of the movement are not willing to have a public debate on the marriage question. I feel confident these same men would debate a Baptist on salvation or a Mormon on continuous revelation or a Jehovah's Witness on the deity of Christ. But when it comes to the marriage question, they will not debate that publicly. They claim they want to have written debates, but as noted already, they are not serious about that either.

Sincerely,
George Battey
April 14, 2015