2178 - Does touching a woman break one’s wudu?

the question

A man can hardly go through his day without giving and taking things from his wife. If he has wudu and touches his wife, does this break his wudu?

Detailed answer

Praise be to Allah.

The scholars differ as to whether touching one’s wife directly breaks a man’s wudu. The most correct opinion is that it does not break his wudu, regardless of whether he touched her with desire or not, because the Prophet (peace and blessings of Alaah be upon him) kissed some of his wives and did not do wudu after that, and because it would impose a lot of hardship if wudu was required in this case. If it broke a person’s wudu, the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) would have said so.

With regard to the words of Allah in the Quran (interpretation of the meaning): *“… or you have been in contact with women…” [al-Nisa’ 4:43; al-Maa’idah 5:6],* this refers to sexual intercourse according to the sounder scholarly opinion.