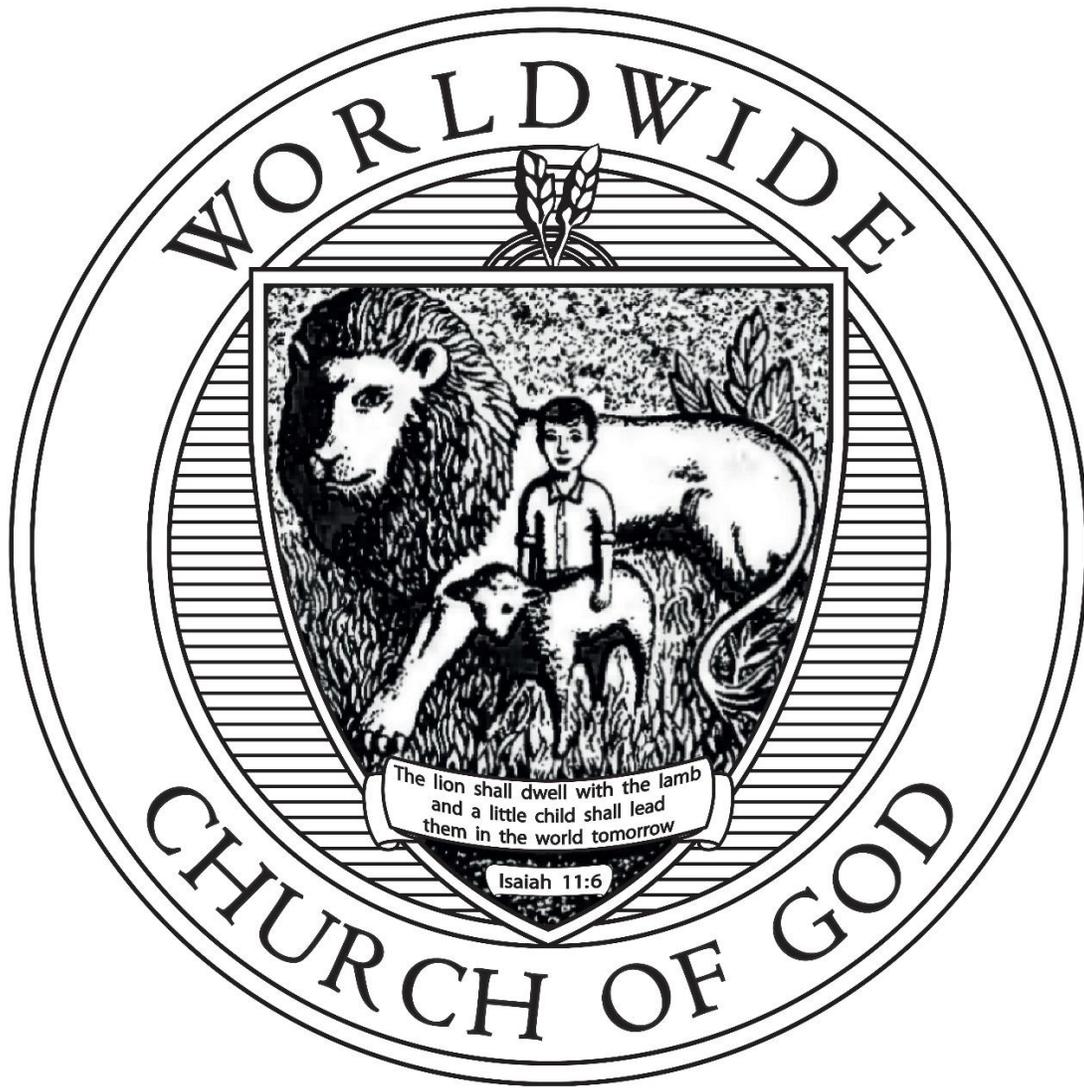


The Restored Doctrine of the Government of God

The Responsibilities and Duties of Each Ministerial Office



Preface

Mr. Herbert W Armstrong frequently stated that the doctrines found in the Bible are a mystery to the world. He often called the Bible a coded book, and he also compared it to a jigsaw puzzle. He also understood that in order to decode this book and understand the “mysteries” found therein, one needed to be led by the spirit of God.

And so, in 1927, God started to work with Mr. Armstrong and He began to reveal a plethora of Biblical knowledge through His divine spirit. The spirit of God had opened this man’s mind to the understanding of the “mysteries” that are found in the Bible. This allowed Jesus Christ the chance to teach him the many doctrinal truths that the Church learned in the 20th century.

The amount of doctrinal knowledge that was restored to the 6th era of the Church and the prophetic truths that were revealed during this time period were absolutely staggering. The Bible made complete sense to those whom God would call.

The end-time prophecy regarding Elijah had finally arrived and “all things”, meaning a vast amount of Biblical truth, was finally going to be restored to the Church of God. The office of apostle was once again filled, and a man was “sent forth” to proclaim the gospel “in all the world for a witness unto all nations.” And thus, the Philadelphia era of the Church had dawned, and many were called to assist Christ’s apostle of the 20th century in this endeavor.

Mr. Armstrong understood that God the Father is the author of all truth, including the vast number of prophecies that were sealed in the Bible. He also knew that Jesus Christ, who is in perfect harmony with the Father, was the one who was responsible for restoring the “original truths” and who revealed a staggering amount of the end-time prophecies to the Philadelphia era of the Church.

But many of these truths have been altered, changed, and liberalized, and new teachings that oppose the “original truths” and the prophetic end-time revelations which were restored and revealed in the 20th century, are now prevalent among God’s people in the 7th era. One of these doctrines is the truth regarding the government of God and the ministerial offices that were established in the Church by God including the associated duties that pertain to each office.

And so, the purpose of this document is to restore what was once understood surrounding this subject. And to assure those reading this document that these are the doctrines that were restored to the Philadelphia era of the Church, every point that is made in this article is be followed by several excerpts from the material that was produced in the *Worldwide Church of God* when it was led by Mr. Armstrong.

Although writing an article in the manner just mentioned is not easy, it is necessary in the era that we are now in. And it is essential that an article be written this way so that everyone is able to prove and determine whether what is written herein are the same truths that were once adhered to by God's people in the Philadelphia era of the Church of God.

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Chapter 1

Introduction & the Truths of God

The Mysteries of God – The Bible is a Coded Book

Mr. Armstrong often describe the Bible as a coded book.

Mr. Armstrong often described the Bible as a coded book, Matt. 13:10-16. And he often stated that the Bible cannot be understood by mankind without God's holy spirit, I Cor. 2:9-14. This includes the majority of the teachings that are derived from the scriptures. And one of those doctrines is the truth regarding the government of God.

And thus, because the Bible is a coded book, a term that is used several times in the Bible to describe its teachings is the term mystery, Mark 4:11, I Cor. 2:6-7, 4:1-2, 15:51, and Col. 1:26. With that said, it should be understood that when the word "mystery" is found in the Bible, it is often synonymous with the Biblical doctrines that are hidden and that mankind cannot understand:

Mr. Armstrong not only decoded the Bible but was the first individual to understand the plethora of mysteries revealed therein, mysteries that had not been understood in hundreds of years. He was able to accomplish this because God had called him to raise up the Philadelphia era of the Church, God had opened his mind through the holy spirit, and Jesus Christ had begun to teach him the true doctrines (truth) found in the word of God:

"I had to prove that the Bible was the Word of God. **But I discovered as I went on that the Bible is coded. It's a coded book.** I've explained so many times how one government sends a message to their own ambassador in another country, but the message is coded.

"Now if we send a message through the State Department at Washington to the United States ambassador in Moscow, we know that the Russians are going to get that message, and they're going to read it. But it's coded so the Russians won't understand a word of what it says when they do read it! But it's coded in such a way that the United States ambassador is going to be able to un-code it and read it and understand it.

"You know, the Bible is like that. **And there's one thing that un-codes it so you can understand it, and that is surrender to God, which results in God giving you His Spirit to unite with your spirit in your mind. And then you can begin to understand the Bible because the Bible is concerned with spiritual knowledge,** and spirit is not something that occupies space and has weight."

Sermon, "The Value of Human Life", Herbert W Armstrong, October 22, 1983

“But I have said recently a great many times, I didn't know this a long time ago, but the Bible is a coded book. And humans ordinarily cannot understand the Bible. Billy Graham can't understand it. I know he has said to others, and it's come to me, that I understand the Bible. **But without the Holy Spirit you can't do it, because the Holy Spirit is the key that decodes the coded Book so you can understand it.**

“Now let me explain that. Here was Paul speaking to people some of the truth, but he didn't go into the language of scholarship, with plain, simple words, and yet the people couldn't understand it. Ah, wait a minute. **I Corinthians 2 He said, ‘We speak the wisdom of God in a mystery.’ It's a mystery. It's a code. In other words, it's a code that they can't understand. A mystery is something that is mysterious. You can't understand it. It's a mystery to most people.**

“Even the hidden mystery, which God ordained before the world unto our glory, which none of the princes of this world’, that is, the leaders, maybe the leaders of education, maybe the leaders of government, the leaders of business, the leaders of any kind. None of them have understood it. ‘For had they understood it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But it is written’, now he's quoting Scripture, ‘eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart’, or, the mind, ‘of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.’

“In other words, God is the Teacher. God reveals these things to us. And here it is, the Bible. **But He reveals what is in the Bible by the Holy Spirit, and without the Holy Spirit you can't understand the Bible. The Holy Spirit is the instrumentality God puts within you to un-code the Bible, to decode it, to make it so you can understand it.** The world cannot understand the Bible. The ministers, the electric evangelists on the air, cannot understand the Bible.”

Sermon, “Success Based on God’s Law”, Herbert W Armstrong, July 30, 1983

“And when we come to the things that God Almighty reveals, it is a mystery to the average mind and no mind can comprehend these things unless that mind, by having been drawn by God, chosen by God, having repented, surrendered to God, and having received the Spirit of God, then you cannot understand. The natural mind of man cannot comprehend or understand. The real truths are foolishness to the average human mind.

“Now in this world man has done some very marvelous things. He has built many wonderful things, and most of the so-called advances in the world, have come in this 20th century. They began coming only two or three centuries ago, and very little at that time, a little more in the 19th century. But I would say that fully seventy or eighty percent of all of the advances of mankind have come in this 20th century...

“You know the first thing that most of us have wanted to do when we were first converted was try to get everyone else converted, and we just found we couldn't do that, didn't we? We can't do it because

to them they can't see it. **It is called a mystery in the Bible, the truth of God and the Church of God. It is called a mystery and it is a mystery.** It is mysterious to people and they don't understand it. They can't. You have to have spiritual understanding and comprehension. **You can't understand it until you receive the Holy Spirit of God.**

Sermon, "He that Overcometh", Herbert W Armstrong, May 1981

Bible A Jig Saw Puzzle

Mr. Armstrong also compared the Bible to a jigsaw puzzle. This is because the subject of any single doctrinal teaching is not found in any one location in the scriptures. But on the contrary, the scriptures are written here a little and there a little, and one must gather and study all of the pieces of a single doctrine together in order to understand its meaning, Isa. 28:9-13:

"But God was revealing His truth to me. At first I had to learn a *doctrine* at a time. **In other words, if the whole truth were a jigsaw puzzle of 100 pieces,** I found the Church of God of the Sardis era, even though God's Church, had lost about 75 of the pieces, though some were among the important pieces. But it was impossible to fit them together so as to produce the WHOLE and FULL PICTURE, plain and clear.

"God was inspiring me to fill in the gaps...

"Little by little, God revealed to me more and more TRUTHS — **additional pieces of God's revealed KNOWLEDGE that filled in the gaps** — answered all the questions."

Plain Truth Magazine, "What Every Reader Needs to Know About the FOUNDATION, HISTORY, AUTHORITY AND DOCTRINE OF THE WOLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD", Herbert W Armstrong, February 1978

"The Bible is constructed like a jigsaw puzzle. One must pick out a piece here and a piece there, each within the meaning of its context, and then put them together in order to see the WHOLE picture.

But, in and during my conversion, Christ revealed to me the basic truths, and it was thereafter easier to accept and build the others around them."

Good News Magazine, "The History of the Beginning and Growth of the Worldwide Church of God - Chapter 1", Herbert W Armstrong, April 1980

"God has been revealing new truth to us. It's not new truth. It's truth that's been new for a long, long time. But God's truth is always new, by the way. It never gets old. It's not old truth. It's perpetually new, but a lot of it is new to us, because we hadn't seen it before. **Now, it's all been in the Bible, but you know, the Bible is like a jigsaw puzzle.**

"I'm sure you all have worked out a jigsaw puzzle at one time or another. It's a large picture. Sometimes it's, oh, about so big and sometimes they're smaller. It's cut up with a jigsaw with little curlicues all here and there, in about anywhere from 100 up to quite a little more than a thousand different pieces, all curlicues around different ways, and you have to put them together.

"They're cut in such a way, it's very difficult to know what piece goes next to what other piece. Now, when they are unscrambled, you don't see any picture at all. You don't realize there is any picture there and yet there is a picture there when you get it all together, and when you get them into place one next to the other where it belongs. Now, the Bible is like that."

Sermon, "Bible Like A Jigsaw Puzzle", Herbert W Armstrong, July 4, 1981

A Government of Love

Governments regulate how people live. When a government is created by men, a set of rules and laws are established to manage, control and regulate people. Abraham Lincoln, the 16th president of the United States, described the democratic form of government of this nation as a "government of the people, by the people and for the people."

But before man was created, another form of government existed in this universe. And this government also had rules and laws that two beings lived by. This government was often referred to by Mr. Armstrong as the government of God. And the law that regulated the way these beings lived by is love.

Love is a spiritual law. It is a code of conduct that is concerned about the good and welfare of others. It is an overarching law that regulates how people or spirit beings interact. This is the law that God uses to govern His creation:

"Now Lucifer was set there and there is a government. **Government is merely the rules of living, how you live in, in relation to other people, or other beings. And God's way of living is love,** which is cooperation, sharing, giving, serving, helping, outgoing concern for the good of others, **where you love others and you want everything to be good for them the same as you.** You don't have any hatred, you don't have any jealousy or envy toward them or a feeling of competition or antagonism or malice or anything of the kind, just one of love."

Sermon, "Two Questions", Herbert W Armstrong, March 29, 1983

"The one thing uppermost in God's mind, and in His PURPOSE, is to RESTORE HIS GOVERNMENT in the KINGDOM OF GOD. **His GOVERNMENT is based on HIS LAW. God's law is the basic SPIRITUAL law of LOVE. It is love to God and love to neighbor.** It is further magnified into the TEN COMMANDMENTS. And there is one test commandment."

Good News Magazine, "How You Are Being Tested!", Herbert W Armstrong, April 1980

“Bear in mind these basic truths: Two cannot walk together except they be agreed. Neither can two or more proceed in harmony and peace except one leads. God and the Word, both immortal, composed of spirit, had always lived the WAY of outflowing LOVE, with God supreme head. **Their way of life-outflowing love, cooperation, harmony-constituted a LAW, the LAW OF GOD. It is a spiritual law. With God as supreme head and ruler, it became a GOVERNMENT over all they created.**”

Booklet, A World Held Captive, Herbert W Armstrong, 1984

“Now the kingdom of God is something different from the government of God. **The government of God is merely the rule of God with his laws and the machinery for administering and enforcing it** over, it was in that case, angels, it could be over people.

“The kingdom of God is the family of God, of those born of God, born into the God family, themselves becoming entirely immortal and supernatural, and ruling and reigning over the entire Earth with the kingdom of God, the government of God that is. That will be the kingdom of God. And first they're going to reign for 1,000 years. And after that is going to come a time when all who have ever lived and have been deceived and have not known the truth, they have not been judged, they're not lost, neither are they saved, but they're going to be resurrected.”

World Tomorrow Telecast, “Christ the Coming King”, Herbert W Armstrong

The Restoration of the Government of God to the Church

Throughout the centuries, many of the truths that had been restored to the Church of God by the first century apostles had become lost. This included the doctrine on the government of God. But in the 20th century, the time had arrived for a great restoration of truth.

The doctrine of the Government of God was restored by Jesus Christ, the head of the Church, through a faithful apostle and end-time Elijah, Mr. Armstrong. Although this wasn't one of the first doctrines that was restored to the Church, it was one of the many “original truths” that were reestablished in the Philadelphia era:

“Just as Christ shall restore the government of God over the entire earth, **the one who was to come in the spirit and power of Elijah would restore it in God's Church. God's government has been restored in the one true Church of God!**”

In the process of restoring the government of God in the Church through the modern Elijah, God used him to restore many related truths. Of primary importance was the restoration of Christ's true gospel of the Kingdom of God! That gospel was restored when the Pastor General Herbert W. Armstrong of the Worldwide Church of God first went on air with ‘The World Tomorrow’ radio

program the first week in January, 1934, and then to the world when he went on Radio Luxembourg and radio Ceylon in 1953 – one century of 19-year time cycles after the gospel of the Kingdom had been suppressed!”

The Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course, “Lesson 18 - Proclaiming the *True Gospel*”, Worldwide Church of God

“There was an Elijah to come and to restore things in the Church. That has happened. And what has been restored is THE GOVERNMENT OF GOD and many of the truths. At least 17 or 18 principle, vital, doctrines of truth have been added to about the three that had survived in the Sardis era of the Church that they still had.”

Sermon, “Feast of Trumpets 1985”, Herbert W Armstrong, September 16, 1985

“This morning, here in Pasadena, the sermon had a great deal to say about Elijah and about the book of Malachi the 3rd and 4th chapters. Elijah, Jesus said, was going to come and restore all things, and Jesus said that after John the Baptist had already finished preparing the way before the First Coming of Christ. After John the Baptist was in prison and his work completed, Jesus said, ‘Elijah shall yet come and restore all things’ ...

“God raised me up to restore THE GOVERNMENT OF GOD, but it is only restored so far in the Church. I have no authority from God, no ability, to restore the government of God any further than just over you brethren in the Church, but that has been done. That has been done brethren. You go back and read Malachi 3:1-5 and Malachi 4, and where Jesus said, ‘Elijah truly shall come.’ Even after John the Baptist was put in prison, he was yet to come. But he was to restore. John the Baptist didn’t restore.”

Sermon, “Another Civilization”, Herbert W Armstrong, October 2, 1982

The Restoration of the Government of God to the World

A fascinating story which Mr. Armstrong came to understand is that a great archangel was once placed on this earth to administer the government of God prior to the creation of man. He had been trained in this government at the great Headquarters of God in Heaven. He was one of the archangels that covered God’s throne with his wings.

But after he was placed on the earth, he rebelled against God and rendered the government of God and His law of love ineffective and void. Many of the details regarding this story can be found in chapter 14 of the book of Isaiah and in chapter 28 of the book of Ezekiel.

Jesus Christ, when he overcame Satan, qualified to replace this being on the throne that he still occupies. But when Jesus Christ returns in all his power and glory, he will remove and replace Satan. And he will establish this government and the great spiritual law of love on this earth:

“And very few of you can remember back that far, but this Satan formerly was the archangel Lucifer, and he and his angels had been created by God. He had been given the knowledge of the truth, but he had been given a mind to think with, to make decisions with, and in previous programs I've told you a great deal about that, this archangel called Lucifer.

“He was perfect in all of his ways from the day God created him. God didn't create an evil being, he created a great superbeing that was perfect in all his ways from the time that God created him till rebellion, perverted evil, was found in him. And that came from his own thinking processes, and of his own accord. Now that perfect archangel named Lucifer became Satan the devil. The Bible says a great deal about him. He has been so clever in his deception, that he has made it very unpopular to believe that there is such a being as Satan today.

“But the government of God demands that this Satan, who had been placed on a throne on this Earth to administer that government of God, that Satan must continue on this Earth until a successor has qualified to replace him. As he has disqualified himself, another must qualify and be actually inducted into office, and until that time, he is still remaining, and is remaining up to this day, and is going to remain even into the future some little time.”

World Tomorrow Telecast, “Christ the Coming King”, Herbert W Armstrong

“But Satan, who is the former Lucifer, was once established on a throne, over angels. Now God set that throne and God set His government there and He set this super arch angel there to govern it. Now Lucifer was the most powerful angel that God could possibly create. There are two other angels as great as that, that are cherubs, Michael and Gabriel. But there is none greater except God Himself, and He has such great power.

“But the government became inoperative because Lucifer rebelled. Lucifer, instead of the way of love, began to live the way of get, which is the way of self. ‘I love me and I don't care anything about God. I covet more power. I am filled with lust’. And he was filled with envy and with hostility and he changed just the opposite of God's way of life.

“So, the government became inoperative, and there was no government on earth when God created Adam. The government of God was not being executed at all. Yet God's universe government, now get this, the universe government of God over the whole universe required that once Lucifer was set on that throne he must remain on that throne until a successor has qualified and been inducted into office and put on that throne.

“So, Lucifer was changed to Satan and Satan is still there now, and Satan was there when Adam was created, and Satan has remained there ever since and is still there up to this time now.”

Sermon, “Trumpets and the Purpose of the Church”, Herbert W Armstrong, September 11, 1980

“It is revealed in Isaiah 14 and Ezekiel 28, that God placed the archangel Lucifer, a cherub, on a throne on the earth. He was placed there as a ruler over the entire earth. God intended him to rule the earth by administering the government of God over the earth. And the government of God was administered on earth until the rebellion of the sinning angels.

“How long these angels inhabited the earth before the creation of man is not revealed. It might have been millions-or even billions-of years. More on that later. But these angels sinned. Sin is the transgression of God's law (I John 3:4). And God's law is the basis of God's government. So we know these angels, apparently a third of all the angels (Rev. 12:4), sinned-rebelled against the government of God. And sin carries penalties. The penalty for the sin of the angels is not death, as it is for man. Angels are immortal spirit beings and cannot die.

“These spirit beings had been given dominion over the PHYSICAL EARTH as a possession and an abode. The universal, worldwide sin of the angels resulted in the physical destruction of the face of the earth.”
Book, *Mystery of the Ages*, Herbert W Armstrong, 1985

“When Christ comes, he is coming as KING of kings, ruling the whole earth (Rev. 19:11-16); and HIS KINGDOM-the KINGDOM OF GOD-said Daniel, is to CONSUME all these worldly kingdoms.

“Revelation 11:15 states it in these words: ‘The kingdoms of this world are become THE KINGDOMS OF OUR LORD, AND OF HIS CHRIST; and he shall reign for ever and ever’!

“This is THE KINGDOM OF GOD. It is the END of present governments-yes, and even the United States and the British nations. They then shall become the kingdoms the GOVERNMENTS-of the Lord JESUS CHRIST, then KING of kings over the entire earth.

“This makes completely PLAIN the fact that the KINGDOM OF GOD is a literal GOVERNMENT. Even as the Chaldean Empire was a KINGDOM-even as the Roman Empire was a KINGDOM-SO the KINGDOM OF GOD is a government. It is to take over the GOVERNMENT of the NATIONS of the world.

“Jesus Christ was BORN to be a KING-a RULER!”
Book, *Mystery of the Ages*, Herbert W Armstrong, 1985

“IN OTHER WORDS, GOD IS NOW AFAMILY of Persons, composed so far of only the Two-God the Father and Christ the Son. But IF the Holy Spirit of God dwells in someone, and he is being led by God's Spirit, then (Rom. 8:14) he is a begotten son of God. **But, at the time of Christ's return to earth in supreme power and glory to set up the KINGDOM OF GOD, restoring the GOVERNMENT OF GOD abolished by Lucifer,** then all being filled and led by God's Spirit shall become BORN sons of God. The GOD FAMILY will then RULE ALL NATIONS with the GOVERNMENT OF GOD RESTORED!”

Book, *Mystery of the Ages*, Herbert W Armstrong, 1985

Chapter 2

The Government of God in the Church of God

What is Government?

What is the government of God? The government of God, in its most basic form can be described as the rules and laws that God has set in motion for the purpose of governing the universe, including mankind. It is a government that is instituted for the people and not by the people.

The government of God can also be described as a way of life that leads to blessings and everything good when it is adhered. It is based on the principle of love towards God and love towards one's fellow neighbor:

“Now the kingdom of God is something different from the government of God. **The government of God is merely the rule of God with his laws and the machinery for administering and enforcing it over**, it was in that case, angels. It could be over people.

“The kingdom of God is the family of God, of those born of God, born into the God family, themselves becoming entirely immortal and supernatural, and ruling and reigning over the entire Earth with the kingdom of God, the government of God that is. That will be the kingdom of God.”

World Tomorrow Telecast, “Christ the Coming King”, Herbert W Armstrong

“What does government have to do with that? **Government is only an organized system of administering and enforcing that WAY of Life on those that are under the subjection of the government.** Here in the United States, what man has built under Satan, and perhaps I believe this is the best country, but this whole world is the world of Satan. But there is good in the world, as well as evil. I'll say more about that a little later. It's not God's kind of ‘good’ unfortunately.

“There is a Constitution of the United States. It's a basic law, and all law has to be in conformity with that. **And it's only something that defines the way laws are to be made to regulate the way we live, one in relationship to the other, or one group with another group, and so on. Human relationships.**

“Now, that way is defined by God's law. **Government is merely a system of organizing those under the government to regulate the way they live according to that law.** Now, what did God and the Word do? I told you how They lived. Now They had to do something. **Another thing, two cannot walk together except they be agreed. They were perfectly agreed!** You can't find one place where Jesus ever disagreed with the Father, or where the Father ever disagreed with Jesus. They were in perfect agreement, just like one mind, of the same mind, they believed the same way. They agreed 100%.”

Sermon, “From Sardis to Laodicea”, Herbert W Armstrong, June 24, 1983

A Theocracy and Hierarchy

The government of God is a Theocracy, which means it is administered by God who is a caring and compassionate being. Since the universe and everything that exists including the angels, were created by Jesus Christ at the direction of God the Father, God the Father maintains sovereign authority over His creation.

But the government of God is also a hierarchy, because God the Father often delegates the authority to rule to other beings. He delegates his creation or portions of his creation, and in some cases, certain responsibilities and the authority to rule, to those under Him:

“To Sum Up. The government of God will be a universal theocracy. It will fill the earth and bring about the peace that has escaped mankind throughout his long history. **It will be a government of justice, equity and fairness.** God is not a respecter of persons. He dispenses justice with equal treatment for all. There will be no favoritism and no prejudice. God will not be guilty of nepotism or injustice.

“The government of God will be instituted for the good of all. It will be authoritarian, yet benevolent. Programs of ecological reform will bring about a beautiful, verdant refurbished earth (Isa. 35:1-2, 6-7).

Special Topics, “God’s Government – What Will It Be Like?”, 1976

“God's government in His Church is a theocracy, with Christ at the helm and God's chosen ministers fulfilling responsibilities under Christ in the form of a pyramidal hierarchy.

“It is a government of faith, in which the leaders submit their wills to Christ and the members trust God to administer His Church through those leaders.

Worldwide Church of God Study Tool, “Doctrinal Outlines – Government in God’s Church”, 1986/1987

“God, the government is theocracy. **God's government is hierarchy. It's from the top down. God is the head of the government. Christ is under God and take orders from God.** Man is under Christ. **And next under Christ is the apostle.** Now, whether the brethren like it or not, God has made me the apostle.

“I never would claim that. I never would admit that even, until I could look back and see that the fruits themselves had proved it. God didn't just speak to me in so many words and say, ‘Herbert Armstrong, I have made you my apostle.’ I never heard God say that in those words. Jesus Christ said, ‘By their fruits, you know.’ That's how you know. And I looked at the fruits at what had been produced, and I got to know, that finally, after years and years after Christ had made me the apostle, before I knew it, but I finally knew it.”

"To administer the government of the Church and to serve and teach its members, God has provided an ordained ministry. It is composed of those whom God has specifically called to the role, rather than the laity or volunteers or those who merely wish to choose the ministry as a career (Hebrews 5:1-4, I Timothy 3:1-7). Those who show proof of such calling by displaying the fruits in their lives are ordained to the role rather than elected.

"Church government is from the top down (a pyramidal hierarchy). At the very control of the universe and all things is God the Father. Under Him, with direct and complete responsibility to the Church, is Jesus Christ, who 'is head of the church' (Ephesians 5:23). Under Christ are the ministers, beginning with the rank of apostle (Ephesians 2:20), with the other ranks of the ministry such as pastors and elders, along with unordained administrative helps, following down in authority and responsibility as their abilities and calling permit (I Corinthians 12:27-28).

"To govern the Church, Christ has given to it certain authority and responsibilities, such as the power to baptize, ordain further ministers, decide matters of administration (Matthew 16:19), decide disputes between members (Matthew 18:15-17), determine who is a valid member and discipline members if necessary, even with excommunication if need be (Romans 16:17)."

Good News Magazine, "Prove All Things: What and Why the Church?", May 1985

The Authority of God the Father

God that Father is the commander and chief of everything that exists. There is no higher being in existence above and with more authority than God the Father, and there never will be. And since God is reproducing himself, when we become God beings, He is and will be the Head of His family.

In addition, God the Father is also the author of the way of life that is revealed in the scriptures, a way of life that leads to peace and happiness. He and Jesus Christ both live, and have always lived by this way of life. He is the author of all truth and of all the Biblical prophecies that are revealed in the Bible.

"Indeed God the Father is supreme commander of all things, including the Church. Even Christ stated: 'My Father is greater than I' (John 14:28).

"Even so, the Bible directly states that Jesus Christ has been delegated the overall direction of the affairs of the Church. Read Ephesians 1:22; 5:23 and Matthew 16:16-18."

Worldwide Church of God Study Tool, "Doctrinal Outlines – Government in God's Church", 1986/1987

“Now get this. God is the ruler. Now He is God the Father. The Father is the head of the Family. And even though we can become His children, and even though we can be made immortal and composed of spirit, changed from matter into spirit at the time of the resurrection, **authority will always reside in the Father.** And the Son as the executive, because He agrees 100% with the Father, will rule the earth. **God will be King over all of the universe.** And Christ, then, will come back again to this earth and will restore the government of God. And the kingdom of God is the family, born children of God, that have the government of God. So it’s more than just the government of God. We have to become the very children of God.”

Sermon, “Creation and the Gospel”, Herbert W Armstrong, May 13, 1978

“Do you see that men do not preach what the Bible says? But men who have written these things and have even have tried to pollute and to malign and to change and pervert the very Bible itself, the way they have even written titles and subtitles and things of that sort in it. **And here Jesus said that my teaching or my doctrine is not mine but His that sent me, and the Father sent Him. There again, it's the revelation of God who sent Him, gave Him, and He's preached what His Father said.**”

World Tomorrow Broadcast, “The Feast of Tabernacles Part 2”, Herbert W Armstrong

“God is the great overall creating ruling Spirit Kingdom. God is a Spirit but God is a kingdom and more than one person. And God is the Supreme Government, the Supreme Ruler over all the universe but consists of more than one person.

“Now, in the God Kingdom, the Father, and the Kingdom of God is also the Family of God and **the Father is the head of that Family, the head of that Kingdom and He is the one who makes the Laws. There is one Law Giver and that is the Father, God the Father,** but He has delegated to Jesus Christ to be both the Executive and the Judiciary.

“If you want to know how to interpret the Bible, if you want to know to how to understand the Bible, understand first, the Bible is the Word of God committed to print and in writing. Jesus Christ is also the Word of God. Jesus is the Word of God. Now, can you understand that.

“And when He was here, **He spoke only as the Father told Him to speak. He was subjective to His Father's Laws. He said, ‘I have kept my Father's commandments.’ He spoke only as the Father commanded Him to speak. He was always obedient to the Father.** Now, I wonder if you can understand.

“Jesus is the author of the Bible. And the Bible is merely His written word. Now, the Bible interprets the Bible. The key to the real fundamental big key, the master key, to the understanding of the Book of Revelation is the fact that John is not the Revelator but Jesus Christ is the Revelator. Jesus is the Revealer. He is the one who does the revealing.”

The Authority of Jesus Christ

Jesus Christ is second in Command, under God the Father. Jesus Christ lives by, teaches and speaks the doctrines that are recorded in the scriptures.

And because he is faithful in adhering to the way of life that God the Father has authored and because Jesus Christ only teaches the truths that come from God the Father, God the Father has delegated the affairs of the Church of God to Jesus Christ. Therefore, he is the head of the Church and the high priest of the Church of God:

"Indeed God the Father is supreme commander of all things, including the Church. Even Christ stated: "My Father is greater than I" (John 14:28).

"Even so, the Bible directly states that Jesus Christ has been delegated the overall direction of the affairs of the Church. Read Ephesians 1:22:, 5:23 and Matthew 16:16-18."

Worldwide Church of God Study Tool, "Doctrinal Outlines – Government in God's Church", 1986/1987

"But now, Paul continues his salutation in the second verse. 'Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.' Now I want you to notice, he was sending to them, and pronouncing on them, grace and peace. Now grace is undeserved pardon. Grace is a free gift from God, and also peace. He was pronouncing peace on them, or sending peace to them, but not on his power and authority. It was from God and from Christ. And Paul, as an apostle, had the authority to give that to them for God and for Christ.

"In other words, he was the spokesman for God and for Christ. It was really God and Christ giving them this grace and peace. **Paul was only the instrument that Jesus Christ, the Head of the Church, was using, through whom Christ was sending this grace and peace to them.**

"But you notice the authority. There was no bragging, no anything of that kind, no elevating of himself, just the fact that he had that authority and he was using it, as he was supposed to, as a servant. So, he was sending them peace, pronouncing peace upon them."

Bible Study, "Philippians 1-2", Herbert W Armstrong, October 30, 1981

"The household brethren, is a family. We are the family of God, as you read in I John the third chapter, 'Behold now', even now, already, 'are we the children of God' We're not yet born. We're only

begotten, but we're already the children of God. 'And his Spirit witnesses with our spirit', in the eighth chapter of Romans, 'that we are the children of God.'

"Well, how did He speak? His own ideas? No. When He was in the human flesh, and He didn't change, because He said **He's 'the same yesterday, and today, and forever'** has always been. **He said He spoke only what the Father told Him to speak and commanded.** Now, God created things BY Christ. God told Him what to do, and He spoke, and the Spirit of God that emanated from both the Father and the Son is the power that did it. So that's the way that the Word created, and that's the way the Father also was back of creation."

Sermon, "Success Based on God's Law", Herbert W Armstrong, July 30, 1983

"So we go on into further knowledge. Now as we do that in these very final days before Christ comes, **we need to realize that Jesus Christ is the head of this Church.** It is Christ who has been putting us back on the track not I, not Herbert Armstrong, **but Jesus Christ is the head of the Church. I'm not.**

"I've been an instrument He has been using, and I hope I can continue to be, but Christ has been doing it. He is the head of the Church and He also is our living High Priest at the right hand of God in heaven."

Sermon, "Accreditation", Herbert W Armstrong, April 17, 1982

God and Christ are In Perfect Harmony and Agreement

It is extremely important to understand the concept of harmony and agreement. God the Father and Jesus Christ are in perfect harmony and agreement. They walk in lockstep together on everything they do and everything they believe, and this includes all of the Biblical truths that originate in the Bible:

"But until that character had been formed and set angel creation was not complete, and angels still had the right to free choice. They were given free moral agency. They were given minds better than our minds, further advanced and more intelligent than our minds. Lucifer was one of the super angels, a Cherub, which is higher order of angel than ordinary angels. Above ordinary angels were Seraphs and above them were Cherubs. And Lucifer was a Cherub, the highest rank of angels. He was one of two angels whose wings had covered over the Throne of God. He had been instructed at God's headquarters of the universe.

"He had been instructed in God's Government, in God's Law and God's way of life, the way of love, the way that God and Christ live. Now I said a while ago, they lived. What did they do? They created. **They had to get along together, they did, and one had to be the leader and there was perfect harmony.** But they lived the way of love, of cooperation, and peace. **God the Father was the leader. Christ agreed with everything and obeyed everything."**

Sermon, "Two Questions", Herbert W Armstrong, March 29, 1983

“Now listen to me brethren, listen, **two cannot walk together except they be agreed. But they got along, They agreed.** You heard in the sermonette that **the Word spoke nothing except what the Father told Him. He was in perfect harmony and agreement.** They got along! Did God love the Word? When the Word was born flesh, the Father said, ‘This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased.’ The Word said, **‘My Father is greater than I.’** And He loved the Father, and the Father loved the Son, and there was love outgoing, one for the other.

“But listen, not only two can't walk together except they be agreed. One is going to wear the pants. Two can't walk together on equal terms. One is the boss. Christ said, ‘My Father is greater than I.’ There wasn't any question about it. He didn't say, ‘I don't like it. I'm angry because my Father is greater than I.’”

Sermon, “Back on Track”, Herbert W Armstrong, December 12, 1981

“Now get this. God is the ruler. Now He is God the Father. The Father is the head of the Family. And even though we can become His children, and even though we can be made immortal and composed of spirit, changed from matter into spirit at the time of the resurrection, authority will always reside in the Father. **And the Son as the executive, because He agrees 100% with the Father, will rule the earth.** God will be King over all of the universe. **And Christ, then, will come back again to this earth and will restore the government of God.** And the kingdom of God is the family, born children of God, that have the government of God. So it's more than just the government of God. We have to become the very children of God.”

Sermon, “Creation and the Gospel”, Herbert W Armstrong, May 13, 1978

“Now, they lived, and, as I said, they created. We have two there, and They were working together in this creation. When two are working together and living together, **two can't get along except they be agreed. So they had to be agreed.** I've shown you now, what they were doing. They were creating. Well, how did They do? How did They get along together?

“Well, in the first place, where there are two, they not only have to be agreed, but one of them is going to always be the boss, or the leader. You have to have leadership.”

Sermon, “Success Based on God's Law”, Herbert W Armstrong, July 30, 1983

The Government of God is Not a Democracy

I remember a statement that was made by a minister in *Worldwide Church of God* in one of the sermons that he gave. This was in the mid 1980's. This minister was preaching on the subject of government and he accidentally used the word demon-ocracy instead of democracy to describe the type of government that is adhered to by many of the western nations. Of course, it was not by accident that he used this word, but it was used intentionally to drive home a point.

The government of God is not a democracy. When people begin to choose or elect the man they want to lead the Church of God or for that matter, when men decide the doctrines they want to adhere to in the Church, people begin to leave God and Jesus Christ out of the picture and out of the Church. And thus, when this happens, Jesus Christ, who is the Head of the Church, cannot govern and lead His people when this takes place.

God selects the man that he wants to govern the Church under him. And since all truth originates from God, it is God who determines the doctrines that His Church adheres to. The government of God is from the top down. It is a theocracy and a hierarchy in which the leaders of the Church of God are selected by them, as well as the doctrines that the Church of God adheres to:

“I had a vivid example of this a couple of mornings ago, awakening from a dream. In the dream it seemed to be several years ago when the Church was smaller. There was a young man across the street who looked like a possible one of our leaders. He was about age 30, with outstanding personality and appearance, and an articulate extrovert. Then two other young men of about 30, well dressed, of somewhat impressive appearance and manner, were seen walking over and talking to him...

“In the dream I determined to speak immediately with the man they were trying to influence adversely. I told him I knew they were ‘lobbying’ against the Church and against me.

“‘Yes,’ he replied, ‘but I have to tell you, Mr. Armstrong, I think these men have something worth listening to. They say you arrogate to yourself too much power. You make yourself the leader of the Church. **They say the people ought to have all the 'say so.' The people ought to vote on who they want to be their leader and on what they want to believe and accept as Church doctrine.** That sounds like a good idea to me. **I think we need more DEMOCRACY.**’

I awoke at that point about the dream, which had stuck in my mind. But before awakening, I remember I had said to this man in the dream, **‘Well, the REAL QUESTION is whether this is GOD’S Church or the PEOPLE’S Church! If it is GOD’S Church, then GOD is running it, and revealing what we shall believe and teach.** GOD has the ‘say so.’ God runs it through Jesus Christ, who is the HEAD of the Church. And Jesus Christ runs it through His chosen apostle, whom HE, not men, chose, prepared and now guides and leads. Those men are getting your eyes off of GOD - you are leaving GOD out of the picture - out of the Church. You are looking only at *people!* If you want to put GOD out of His Church, then you will have to be excommunicated!

“I awakened considerably impressed with the dream. Was God revealing to me that TOO MANY within the Church membership are *leaving GOD out of the picture?* – in their own minds putting *GOD* out of the Church? **Do they think that the kind of men *the people* would vote for ought to be made the LEADERS in the Church? - that *the people* should say to GOD, ‘This is OUR Church, God, we want you to GET OUT of the Church and leave us alone. WE will run this Church OUR way!’ I awakened**

impressed that TOO MANY of our people are LEAVING GOD AND CHRIST OUT OF HIS CHURCH, and trying to make it OUR Church – the church of the PEOPLE, and NOT the CHURCH of GOD!

“I could cite you any number of examples of where this actually *has been done* by leaders under me in the Church. **This was done to justify watering down GOD'S TRUTH, and the true teaching and doctrine He had put in His Church through His chosen apostle!**”

Good News Magazine, “Shall We All Leave THE CHURCH OF GOD and Join ‘THE CHURCH OF THE PEOPLE’?, Herbert W Armstrong, September 1980

“Later, other ‘men of renown’ in God's Church could not see CHRIST in the Church - only THE PEOPLE! They were in very high position in God's Church - but they wanted to make it MAN'S church. Their conspiracy was far more subtle than that of 1974. **They undertook to produce a ‘scholarly work’ setting forth their own distortion and perversion of the doctrines GOD had put in His Church through His chosen apostle.** It was done secretly.

“Christ's apostle was overseas most of the time, and it was carefully kept from him. It was handed out to all the ministers as the ‘official doctrines of the Church.’ **There were at least six or seven in TOP offices next to Christ's apostle in authority - men trusted and honored. But they were going to make it ‘THE CHURCH OF PEOPLE,’ instead of the CHURCH OF GOD.** They could not see God nor Christ in their mental picture of God's Church. They were LIBERALS! They liberalized Ambassador College. They liberalized *The Plain Truth* magazine. **They changed and liberalized Church doctrines and teachings and beliefs.**

“But God brought His chosen apostle back from the jaws of DEATH from complete heart failure. God, through His apostle, PUT THOSE MEN OUT OF HIS CHURCH. **Now churches or works OF THEIR OWN have been started. But they overlook one thing: ‘EXCEPT THE LORD BUILD THE HOUSE, THEY LABOUR IN VAIN THAT BUILD IT.’”**

Good News Magazine, “Shall We All Leave THE CHURCH OF GOD and Join ‘THE CHURCH OF THE PEOPLE’?, Herbert W Armstrong, September 1980

“You find the seven eras, or stages of activity, in the true Church of God described by Jesus' prophecy in the second and third chapters of Revelation. Herman Hoeh's article in the July, 1953, issue of *The GOOD NEWS* traced the history of these seven churches - or seven successive stages of the one true Church of God-a Church that was always small in number, persecuted, despised by the world.

“The ‘Sardis’ Church

“Yet even this true Church has been composed of humans. **And by the time of the latter, dying days of the ‘Sardis’ church - the 1860s on through the 1930s - government had degenerated** to a form of worldly politics. **The church was headed by a ‘General Conference,’ and leaders elected by vote of delegates. It was government of MEN - not of God.”**

Good News Magazine, “Six More Ministers Now Ordained”, Herbert W Armstrong, February-March 1955

“But people are on the getting side. ‘I love me. I don't care about you.’ You want to take from others. We want to get the best of others in a bargain. Why do stores have sales? Because people think they can get the best of the store. And they go down to the sale. They think they can get something cheaper. Everyone wants to get, get, get, get. And we don't like authority over us. And they especially don't like the authority of the Eternal God.”

World Tomorrow Broadcast, “Salvation Part 3”, Herbert W Armstrong

The Government of God Does Not Work Through Doctrinal Committees

The truth entered the Church of God in the 1st century through the apostles. God who is the author of all truth gave His truth to Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ in turn taught His apostles. And the apostles taught the Church the doctrines that they received from Christ. And this is the same pattern that was used in the 20th century.

The doctrines of the Church were placed into the Philadelphia era of the Church by Jesus Christ through the man he selected to fill the ministerial office of apostle, Mr. Herbert W Armstrong. But in the 1970's, a doctrinal committee formed and began altering and liberalizing the truths that were placed into the Church by Jesus Christ through His chosen apostle.

After finding out that a doctrinal committee had formed and was changing the doctrines that were placed into the Church by Jesus Christ, Mr. Armstrong disbanded this committee and began to restore the truths that were set in the Church by Jesus Christ.

Christ began to set the Church back on track doctrinally through Mr. Armstrong. The doctrinal teachings of the Church are not determined by a doctrinal committee but by God. When a doctrinal committee determines the doctrines of the Church, the Church becomes the Church of men and ceases to exist as the Church of God, because it begins to adhere to the doctrines of men instead of the truths of God:

“How does God's Church receive its doctrines, beliefs and teachings? Direct from God, through the channels of Jesus Christ as HEAD of the Church, and from Him through *the apostles!* NEVER by any others! NEVER by a group of ministers appointing themselves as a Doctrinal Committee! So it was in the first century.

“How did the Worldwide Church of God receive its doctrines, beliefs and teachings? EXCLUSIVELY THROUGH CHRIST'S APOSTLE! True, I have practiced the biblical principle that ‘in multitude of counsel there is safety.’ On many occasions some top-level ministers have contributed certain input that has helped me in setting doctrine. BUT EVERY DOCTRINE, BELIEF AND TEACHING IN THE WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD HAS COME FROM CHRIST *THROUGH* HIS CHOSEN APOSTLE!

The Worldwide News, “What Is A Liberal”, Herbert W Armstrong, February 19, 1979

“There was no such doctrinal committee in the first century Headquarters Church at Jerusalem. **All teaching came from Christ through the apostles - and a few times Christ communicated to apostles via**

the prophets (of which there are none in God's Church today since the Bible for our time is complete). **God's Church today, as in the first century, receives its teachings from the living Christ, through an apostle, just as in A.D. 31.**"

Mystery of the Ages, Herbert W Armstrong, Page 350

"HOW does God's Church receive its doctrines, beliefs and teachings? Direct from God, through the channels of Jesus Christ as HEAD of the Church, and from Him through the apostles! NEVER by any others! NEVER by a group of ministers appointing themselves as a Doctrinal Committee! So it was in the first century.

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Good News Magazine, "What is a Liberal?", Herbert W Armstrong, March 1979

"And that's what all the conference was about in Jerusalem that you read of in the 15th Chapter of Acts. Peter had to prove he was the chief apostle because he had to rise up and settle it. Even among the ministers, and there again, a committee can't rule anything. The ministers came together to decide the doctrine. You can't get a doctrine decided that way by a group. They tried to decide that if you read it in the 15th chapter of Acts. There was much contention among them, all disputing. **Peter rose up and settled the matter.**

"And as soon as he settled it, then they changed the talk to other things and to discuss other things. Paul and Barnabas then told those there of their experiences where they had been with the gospel and preaching the gospel and other subjects all together.

"And then after a while James who was the chairman of the meeting, so to speak, because he was the pastor of the headquarters Church, he rose up and said, 'now Peter has said so and so', and he put his approval on it. And that made the decision. **But it was Peter who really decided what would be done, and there has to be a leader.**"

Bible Study, "Philippians 3-4", Herbert W Armstrong, October 30, 1981

The One True Church is the **ONLY place where the Government of God Functions and is Administered**

In I Cor. 1:13, the apostle Paul asked the rhetorical question, "Is Christ divided?" The reason he asked this rhetorical question is because he notice that divisions were beginning to appear among the brethren. Jesus Christ only leads one Church because he is not divided.

Therefore, only place where the Government of God is found and the true ministerial offices of the Church are given is in the one true Church. This is the only place where God empowers the ministerial offices with power and with authority:

“God then shut mankind off from the Holy Spirit. And God, in effect, said to Adam, to put it in modern language, my own language, He said, ‘Adam, you have made the decision. You have had the chance to make a great decision, not only for yourself but for all that would be born from you, which would be the entire world of humanity. You have decided for yourself and all of them. Therefore, I sentence you and your progeny, mankind, to 6,000 years of being completely cut off from Me. All except the few that I shall specially and draw to Me for special service or activity, preparing for the Kingdom of God, when I will re-establish the Government of God on this Earth, and with the Kingdom of God.’

“The Government of God, you know, the only place on Earth today where the Government of God is being administered is in this Church, The Worldwide Church of God. Now our present world headquarters are in Pasadena, California. At least they have been. And right now, I sort of moved them with myself over here to Tucson, Arizona, as I think most all of you know. And so, the largest state in the union has decided to attack and to try to do away with the Government of God. The men there don't know that. They have been moved by Satan. But Satan is the great deceiver, and they do not know what led them.”

Sermon, “Why the Holy Days”, Herbert W Armstrong, October 13, 1979

“So you see, Brethren, WHY God always ordains men to office THRU HIS OWN CHURCH, THRU HIS OWN ESTABLISHED ORDER, as laid down in HIS WORD! GOD ALWAYS ordains to office BY THE HAND OF MEN, whom HE has placed in office. THERE IS NOT ONE EXAMPLE IN THE NEW TESTAMENT WHERE ANY MAN WAS SELF-APPOINTED, OR ORDAINED WITHOUT THE HAND OF MAN, SEPARATE FROM AND INDEPENDENT OF HIS ORDERED CHURCH! Any such claims to ordination or office are WITHOUT A SHRED OF SCRIPTURAL AUTHORITY!

Good News Magazine, “Must God’s Ministers Be Ordained by the Hand of Men?”, Herbert W Armstrong, January 1960

“God COULD ordain those He has called to office and authority in His work secretly and direct, without the hand of man. But there is no instance in the history of His Church where He ever did! God COULD do all His work HIMSELF, direct, without using any ministers or human agencies at all! BUT THAT IS NOT GOD'S WAY! God did His work on earth thru the human body of Jesus Christ while Jesus was on earth. Now, according to God's own Word, HIS CHURCH, with its many human members, is CHRIST'S BODY thru whom God carries on His work. **There is no example in the Bible where God carried on HIS WORK under the New Covenant by any single individual OUTSIDE OF, INDEPENDENT OF, HIS ORGANIZED CHURCH AND HIS ORDER OF GOVERNMENT IN THE CHURCH. Anyone outside of God's Church is AGAINST God's Church!**

“Jesus said: ‘He that is not with me is AGAINST ME; and he that gathereth not with me SCATTERETH ABROAD!’”

Good News Magazine, "Must God's Ministers Be Ordained by the Hand of Men?", Herbert W Armstrong, January 1960

"In Daniel 7, verses 13 & 14, you'll find the vision of Christ coming up there in the clouds of heaven and having this conferred on Him and in the mean time there He is at God's headquarters. It's the headquarters of God's work wherever it might be in the whole universe that is the supreme headquarters of the God's work. And Jesus Christ is there at the Father's throne now, that's where Christ went.

"Now when He was here on this earth, He had a job here to do but He was leaving, so He said. He didn't bow out and leave it. **He called His disciples and He said, 'I will build My Church.' And they've become the body through whom God works. God works through the body of Christ when He was on earth. Now He works through the collective body of His Church.** Jesus said, 'I will build My Church.'

World Tomorrow Broadcast, "Hebrews Part 10", Herbert W Armstrong

"Now what developed from that forbidden fruit that Adam took? Well, knowledge that was acquirable by man, and he didn't know how to get along with his fellows. But he exalted himself. Vanity above all, and vanity makes him want to get from the other fellow. Vanity means, 'I love me.' Vanity means, 'I want for me.' Vanity goes hand in hand with greed and coveting. And then toward others it's resentment, and envy, and jealousy, competition, strife, rebellion against authority. **And the authority of God is in the Church, brethren. The authority of God is in the Church!**"

Sermon, "Back on Track", Herbert W Armstrong, December 12, 1981

The Ministerial Offices in the Church of God

The ministerial offices in the Church were created by God to administer the various governmental duties within the Church. They are part of the government of God and not only do the men who serve in these offices represent Him, they carry the authority and power of a loving and caring God. Each specific office, and the duties and responsibilities of these various offices will be covered in the following chapters of this document.

The following are the ministerial offices, as they were restored to the Church of God by Jesus Christ during the Philadelphia era, and they are listed in order according to rank; Apostle, Prophet, Evangelist, Pastor, Preaching elder (Minister elder), Non-Preaching elder (Local elder/Local Church Elder). These are the ministerial offices that existed in the *Worldwide Church of God* as early as the 1950's:

The living head of the Church is Jesus Christ and He operates under the authority of God the Father. Therefore, the ministerial offices of the Church of God function directly under the authority of Jesus Christ who is the one who restored these offices to the Philadelphia era of the Church:

“So, He must have been God's priest or God's High Priest. Now, what is a priest? A priest is a representative of God. In other words, God is not here in actual person, only in spirit. But, God had a priest represent Him. **Now, God has priests or ministers as we call them today, to represent Him.** But **one who is called of God, a priest of God, is one who represents Him because God has selected and chosen the priest or the representative and has delegated authority.** Of course, there will be a limit on that authority but as far as it extends. **God has given certain authority to those who represent Him.**

“Now, another thing, there is only one High Priest. There may be many priests, many representatives, but the top one is a High Priest. And there is only one. **Now, at this present time it is revealed as Christ is the head of the Church.** **Christ is the one High Priest in the true Church of God, the body of Christ today.** Christ is the High Priest. There is only one High Priest. And that one is the top authority **under God Almighty, the top authority.**”

World Tomorrow Broadcast, “Hebrews Part 7”, Herbert W Armstrong

“By a study of other New Testament passages, we learn that there were, besides pastors, both preaching and nonpreaching elders in local churches. All elders were teachers, but not all were preachers.

“Also we learn by various Scriptures that all these officers are called ELDERS. A **non-preaching elder**, who must be a leader and apt to teach, is, of course, an elder. So is the **preaching-elder**, also the pastor, and also the evangelist. And even Peter, the apostle, was also an elder. In the New Testament the terms bishop and overseer are synonymous with elder...

“So there are the COMPLETE offices in God's Church-**Christ the HEAD**, then **apostles, evangelists, pastors, minister-elders, non-preaching elders**, deacons, deaconesses.”

Good News Magazine, “Six More Ministers Now Ordained”, Herbert W Armstrong, February-March 1955

“Although the Scriptures clearly pronounce Jesus to be the Church's Head, the government of the Church does not cease with Christ.

“Christ is the cornerstone of the government, He appoints men to official positions under Him as parts of the governmental foundation.

“In Ephesians 2:19-20 Paul states the Church is ‘built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone.’

“In the New Testament, the offices of government are primarily those of the ministry, with other administrative offices being filled by qualified lay persons as necessary.

“Ephesians 4:11 states: ‘And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers.’

“1 Corinthians 12:28 mentions other unordained offices that fill administrative functions.”

*Worldwide Church of God Study Tool, “Doctrinal Outlines – Government in God’s Church”,
1986/1987*

Chapter 3

The Office of Apostle & its Unique Duties

The Office of Apostle

A whole chapter has been devoted to the ministerial office of an apostle and its unique duties. This is because, not only is it the highest office that was created by God for the Church of God, but because it carries with it a most vital responsibility, the commission to preach the gospel unto all nations. Therefore, this office will be examined in detail in this chapter since it comes with a great responsibility, and one that should not be taken lightly.

A number of questions have been asked about the office of apostle such as, how is an apostle ordained? Are apostles ordained by the hand of men? How does one know whether an individual has been selected for this office? And which duties and tasks is this office responsible for? The answer to these questions will be found throughout this chapter.

Ordination of an Apostle

The first and most important question that needs to be answered is who sets an apostle in the office? The apostles are set in this office by Jesus Christ Himself. Jesus Christ is the one who ordained the original apostles into the office of apostle:

“Christ is the living HEAD of the Church!

“HE sets the apostle in office. But we do find historic example in the New Testament of the apostle setting in office the evangelists, pastors and teachers, and even delegating to the evangelists the responsibility of ordaining pastors and other elders, and deacons.”

Good News Magazine, “Six More Ministers Now Ordained”, Herbert W Armstrong, February-March 1955

“Galatians 1:1, ‘Paul, an apostle’, now notice, he designates himself as an apostle, but then he says in brackets, ‘not of men, neither by man, but by Jesus Christ, and God the Father, who raised him from the dead.’ **In other words, men didn't get together and vote on him, and put him, and make him an apostle.**

“Now, I wonder if people understand today. I was not made an apostle by the Church or by a group of people who got together and decided, or voted on it, and decided that I would be an apostle. I

cannot make another man, and I can't appoint another minister to be an apostle. That I cannot do. I can appoint them to become preaching elders or evangelists, that I can do...

"Now notice that his apostleship came direct from Christ and from God. Now, he speaks by their authority. And then he says, 'And all the brethren which are with me, unto.' Now, in other words, the letter is from them to, 'the Churches', more than one Church, 'of Galatia.'

"Galatia was the area called Asia Minor. That is inhabited by Turkey, today. So if you find Turkey on the map, why that is the area. I have been there in their two main cities. Now, you'll notice then, that he says, 'Grace be to you and peace from God the Father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ.' He had authority to speak for God. He was merely a messenger by which God was giving them this grace and peace. I want you to notice, he spoke with authority. He was speaking for God. He didn't say, 'I send you this grace and peace.' But it's God that's sending it. It's from God the Father.

"Now, there were two others who were among the three or four that God had revealed to them that they should lay hands on Saul and Barnabas, and ordain them as apostles, and send them. Now, that's when Paul was made an apostle."

Bible Study, "Galatians 3-4", Herbert W Armstrong, December 5, 1980

"So you see, Brethren, WHY God always ordains men to office THRU HIS OWN CHURCH, THRU HIS OWN ESTABLISHED ORDER, as laid down in HIS WORD! GOD ALWAYS ordains to office BY THE HAND OF MEN, whom HE has placed in office. THERE IS NOT ONE EXAMPLE IN THE NEW TESTAMENT WHERE ANY MAN WAS SELF-APPOINTED, OR ORDAINED WITHOUT THE HAND OF MAN, SEPARATE FROM AND INDEPENDENT OF HIS ORDERED CHURCH! Any such claims to ordination or office are WITHOUT A SHRED OF SCRIPTURAL AUTHORITY!

"Notice a few Scriptural examples:

"JOHN 15:16: Jesus Christ Himself ORDAINED His Apostles — by His Hand in Person, direct. Also Mark 3:14.

"ACTS 1:22: Matthias, after God thru the Holy Spirit directed that he be chosen, was ORDAINED thru the other eleven as one of the TWELVE APOSTLES (Also verses 23-26).

"ACTS 14:23: Elders were chosen and ORDAINED in every city, by the hands of Paul and Barnabas, with fasting and prayer.

"I TIM. 2:7: Was Paul actually ORDAINED, or just made an Apostle by God direct without ordination? Paul here says plainly, HE WAS ORDAINED! That settles it!"

Good News Magazine, "Must God's Ministers Be Ordained by the Hand of Men?", Herbert W Armstrong, January 1960

"Now it came to pass in these days, that Jesus went out into the mountain to pray.' I must hurry along. I want to get the reason for this before we close today's program. 'And continued all night in prayer to God. And when it was day.' Now the sun had risen and it is day, 'He called his disciples, and he chose from them twelve, whom he also named apostles.'

"Now, they were not really named apostles until later. They were now still students. But he called twelve that were to become apostles. You notice that He had prayed all night to God before He did that, before He came to the place of using the judgment to know whom to call and whom to choose of His disciples that had been following Him. He had called a number of disciples."

World Tomorrow Broadcast, "Sermon on the Mount Part 1", Herbert W Armstrong

"Fifty-five years ago next month - in June, 1931 - Herbert W. Armstrong was ordained into the ministry as an apostle of Jesus Christ.

"Five years earlier he had been challenged into a diligent study of the Bible. 'By spring, 1927, my mind had been swept clean of the religious beliefs I had carelessly assumed, and Jesus Christ had come into my life.... I had been conquered by Christ Jesus. I repented, was baptized and a totally new life begotten in me,' is the way Mr. Armstrong described his conversion.

"Soon small groups of people in God's Church in rural Oregon began to urge him to speak before them. **It became clear from the fruits borne even before Mr. Armstrong's ordination that God was calling him to do a special Work.**

"In 1933, God used him to raise up the parent church of the Worldwide Church of God in a country schoolhouse near Eugene, Ore. The Philadelphia church era had begun! The same year, Mr. Armstrong was able to speak on a local 100-watt radio station. Listener response was so outstanding that the station manager suggested Mr. Armstrong do a regular broadcast. Therefore, and purely on faith, what would become the World Tomorrow program went over the airwaves for the first time in January, 1934.

"In February of that year, the first number of the Plain Truth magazine - all 250 copies - was run off a borrowed mimeograph."

Good News Magazine, "After 54 Years – Christ's Apostle Was Still Ahead of His Time", May 1986

"But Jesus said, I am will build my Church. He was going to start another civilization different entirely than the one started through Adam. Now Jesus explained in one parable about the Kingdom of God,

how it was like the mustard seed beginning like a grain of mustard seed, and it would grow till it fills the earth ultimately.

“It started with just one man, Jesus Christ. **He chose 12 apostles, his 12 disciples, who became 12 apostles on the day of Pentecost, when they did receive the Holy Spirit.** Then 120, who would follow Jesus, all received the Holy Spirit on that day of Pentecost, and the Church was born.”

Behind the Work Film, “Transition from Sardis to Laodicea”, Feast of Tabernacles 1983

Truth Enters the Church through the Office of Apostle

In order to prevent confusion regarding the doctrines of the Church, God instituted a method by which the true doctrines that come from God enter the Church of God. Truth enters the Church of God by Jesus Christ through the apostles that he sets in office. This is the method that God uses to put truth into the Church.

This was a key teaching that was restored to the Philadelphia era of the Church. A sure way that a member of the Church can know whether a doctrinal teaching came from God is whether this doctrinal teaching entered the Church through the office of an apostle. This is how the truth can be validated as authentic by Church members and by all of the ministers in the Church of God:

“How does God put the truth in the church? It came through Christ but **Christ put it in the Church through the apostles and through the Old Testament prophets**; but it was the apostles who took what the Old Testament prophets had and who put it in the church. **And every doctrine we have in the Church today, God has put in the Church through His apostle. That's the way in the Bible. That's the way God has made it.** Now if you want to go the way of men or go the way of Satan you go some other way. But **if you want to go the way of God that's the way we will have to go.** Now I want to go back here to the second chapter of Ephesians just a minute.

World Tomorrow Radio Broadcast, “The Gospel and the Church are Concerned with Government”, Herbert W Armstrong

“Now *HOW* did God put *His* doctrines and teachings into His Church in A.D. 31? - before many in the Church turned to another gospel (Galatians 1:6-7)? **And HOW did the living Christ put God's doctrines and teachings into His Church TODAY** before these ‘intellectual liberals’ began trying to compromise and water down?

“Only by His chosen apostles!”

Good News Magazine, “And Now Christ Sets Church Back On Track Doctrinally”, April 1979, Page

“Brethren, think a moment. *HOW* did the first Church of God receive its doctrines — its teachings — its beliefs? Answer: Only through the APOSTLES. And how did they receive this teaching? Direct from

JESUS in person. He is the WORD of God. The Bible is the SAME Word of God in writing! **How did YOU receive the true teachings of Christ? From God's apostle. How did I receive this wonderful truth? From the SAME JESUS, only IN WRITING.** The Bible is a coded book. The Catholics and Protestants have access to it, but can't UNDERSTAND IT!"

Co-worker Letter, Herbert W Armstrong, January 26, 1983

"Now where did the early Church get all of their truth, their doctrines, their beliefs? They got them from the apostles. They didn't get them from Christ. Christ had already ascended up to heaven. He wasn't on earth any longer, but he had taught the disciples and they taught the Church. The apostles taught the Church.

"Now then, Christ is the Word of God. But He's the Word of God in person. The Bible is the same identical word of God, but in writing. It's the same word of God in writing. God taught His apostle of this time and this day, through the written word of God. But it's the word of Christ, just the same, the same identical teaching that the early apostles were taught. **And so, so much of the truth has been restored by God through Christ and through His apostle, and to the Church, in our day, and you people assembled all over the earth, are privileged to have that truth.**

Opening Night Message Feast of Tabernacles, Herbert W Armstrong, September 20, 1983

The Great Commission is Given to the Apostles

The great commission is found in Matt. 24:14, 28:19-20 and in Mark 16:15. In Matt. 28:19-20 and in its parallel gospel account found in Mark 16:15 is where the commission was given to proclaim throughout all nations. When the great commission was given, it should be noted that Jesus Christ was talking to the original disciples who later became apostles.

Therefore, the apostles are the ones who are commissioned by Jesus Christ to preach the gospel to the world. This is a Biblical teaching and a truth that was restored to *Worldwide Church of God* by Jesus Christ when it was led by Mr. Armstrong:

"Notice now the King James translation, 'Afterward he [Jesus] appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat... And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved...' (Mark 16:14-16). Of course NONE could believe and be baptized EXCEPT those God the Father specially called. So there is NOWHERE ANY CONTRADICTION. **The GREAT COMMISSION was given to the APOSTLES — those 'sent forth' with the message — NOT the lay members of the Church.**

"What then? **Did not the lay members have any part in proclaiming the Gospel?** Definitely they did, as we have seen. **Their part was to back up the apostles — stand behind them with their prayers, encouragement, tithes and offerings.** They are PART OF A WELL-ORGANIZED TEAM, as we shall show in more detail."

"Peter therefore was kept in prison: but,' now notice, notice the function of the church, to back up the apostles. **The apostles are the ones that were sent forth with proclaiming the message.** 'But prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him,' for Peter. And the result is that God sent an angel, and just simply broke the chains, the big steel or iron chains that held his hands and feet, and opened the doors and released him, and got Peter out of there...

"Notice now in Acts 4:23. 'And being let go' from prison, 'they went to their own company,' the company of newly converted Christians now, 'and they reported all that the chief priests and the elders had said to them, and when they heard this, **they lifted up their voice to God with one accord, and they said, Lord, thou art God which hast made heaven and earth and the sea,' and they asked them to give these apostles the power, and the courage, and to make it possible for them to go ahead with the mission, and to carry on this great commission of getting the announcement of the kingdom of God on out.**

"Now, I would like to show you that the great commission was given not to the Church, but to the apostles. It isn't a message to the church, that the church is given the great commission to go into all the world and preach the gospel. **If you will turn with me first to Matthew 28, beginning with verse 16 (Matthew 28:16): 'Then the eleven disciples...'** Now Judas had left them, you see, and they had not yet chosen Matthias to take his place.

"Then the eleven disciples' who became now apostles, 'went away into Galilee into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them, and when they saw him they worshipped him but some doubted' and Jesus came and spoke unto them, that is the eleven, not the whole Church, only the eleven. And said, 'all power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore and teach all nations baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.'"

World Tomorrow Telecast, "The Church and Its Purpose", Herbert W Armstrong, July 29, 1978

"Now, I tell you, if you look into the New Testament, you will see that **Christ did not train all of the people.** And there were, oh within a few days after the Day of Pentecost, it might have been the very next day, the Church had grown up to a total of 5,000 people. **But Jesus Christ had not taught them how to go out and carry the gospel message. It was only those that became His apostles.**

"Later, He taught, and apparently appeared, after He had gone to heaven, and yet came down, and **appeared to Paul the apostle, in Arabia. And taught him just as He had taught the other apostles. God sent them! Apostle is a word that means one sent forth, One sent forth.**

"I am sent forth! And if I go forth, and when I leave here, some people say, 'Well, why isn't Mr. Armstrong staying here in Pasadena and taking care of the Church?' I'll tell you why! The Church is supposed to help me, not me take care of you! I am one sent forth with the gospel message! That's what God has laid on me!"

"The apostle is the one sent. Not you. You are to back. You will find, in the New Testament, the Church didn't go out. The apostle's went out. Then there was one who had the Holy Spirit and had been beaten, who went out preaching, and that was Philip. And God blessed him because he had been with the apostles. But he then became a minister, and became an evangelist.

"But the people as a whole were just back of those sent. **An apostle is a word that means one sent forth with Christ's message.** And I just look back at the fruits of the last fifty-one years. And I know by the same way that John the Baptist knew whether Christ was the real Messiah or not. I know, because 'by their fruits' you know, and that's how I know.

Sermon, "Zerubbabel's Temple", Herbert W Armstrong, July 21, 1978

"My friends, the law of God is the way of peace, it's the way into peace and to happiness and to prosperity and joyous abundant living. But when the preachers preached against that way, the people were encouraged to go the other way, of greed, of vanity, the selfish way. And that brought on the thing that Jesus said would follow, wars, strife, hardship, poverty, trouble, everything of the kind that we have had in the world.

"And then was to follow famine and then pestilence and we haven't seen the worst of that yet. We are finally in the time now at the end, of nation against nation and kingdom against kingdom and world war, but we haven't seen the end of that yet. We are in it now, in a recess between the second and third World Wars.

"Now all that, He said, was the beginning of sorrows, but that wasn't the end. But He did say this in verse 14, this is **Matthew 24, 'This gospel of the kingdom'**, which He preached, which He sent His disciples out to preach, **which He ordained His apostles to carry to the world**, and which they did, 'this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world, for a witness unto all nations', that's down in the end time, as it is going now on 'The World Tomorrow Program', and then, He said, 'shall the end come.'"

World Tomorrow Broadcast, "Repent – Surrender to the Will of God", Herbert W Armstrong

"Now came another example of how the Church stood back of the apostles. Remember, **the word apostle means 'one sent forth.'** **Jesus had given the great commission to Peter and the apostles. The other members of the Church were not sent forth with the gospel.** They were called to support and encourage the apostles in getting out the gospel message, as GOD'S MEANS of developing in them God's holy, righteous CHARACTER, qualifying them for places as kings and priests in the KINGDOM!"

Plain Truth Magazine, "7 Proofs Of God's True Church: Part 5", Herbert W Armstrong, June-July 1979

"Now, when the Holy Spirit came, that was the power, the spirit, the mind of God, yes, even the faith of God that had been working in Jesus Christ, now working in the human physical bodies of the

apostles and the Church. **And so, the Church now became the body through which God was working. That is why the Church is called the Body of Christ.**

“And it is the Body of Christ and only as it performs the work, the mission of Christ. And God had given Christ a work to do. And Jesus Christ taught His Disciples and ordained them then as ambassadors or as apostles and He gave them a work to do and gave them a commission. And the first and primary commission is ‘Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to all nations and every creature.’

“Now, that is the prime work of the Church, not being a social club and meeting together and enjoying each other’s society.”

World Tomorrow Broadcast, “Sermon on the Mount Part 1”, Herbert W Armstong

Special Note: In the excerpt that you just read, two points become apparent. The first one is that the great commission was given to the apostles. The second point that becomes apparent is that the prime mission of the Church membership when an apostle is “sent forth” is to assist an apostle in performing the work of God.

While both of these points are absolutely true, both are absolutely necessary when the gospel is proclaimed to the world as a witness unto all nations. There are many additional points that will make this quite clear.

Apostles are “Sent Forth” with the Gospel

Mr. Armstrong came to understand that the word apostle means “one sent forth” with a message. The message the apostles are sent forth with is the gospel (good news) of the kingdom of God. “Sent forth” means that an apostle must “go” into the world with this message. The directive to “go” is reiterated in Matt 24:14 & 18:19-20, “**Go ye therefore, and teach all nations...**” And since the apostles are selected and trained by Jesus Christ, it is Christ who sends these men forth into the world with the message of the gospel.

Therefore, the individuals who are selected as apostles are required by Jesus Christ to “go” and proclaim this message throughout the world. The apostles of the first century fanned out and spread the gospel throughout Asia, Europe and the Middle East. They followed, to the best of their ability, the instruction given by Jesus Christ to “go” into all the world and proclaim the gospel.

You will see later on in this document how this was accomplished by Mr. Armstrong, but in short, he began “going forth” and proclaiming this message by holding meetings in local halls early into his ministry, which grew into campaigns in various parts of this country (United States). The instruction to “go” eventually blossomed into meetings with the various heads of state of this world and with campaigns in their respective countries:

“Jesus had commissioned His apostles to be sent forth proclaiming Christ's gospel message of the Kingdom of God. In spite of political secular government, they started going into all the world with this Kingdom message. By what means? By the means then available to them—afoot, and by sailboat.

They certainly did not consult the political governments regarding their manner of going forth into all the world with the gospel.”

Plain Truth Magazine, “Who Is Lord? Caesar or Christ?”, Herbert W Armstrong, December 1979

“What does the Bible reveal about the office of an apostle in the Church of God? How many apostles — are listed in the New Testament? What does apostleship have to do with the Church today?

“The word apostle comes from a Greek term that literally means one sent forth. Some authorities explain that it means one commissioned. Others define it as one sent with a special message or commission.”

“This word was also used in the Greek-speaking world in reference to people who were not of apostolic office in God's Church. A person who was sent by another person or group might be referred to as an apostle. **It is important to know who does the sending, and therefore the power vested in the individual sent forth.**”

The Good News Magazine, “How Many Apostles Were There?”, Leroy Neff, February 1980

“Now, I tell you, if you look into the New Testament, you will see that **Christ did not train all of the people.** And there were, oh within a few days after the Day of Pentecost, it might have been the very next day, the Church had grown up to a total of 5,000 people. **But Jesus Christ had not taught them how to go out and carry the gospel message. It was only those that became His apostles.**

“Later, He taught, and apparently appeared, after He had gone to heaven, and yet came down, and **appeared to Paul the apostle, in Arabia. And taught him just as He had taught the other apostles. God sent them! Apostle is a word that means one sent forth, one sent forth.**

“I am sent forth! And if I go forth, and leave here, some people say, ‘Well, why isn't Mr. Armstrong staying here in Pasadena and taking care of the Church?’ I'll tell you why! The Church is supposed to help me, not me take care of you! **I am one sent forth with the gospel message! That's what God has laid on me!**

“The apostle is the one sent. Not you. You are to back. You will find, in the New Testament, the Church didn't go out. The apostle's went out. Then there was one who had the Holy Spirit and had been beaten, who went out preaching, and that was Philip. And God blessed him because he had been with the apostles. But he then became a minister, and became an evangelist.

“But the people as a whole were just back of those sent. **An apostle is a word that means one sent forth with Christ's message.** And I just look back at the fruits of the last fifty-one years. And I know by the same way that John the Baptist knew whether Christ was the real Messiah or not. I know, because “by their fruits” you know, and that's how I know.

Sermon, “Zerubbabel's Temple”, Herbert W Armstrong, July 21, 1978

“In the Church, the highest rank is that of apostle - which literally means ‘one sent forth.’ Yet God put his TRUTHS and doctrines in His Church through them and their writings, and they were, in an executive Way, IN CHARGE.

“The same is-true today! **And today He has sent His apostle for our day from place to place all over the world, proclaiming the now VERY soon -coming KINGDOM OF GOD** to those of the very generation during which God's KINGDOM will be set up.

“An apostle is ONE SENT FORTH! I am sent with YOU BACK OF ME - and I know that 98 percent or more of you ARE 100 percent behind me (because you are behind Christ) backing me with your prayers and intercession to God through Christ as well as with tithes and special offerings.

Good News Magazine, “WHAT YOU MAY NOT KNOW”, Herbert W Armstrong, August 28, 1978

“Jesus revealed to Saul, when he was first struck down blind, that he was to be sent to carry the Gospel to the Gentiles. But up to this point in the case history of Paul's call to this service, God had not opened salvation to the Gentiles. It was ‘to the Jew first,’ and then to the Gentiles...

“Then there was a great famine, foretold by the prophet Agabus. Barnabas and Saul were sent with relief provisions to drought-stricken Jerusalem (Acts 11:27-30). About this time Herod the king became violent against the Church. He killed James (brother of John), and put Peter in prison at Passover time. Peter was freed from prison by an angel (Acts 12:6-10). **Verse 25, Barnabas (still named first) and Saul returned to Antioch with Mark. Up to this time, Saul had engaged only in a preparatory ministry — had not yet entered his called mission to the Gentiles.**

“VERSE 2: While they were worshipping and fasting, GOD, thru the Holy Spirit, gave order: **‘Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for THE WORK TO WHICH I HAVE CALLED THEM.’ THAT IS, ORDAIN THEM!** **UP to this time, Saul HAD NOT ENTERED UPON THE WORK TO WHICH CHRIST HAD CALLED HIM.** He had been merely gaining preparatory experience. What is the Bible definition of ‘ORDAIN’? From ‘Cruden's Concordance,’ it is: ‘To appoint, or design to a certain end or use. To choose, or SET APART for an office.’

“So here we see in operation THE GOVERNMENT OF GOD IN HIS CHURCH, THROUGH His human officers chosen by Him, headed by prophets sent by Apostles! Verse 3: **‘And when they had fasted and prayed, AND LAID THEIR HANDS ON THEM, they SENT THEM away...’**

“Up until this ordination, BY THE HAND OF MAN, the Apostle Paul never spoke with authority. He spoke boldly. He spoke convincingly. But never with authority. Never did he issue orders. HE WAS UNDER AUTHORITY. He OBEYED ORDERS.

“But now, after this ordination by the laying on of hands, PAUL SPOKE WITH AUTHORITY of his OFFICE.

“Never before had Paul assumed authority. Now, after being ordained by laying on of the hands of men in proper office, authorized by Christ, Paul assumed and wielded the AUTHORITY of God!...”

“Later, 14 years after his conversion (Gal. 2:1), **Paul went up to Jerusalem again**, with Barnabas, taking Titus also. God had revealed to him the command to go. **He then communicated privately to Peter and the Apostles the Gospel he preached among the Gentiles.** This was the same visit to Jerusalem recorded in Acts 15. It was a coming to the HEADQUARTERS Church, where the Apostles sat in COUNCIL, with AUTHORITY, for decisions inspired by the Holy Spirit, thru APOSTLES, God's chief human offices under Christ.”

Good News Magazine, “Must God’s Ministers Be Ordained by the Hand of Men?”, Herbert W Armstrong, January 1960

Special Note: In the age that we live in, there are a number of splinters and individuals with a *Worldwide Church of God* background who claim they are preaching the gospel to the world by posting this message on their websites or by posting the material that was produced in the *Worldwide Church of God* on the internet. While this method of preaching the gospel is not necessarily wrong, the doctrinal truth that was restored to the Church is that the preaching of the gospel must be led and directed by a man who has been chosen, trained and “sent forth” by Jesus Christ as an apostle.

In addition, a man who is “sent forth” by Jesus Christ with the gospel will naturally understand that his commission is to “go”. The reason an individual must “go” into the world to proclaim the gospel is because just posting the gospel message on a website does not reach the billions of people that now live on this earth, let alone the people in the countries where the internet is not accessible or is censored by the governing authorities.

Supervision of the Gospel

Not only are the apostles selected for their commission, trained for this duty, and imbued with the power and authority from above to perform this mission, they are responsible for the supervision of the gospel. The apostles are the ones who are entrusted with, and responsible for, delivering the most wonderful news that the world will ever hear.

The apostles are the ones that are accountable for ensuring the true gospel is proclaimed to the world in the manner that was revealed to them and in the way that they were trained. This is why they are not only accountable for the success of this mission, they are also responsible for its proclamation and are given the supervision over those who are used to assist them in this great work:

“An apostle is ‘one sent forth’ with Christ's gospel message, including the supervision of proclaiming that message to the world by means and persons other than himself. Also an apostle was given supervision over all the local congregations or churches (1 Cor. 16:1). The apostle Paul had oversight over the churches of the Gentile world (II Cor. 11:28)...”

Book, *Mystery of the Ages*, Herbert W Armstrong

“To administer these many operations, God — not a vote of the members — ‘hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers.’ Or, as stated in more detail in Ephesians 4:11 (Revised Standard Version): ‘And His gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers.’

“An apostle is ‘one sent forth’ with Christ's Gospel message, including the supervision of proclaiming that message to the world by means and persons other than himself. Also an apostle was given supervision over all the local congregations or churches (I Corinthians 16:1, II Corinthians 11:28).

“The prophets set in the foundation of the Church are those of the Old Testament, whose writings were used to form a considerable part of the New Testament and Gospel teaching and functioning. The word prophesy is often used in the sense of ‘to preach, or proclaim’. So some of the preachers might well be termed ‘prophets’ — but no prophets are mentioned as having either administrative, executive or preaching functions in the New Testament Church.”

Book, *A Voice Calls Out Amid Religious Confusion*, Herbert W Armstrong

Special Note: A truth that was restored to the Church in the 6th era was the doctrinal teaching that the apostles are specifically chosen, and then “sent out” to preach the gospel. And thus, they are given the overall supervision of how the gospel is proclaimed to the world and the supervision of those who assist them directly in this work.

In the next quote by Mr. Armstrong, you will see that he mentions that now and then, there are some in the Church who become men of great power, such as Philip and Stephen which are mentioned in the book of Acts and who performed great miracles, and that such men could be used to preach the gospel.

While this is true, it should be noted that during the time when Philip and Stephen announced the good news of the gospel in the first century, they announced it during the time when many of the original apostles were still alive and thus, it occurred under their knowledge and supervision:

“Jesus Christ said, ‘No man can come to me except the Father which sent me draw him’, and God is only drawing a few, and to those few of us, he is drawing, he is drawing us for a purpose, and that purpose always is preparing for the kingdom of God that is coming. He isn't calling you just to get salvation. And if you think that you're called just to get salvation, you're going to lose the salvation you think you're going to have.

“God has called the Church to get back of his apostle, in getting the message to the world! And that takes constant prayer of the people. God hears and answers prayer, and I need those prayers, and I need that encouragement, and God called the Church to support the ministry.

“He didn't call the Church itself to go out and preach the word, although now and then someone from the Church is called to go, that could be, like in the early Church. There was Philip, and there was, there was Stephen, the first martyr, and they had been just deacons. They were not apostles, but they became men of great power, because they were so filled with the Holy Spirit. Well, anyone in the Church could be. It's a wonderful thing.”

World Tomorrow Telecast, “The Potential of Mankind”, Herbert W Armstrong

Apostles are Emissaries and Ambassadors

Another important duty of an apostle is that they are the official emissaries or ambassadors who represent God and His kingdom. And this fits perfectly with their commission because they are the ones who are “sent forth” into the world with the message about the kingdom of God.

The word emissary can be defined as, “a person who is sent on a special mission, usually as a diplomatic representative.” The apostles are therefore the emissaries to the various heads of nations and they, that is the apostles, officially represent the government of living God:

“And so in time sequence we were in Luke the 6th chapter and I want to read this again. Beginning with verse 12, ‘It came to pass in those days, that Jesus went out into a mountain to pray.’ Now, He didn't go into a public synagogue and pray before everybody to make a big showing and impress other people with what rhetorical and flowery prayer He could make. But He went out into the mountain away from all people where the only one to hear Him was His Father in Heaven. And you're going to see that in this very sermon He told you and me how to pray and it wasn't to pray publicly before others for others to hear but privately before God for the Eternal God our Father in Heaven to hear.

“So He went out into this mountain to pray and He ‘continued all night in prayer to God. And when it was day, he called his disciples, and he chose from them twelve, whom he also named apostles.’ Now, they were to be His ambassadors. They were His emissaries bearing His authority sent to the peoples of this world representing Him and His Government, His Kingdom, the Kingdom of God. But His Kingdom is not of this world, that is, of this age, this time, this present pattern of things that men have set up as the civilization of this earth, now, today.

“Now, **He selected His twelve disciples, the ones that were to be the apostles** out of all the disciples who were following Him. And He had called each of them. **And now He had to pray all night so that He could be close enough to God and have the wisdom, the understanding to know which ones God had selected,** which ones He should chose and select. As I said before, they didn't come and say, ‘Now, we'd like a job. We think we'd like to work for you. We want to get into the ministry and we think you

look like. We know that the Pharisees and the leaders of the synagogues are calling you a false prophet, but we think you're alright.”

World Tomorrow Broadcast, “Sermon on the Mount Part 3”, Herbert W Armstrong

“Incidentally, once again let me explain **the difference between a disciple and an apostle.** The word disciple means a student or a learner. And well, they were disciples, they were going to school so to speak and Jesus Christ was the teacher and they were going to school and He was teaching them. But after they had been taught and as we might say in today's language had graduated and had qualified then they became Apostles.

“And an apostle is an ambassador. An apostle is one who is clothed with authority to represent his government in a foreign or a strange land. And the government that they represented was the Government of God Almighty. And they were in a foreign and a strange land so to speak, that is foreign and strange from the ways and the Government of God here on this earth and they represented God and they had authority.

“Now, God works through human agencies. And Jesus was God in the human flesh. Jesus did not propose to come and spread that message to the world. He proposed to teach it to His disciples and send them and work through them that they might preach it to the world. And so He did work through them. Now, that's why the Church is the Body of Christ. The work that God was doing through Christ.”

World Tomorrow Broadcast, “Sermon on the Mount Part 1”, Herbert W Armstrong

“Recently I visited Sri Lanka for the third time. Sri Lanka is a small but prosperous island just off the southern tip of India, and it's just about halfway around the Earth from Pasadena, from where I'm speaking now. **I travel all over the world as chairman of the Ambassador International Cultural Foundation, and I've traveled in the interest of world peace...**

“But when it comes to the field of man dealing with his fellow man, there we have trouble. The whole world is in trouble, and the greatest minds in the world are unable to solve these troubles, because it's a case of mind dealing with mind, and a hostile mind dealing with other hostile minds is only increasing in trouble. **So I say to you now, as a representative of that great creator, that the almighty creator is going to let mankind learn its lesson.**”

World Tomorrow Telecast, “What is the Key to World Peace”, Herbert W Armstrong

“It's known on this program that I frequently visit many heads of government in their countries, in all parts of the world. Now I meet them as president of the Ambassador International Cultural Foundation. This foundation is a corporate entity of the *Worldwide Church of God*, and it is devoted to

opening up projects in cooperation with different countries, in their own countries, projects toward the development of their countries and toward world peace.

“My meetings in these countries enable me to speak before many of the leaders in these countries, not only the king or the prime minister, or the president, but also those who are leaders in these countries. And in so doing, I can explain why we do not have world peace. I can explain something that missionaries never can get over to the people in those countries, who do not know Jesus Christ or do not know the gospel.

“They're very much prejudiced against that sort of thing, and if I were a missionary, I would never be allowed to speak before these people. **But the effective way is to speak to them in the manner in which I do, giving them the cause of world troubles, and telling them the way toward world peace, and the only way that world peace is ever going to come.** Now I have known King Birenda for many years. I knew him when he was the crown prince. I knew his father, King Mahendra, before he died, and I recently paid another visit to King Birenda and his wife, the queen.”

World Tomorrow Telecast, “World Peace – Mankind’s Ultimate Dilemma”, Herbert W Armstrong

“We're in the generation when he's coming! The time is now, and you'd better open your ears, and you'd better begin to believe it. There's a saying today, ‘You'd better believe it!’ And let me tell you, you'd better believe this, because you have not been hearing it, and this is the truth straight from God and on the authority of Jesus Christ. **I don't speak on my own authority. I speak on the authority of Jesus Christ, and the word is true.**”

World Tomorrow Telecast, “Prince of Peace”, Herbert W Armstrong

“Now, in the story-flow of the four Gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, telling of the events in the life of Jesus, of what He preached, of what He taught and of the example that He set for us, the things that He did, we came in the last broadcast in this series in the 6th chapter of Luke where, **‘In those days, Jesus went out into a mountain to pray, and he continued all night in prayer to God.’ There was a reason for that. ‘And when it was day, he called his disciples’, of whom there by that time a good number. ‘And he chose from them, twelve.’ He selected twelve and chose twelve out of them, ‘whom also he named apostles.’**”

“Now, we've seen in the past programs in this series of where Jesus was walking along and He saw a certain man and He called that man to follow Him and to become His disciple. He found Peter and his brother fishing as fishermen. He said, ‘Come and follow me.’ They didn't come to Jesus and say, ‘Can we follow you? Well, we would like to follow you. We have decided we'd rather be preachers than anything else. We believe that's the easiest way to earn a living and we would like to choose that as our profession. Will you let us become your minister? May we follow you?’ They didn't say that.

Instead, they thought they wanted to be fishermen, Matthew thought he wanted to be a tax collector, but Jesus said, 'You follow me.' He chose them! They did not choose Him.

“So, He had prayed all night. And after prayer all night long, Jesus had wisdom and knowledge. He had been so close to His Father, that He could act with unerring judgment and have the wisdom to know just whom He should select from among the disciples and which should be the twelve that later were to become His Apostles. **The Apostles carry the authority of the kingdom of God and going out as Christ's own ambassadors representing Him and His Government, because it is a matter of Government.** Now let's look into and see. These were later apostles. There was Simon, who also was named Peter, and Andrew, his brother, and James and John, Philip and Bartholomew. They're all named here.”

World Tomorrow Broadcast, “Sermon on the Mount Part 2”, Herbert W Armstrong

Special Note: Notice closely in the last except from Mr. Armstrong that he clearly understood that the apostles carry the “authority of the kingdom of God” and they are the “ambassadors” who represent God and His government. The way that they carry the “authority of the kingdom of God” because they are the ones who are selected and “sent forth” to proclaim the message of the soon coming kingdom of God unto all nations. This is how they become Christ’s ambassadors to these nations. No other ministerial office in the Church of God carries this authority, and neither do the lay members. Therefore, those who have not been called, trained and “sent forth” by Jesus Christ as apostles and who are attempting to proclaim the gospel, are presumptuously taking upon themselves a special commission and a special authority, that has not been granted to them by God.

The Proclamation of the Gospel only through the One True Church

In the age we live in, just about every splinter claims they are proclaiming the gospel by posting this commission on their websites or by posting the material that was produced by the *Worldwide Church of God* for the purpose of preaching the gospel.

In addition, with the advent of Facebook, YouTube and many other social media outlets, individuals and groups who have a *Worldwide Church of God* background are using these channels to post their viewpoints on many Biblical matters.

When the gospel is proclaimed, God only uses one instrument to preach the good news of the soon coming kingdom of God, and that instrument is the one true Church of God. And since there is only one Church, there will only be one voice going out with this message, if it has been authorized by God. And if this message is going out to the world, it will be led by a man who has been called, trained, and “sent forth” by Christ with this commission:

“Now listen, if one would really use his mind in thinking, he would ask, ‘Well why doesn't the gospel point the way, and accomplish this result?’ My friends, the gospel, the true gospel does, that gospel is in your Bible. You'll find it in the books of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. You'll find it in the Acts of the Apostles. You'll find it in all the epistles, or the letters, of the apostle Paul. You'll find it in the book written by Peter. You'll find it in the letters of John and in Jude. You will even find it in the book of Revelation.

“And yes, believe it or not, you will find it in many of the writings of the Old Testament, because the Church, which is the instrument of God, the true Church, the one and only true Church, is given a commission of preaching that Gospel.”

World Tomorrow Broadcast, “The Rules of Success Part 7”, Herbert W Armstrong

“God has ONLY ONE CHURCH on earth, which He directs in the doing of His Work — not TWO churches — not MANY denominations and sects, and ‘groups.’ ‘But now are they many members, YET BUT ONE_BODY’ (I Cor. 12:20 — see also v. 12, 13). ‘For by one Spirit are we all (not part of us) baptized into ONE_body.’”

Co-worker Letter, Herbert W Armstrong, May 2, 1974

“God forbids and condemns going off separately, one being of Paul, one of Apollos, one of Cephas— one of Garner Ted, one of Raymond Cole, one of Ernest Martin, one of Ken Westby.

“WHERE have all those who went out gone? What fruit have they borne? How much of this whole world has heard the TRUE GOSPEL MESSAGE through them?”

“BUT THE ONE CHURCH OF GOD, TODAY WORLDWIDE, is NO LONGER DIVIDED, and is rapidly now picking up momentum, as Jesus Christ has now purged the schism and RESTORED HIS BLESSING to the ONE CHURCH of which HE is HEAD!

“So many were leaving JESUS HIMSELF that He said to His disciples, ‘Will ye also go away?’ (John 6:67). Will any of you, now, brethren? Jesus Christ said the gates of the grave would not prevail against that ONE BODY of which HE is the Living HEAD! His CHURCH is where HE is working.”

Co-worker Letter, Herbert W Armstrong, September 25, 1978

“Two or three have broken off from God's Work, seeking a personal following, trying to draw away members from God's Church so they may devour God's sheep for Satan. But they have no way to get Christ's vital message as a witness into these great nations now opening their doors.

“Brethren, **let's pray more for the true Work of God.** For 18 1/2 centuries Christ's Gospel the Kingdom of God was not proclaimed to the world. **No one except the true Church of God is proclaiming it now.** We need your prayers now, as never before!”

Co-Worker Letter, Herbert W Armstrong, February 11, 1974

Herbert W Armstrong Chosen by God as an Apostle

Mr. Herbert W Armstrong was specifically chosen to proclaim the gospel to the world, just as the original apostles of the 1st century were also handpicked for this mission. No one can take this office and this commission into his own hands without being specifically selected by God and Jesus Christ to fulfill the office of an apostle and to engage in the commission that comes with this office:

“God called me, taught me, committed His GREAT COMMISSION to me. He raised up this WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD - today's era of God 's Church - through me. He started The Good News and The Plain Truth through me. He started the BROADCASTING and telecasting through me. He started AMBASSADOR COLLEGE through me. He used me to TEACH STUDENTS, WHO WERE TO BECOME GOD'S MINISTERS, HIS TRUTH. That TRUTH included TITHING, HEALING and many things some of the younger ministers seem to want to GET AWAY FROM today!”

Good News Magazine, “WHAT YOU MAY NOT KNOW”, Herbert W Armstrong, August 28, 1978

“Well, no man made me an apostle and men cannot elect an apostle. That would never have the approval of God in a million years. Christ Himself selected me, and laid on me the Great Commission of getting the gospel of the Kingdom of God, which is the good news of the coming government and kingdom of God, **to all the world. Now that's why I've had to be away from here and in the capitals of the world for the last several years, a great deal, and again I will have to be.”**

Sermon, “Creation and the Gospel”, Herbert W Armstrong, May 13, 1978

“In our day Jesus Christ prepared and raised up Herbert W. Armstrong as His chosen apostle to carry on the proclaiming of the gospel worldwide, and ministering to the membership in local congregations.

“In our day we live in a totally different world, especially in means of transportation and communication. **The living Christ started me on radio in January 1934, and through the printed message beginning February 1934.** Comparatively rapid mail delivery was by then available, and rail travel, beside the telephone. We first went on television in July 1955. Finally came air travel—first prop planes, then jet.”

Plain Truth Magazine, “Who Is Lord? Caesar or Christ?”, Herbert W Armstrong, December 1979

“Forty-three years ago, God committed to me His GREAT COMMISSION — to carry Christ's Gospel MESSAGE of the imminent coming KINGDOM OF GOD into all the world.

“Again I say that is a STAGGERING RESPONSIBILITY!

“Alone, I would be utterly helpless to carry out that commission. Therefore, God used me first in raising up HIS CHURCH of this era, to stand loyally in back of me, making it possible.

“The parent church was 19 members. That was in August 1933. I had really been given the GREAT COMMISSION in mid-July of that year when I was 40. I was not elected; **I was appointed by Jesus Christ, the HEAD of the Church. How may that be known? By THE FRUITS** — BY THE FACTS, which cannot be contradicted!”

Plain Truth Magazine, “How I Came to be Going to Kings and Heads of Government”, Herbert W Armstrong, February 1978

“Well, no man made me an apostle and men cannot elect an apostle. That would never have the approval of God in a million years. Christ Himself selected me, and laid on me the Great Commission of getting the gospel of the Kingdom of God, which is the good news of the coming government and kingdom of God, to all the world. Now that's why I've had to be away from here and in the capitals of the world for the last several years, a great deal, and again I will have to be...”

“The cooperation that we've had in Israel, and the dozens and dozens of times that I've gone to Israel and Jerusalem, never once have we sought a single convert, nor, as far as I know, have we made one. And they know that. This is not the time God is trying to save the world spiritually, but to get out the message.

“Now the way is open to carry the message in the 40th chapter of Isaiah, to tell them of the cities of Judah, that the Lord is coming with a strong arm, Armstrong. Is it a coincidence in the fact that God chose a man with that name to carry that message, to rule them in the Kingdom of God and to bring them peace? And they and the Arabs will all be at peace one with another.”

Sermon, “Creation and the Gospel”, Herbert W Armstrong, May 13, 1978

Herbert W Armstrong Trained to Proclaim the Gospel

Many may not know that not only is the preaching of the gospel a mission that an apostle is selected for by God, it is also a duty that they are trained in by Christ before they are sent out with this message. This makes sense for a number of reasons.

The first reason is because those who are chosen for this mission must be taught what the true gospel entails. Another reason it is important to train an individual who is selected to proclaim the gospel to the world is so that he is aware of how to perform the commission entrusted to him. This mission is not a small or trivial mission, but it is the all-encompassing mission to “go” to the world with this message of good news. That is why training is of utmost importance:

“It is important that we realize the significance of 100 time-cycles!

“God set the earth, sun, and moon in their orbits to mark off divisions of time on the earth. One revolution of the earth is a day. One revolution of the moon around the earth is a lunar month (according to God's sacred calendar). One revolution of the earth around the sun is a solar year. But the earth, the sun, and the moon come into almost exact conjunction only once in 19 years. Thus 19 years mark off one complete time-cycle!

“Now consider further facts — whether strange coincidence, or providential design.

“The actual ordination, or completing of the ordination and enduement of power for sending out the original disciples into the ministry occurred after 3½ years of intensive instruction and experience. It was on the Day of Pentecost. And the year was A.D. 31.

“Exactly 100 time-cycles later, **after 3½ years of intensive study and training, Christ ordained me to preach this same Gospel of the Kingdom in all the world as a witness to all nations (Matt. 24:14).** This ordination took place at, or very near, the Day of Pentecost, 1931.”

Book, Autobiography of Herbert W Armstrong – Volume I, Herbert W Armstrong

“Finally, brethren, though I have mentioned it in the Autobiography, many may not realize the significance of the fact that **I personally was fully ORDAINED by the laying on of hands** after fasting and prayer of those in authority in GOD'S CHURCH. It was in the summer of 1931. I had held a short evangelistic campaign for the Oregon Conference, Church of God (Stanberry, Mo.), six months before, **after three and a half years of receiving instruction in the Gospel from Christ, thru His written Word.** In the summer of 1931 those in authority in this Church of God asked to enter the full time ministry, starting with a tent campaign in Eugene, Oregon. **And for this ministry I was ORDAINED, by** fasting and prayer and laying on of hands of the presbytery — **those in authority in God's Church.** This Church is now clearly identified, in the light of carefully documented historical research, as the ‘Sardis’ era of the Church described prophetically by Jesus in Revelation 3:1-6.

Good News Magazine, “Must God’s Ministers Be Ordained by the Hand of Men?”, Herbert W Armstrong, January 1960

“And HOW did God put doctrine and belief into His Church? By Jesus Christ—but Christ taught the Apostles and the CHURCH received its teaching and doctrines through the APOSTLES. Now Jesus is the Word of God in Person. The BIBLE is the Word of God in writing—but the SAME TRUTH! Brethren. I did not put myself into God's Church nor make myself Christ's Apostle—HE DID! **Just as God taught the first century original Apostles through Jesus the Personal Word of God, even so He taught me the SAME TRUTHS AND DOCTRINES through the WRITTEN Word of God, the Holy Bible!”**

Co-worker Letter, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, September 13, 1980

A Man with Experience in the Advertising Field

There was much prayer involved when Jesus Christ selected the men he would pick as his disciples and those He would later ordain as apostles. Christ's goal was to ensure that the men whom God had called for this special office, the office of apostle, were the men that He would pick.

In the 20th century, God specifically selected a man with experience in the advertising field for the commission of proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom of God to the world. It is no coincidence that a man in the advertising field was chosen because this was an individual who was versed in the art of writing and in the art of communication:

"In II Corinthians the 11th chapter, you will find how Paul feared that there were false teachers out that would turn them to another gospel, and that did happen. And the true gospel was suppressed, and it was not preached.

"But God did raise me up from the advertising field in which I had put myself, and yanked me right out of that, and opened my eyes to see these things in his word, and to carry it to kings, and to nations all around the world, and to people that this gospel may go as an announcement today, just as Jesus announced it then."

World Tomorrow Telecast, "Christ the Coming King", Herbert W Armstrong

"I wonder if you realize that before God called me to the ministry that I represented the banking journals read by bankers all over the United States. And I represented the seven main and largest banking journals of the United States. I attended the national Bankers' Conventions. I knew the bankers of Wall Street and New York. I knew the chief that is the presidents and board chairmen and vice presidents of the banks in Chicago. Mostly down on South, the South Street and that area and I know how to speak to them in their own language.

"I dealt for seven years with the presidents of the largest corporations in the United States. That included corporations like Goodyear Tire and Rubber and like J.I. Case, the great farm machine corporation, Moline Plow, John Deere and company and others like that. **I was trained in the early years in writing to that type of people. I know just how to talk to them. You know that the average man who is a minister that God has called would not know how to write to them, would not know how to talk to them.** It is a wonderful opportunity."

Sermon, "Trumpets and the Purpose of the Church", Herbert W Armstrong, September 11, 1980

"It was not long until I was given opportunity to start writing and designing display ads. As mentioned above, this Service Department was a sort of trade-journal advertising agency. We handled the trade-paper division of the advertising budget of manufacturers who sold through retailers. As a

rule the larger advertising agencies were glad to relinquish the trade-paper portion of any client's advertising. They were primarily interested in consumer media.

“I shall never forget the first ad Mr. Boreman assigned to me to write and lay out. **I have mentioned before that I had been studying every book on advertising writing I could acquire. I was studying books on psychology, and on advertising psychology. I had diligently read the trade journals in the advertising field** — Printers Ink and Advertising & Selling. I had studied diagrams of design and layout of ads. But as yet I had received almost no experience in actually writing the copy and designing the layout of an ad...

“The ads I was trained to write, during those formative years between ages 20 and 23, always got results. Often they were more plain and simple in appearance than the more fancy, artistic, highly illustrated ads around them. But they stopped roving eyes — drew attention from surrounding matter — aroused and held interest — convinced readers, and moved them to act! (This early training was destined to serve a great purpose!)

“Today all that early training and the years of subsequent experience are being put into the production of full-page ads which are selling, not a commercial product or service for profit, but God's truth, without price or profit.”

Book, Autobiography of Herbert W Armstrong – Volume 1, Chapter 3, 1986

God Selects the United States for the Work of God

It is no coincidence that God chose the United States as the country from which Work of God would be headquartered and accomplished in the 20th century. God always works through men and he uses the carnal word to accomplish his goals.

The freedom of speech, the affluence of this society, the various methods of transportation (vehicular and air travel), the availability of the printing press, and the technologies of broadcasting and telecasting that were readily obtainable in this country are just some of the logical reasons why God choose a nation such as America to proclaimed the gospel throughout the world:

“Mr. Armstrong explained that we are not teaching an ‘American religion,’ an ‘Australian religion,’ or a ‘European religion.’ **We are teaching God's truth** and His Word. **God has placed the headquarters of His Church in the United States because America is the only place the Church can operate as it must to do God's work.**

“All of us need to remain close to God so we can be solidly ‘compacted together’ as parts of the spiritual temple God is building. Jesus set the example. He was closer to God than any of us has ever

been. As Mr. Armstrong pointed out, there will be absolutely no dissent nor conflict in God's Kingdom. That is the goal we must strive for now, through contact with God and by the unifying power of His Holy Spirit. The Church will be changed into the Kingdom of God when Christ returns. Therefore, let each of us work all the harder daily to grow in unity, becoming more firmly bound together by the mind of Jesus Christ."

Pastor General's Report, Ministerial Services, February 1, 1985

"God uses the carnal world. He doesn't change it. He allows his people to function in it. He always has. We are not to be part of it, but we must function in it. And so God prepared the world through allowing these kind of things to happen. We may condemn humanitarian or humanism in that sense of the word, in certain ways. We certainly may not agree with Greek philosophy or any other philosophy.

"We can probably pick it to pieces from a theological point of view. But when we understand its setting that God prepared the world for the gospel of the kingdom of God, it had to come in that kind of a realm. **Just as in today, God did not choose a Russian peasant in 1917 to begin to lay the foundation for this era of the Church, because that Russian peasant who might have latter understood the truth and grown in it in the same way Mr. Armstrong did in the 20's, could that Russian have launched the preaching of the gospel of the kingdom of the world from Moscow, or Vladivostok in 1934 let's say? Well, if God was going to use the carnal world in which we live, he couldn't.** He didn't do that.

He rather prepared a man in the democratic free world, and in fact the most affluent nation, or the one that was to become that in the free world to proclaim the gospel of the kingdom of God in these years. I think it's good for us to see the parallelism of God preparing the world in that day for Christ in the New Testament Church in the same way he prepared the world in our day for the gospel of the kingdom of God to go to the world. We should not lose sight of that analogy.

Ambassador College Lecture, "Church History; The World Prepared for the Christian Church Lecture 02", Ronald Kelly, 1987

"As Pastor General of the worldwide Church, and as a voice crying out in the wilderness of confusion and ignorance, **Mr. Armstrong must visit all parts of the world.** God has opened the door for him to take the announcement of the coming Kingdom of God to leaders and rulers of major nations and to speak directly to the people of many countries.

"The first apostles would be astonished to see the size and scope of the work now. **In just one day, Mr. Armstrong can cover more miles than the Apostle Paul did in his lifetime. The means of communication, the technology and the modern resources that God has given to His end-time work would indeed be strange to those men who first received the commission to take the gospel to the world nearly 2,000 years ago.**"

Behind the Work Film, "Transition from Sardis to Philadelphia", Feast of Tabernacles 1983

3-Point Campaign

It is very interesting that early on into his ministry, Mr. Armstrong developed a plan in which he would use 3 methods to announce the gospel to the world. This 3-point campaign included the use of the printing press, the broadcasting and telecasting fields, and evangelistic campaigns that started locally and eventually blossomed into meetings with a third of the heads of state of this world who also allowed him to conduct personal lectures and campaigns in their countries. Mr. Armstrong was an expert communicator who was able to make the explanations of the Bible plain and simple for people to understand.

But what is interesting in the 3-point plan that he used, is that he understood as early as in 1931 that the commission of proclaiming the gospel included the instruction to “go” into the world to preach this message, Matt. 24:14 and Matt. 28:19-20. And he began to fulfill this instruction as early as 1931:

“When God uses human instruments to do his Work, things start small. To begin with, there was just Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong and a group of humble co-workers, but God was beginning to lay the foundation for a powerful last witness to the nations of the world.

“Using the experience he gained in business, **Mr. Armstrong organized the work into a 3 point plan, a weekly radio program, a monthly magazine and a continuing series of personal lectures and campaigns...**

“**The World Tomorrow** grew from 1 program at a 100 watt station to a radio and television program that is now heard and seen on hundreds of stations around the world.

“**From an even humbler beginning The Plain Truth** has steadily increased in quality and circulation until today it reaches unto nearly every country on earth in many languages with a readership of millions.

“**The third part of the 3 point plan also began small. Mr. Armstrong held meetings in rented halls in the towns and villages of the Willamette Valley. As the work grew, he planned campaigns in other parts of the United States, and eventually oversees. But God had even bigger plans for this part of the 3 point plan. The turning point came in 1968. As the world grew closer to its destiny, God thrust his servant into the international arena.**”

Presentation, “Behind the Work 1981”, Herbert W Armstrong, First Day of the Feast of Tabernacles 1981

“**In the first months after my conversion, spring of 1927, I had conceived the determination to publish a new magazine.** I had been in magazine and newspaper advertising since age 18. But the new

magazine would be different. It would not be secular. It would carry no commercial advertising. It could not be sold — there would be no subscription price. But it would make the *TRUTH PLAIN* — a magazine of UNDERSTANDING. God's Word, the Holy Bible, is TRUTH. There would be no magazine like it on earth.

“I had planned a ‘Three-Point Campaign’ — spearheaded by the radio broadcast, followed by The Plain Truth and reinforced by personal evangelism holding six-nights-a-week meetings...

Good News Magazine, “The History of the Beginning and Growth of the Worldwide Church of God – Chapter 5”, Herbert W Armstrong, September 1980

“A man of vision and foresight, Mr. Armstrong constantly adapted and used any workable means available to proclaim God's truth as a witness to the world.

“These means have included, besides **radio, television** and **The Plain Truth and other magazines**, including The Good News, **meetings with world leaders**, advertisements in national and international publications, **public lectures**, the publishing of books as well as free booklets and articles and the sponsoring of selected cultural and humanitarian programs.

“Never before have such channels of communication been so effectively used for good!

“Right up until his death on Jan. 16, 1986, Mr. Armstrong continued to provide dynamic and vibrant leadership to the growing Work God built through him.

“During the last year of his life, **Mr. Armstrong made extensive trips to Asia and Europe to preach and oversee Church-sponsored projects.** He participated in the 40th anniversary of the signing of the United Nations charter in San Francisco, Calif.”

Good News Magazine, “After 54 Years – Christ’s Apostle Was Still Ahead of His Time”, May 1986

Gospel Proclaimed in the United States and in Europe

When Mr. Armstrong was called to be an apostle and proclaim the gospel, the work started small. The gospel was initially announced in the Willamette Valley where his residence in Eugene Oregon was located. It expanded from there nationally and then the broadcasting of this message reached Europe through Radio Luxembourg in 1953:

“This Philadelphia era of God's Church began in October, 1933, with only 19 baptized members. It started the smallest, but like the grain of mustard seed it grew, and GREW, until today it is fulfilling God's Great Commission in a power not equaled even by the largest professing churches of this world.”

Co-Worker Letter, Herbert W Armstrong, March 21, 1984

“When God uses human instruments to do his Work, things start small. To begin with, there was just Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong and a group of humble co-workers, but God was beginning to lay the foundation for a powerful last witness to the nations of the world.

“Using the experience he gained in business, Mr. Armstrong organized the work into a 3 point plan, a weekly radio program, a monthly magazine and a continuing series of personal lectures and campaigns.”

Presentation, “Behind the Work 1981”, Herbert W Armstrong, First Day of the Feast of Tabernacles 1981

“Christ started out His original apostles preaching the very Gospel of the Kingdom which God had sent by Him, and which He had taught the apostles, in the year A.D. 31. For exactly one 19-year time-cycle this preaching was confined to the continent where it started — Asia. **After precisely one 19-year time-cycle, A.D. 50, Christ opened a door for the Apostle Paul to carry the same Gospel to EUROPE! This was A.D. 50.** Before A.D. 70, Roman armies besieged Jerusalem. From that time the Roman government stamped out the organized mass spreading of the Gospel of Christ. Soon a different gospel was being tolerated, later endorsed and then enforced by Roman government. It was Roman paganism now being palmed off under the new name ‘Christianity.’

“For nearly 19 centuries the world has been rendered spiritually drunk on the wine of this counterfeit gospel! As prophecy foretold, ALL nations have been deceived. But looking into our time, just before the END of this age (Matt. 24:14), Jesus foretold that His same original Gospel of the Kingdom of God was to be preached and published (Mark 13:10) in all the world as a witness to ALL NATIONS! This was to immediately precede HIS SECOND COMING!

“TODAY THIS IS BEING DONE! **Now consider this amazing parallel!**”

“God first opened a door — that of radio and the printing press — for the mass proclaiming of HIS ORIGINAL TRUE GOSPEL the first week in 1934! The exact date was January 7, 1934. Exactly one time-cycle later, January 7, 1953, God opened wide the massive door of the most powerful commercial radio station on earth, and RADIO LUXEMBOURG began broadcasting Christ's Gospel to EUROPE and Britain!”

“What startling coincidences! — or are they mere coincidences?”

Book, *Autobiography of Herbert W Armstrong – Volume 1*, Herbert W Armstrong, Chapter 24

“Soon after, Mr. Armstrong began broadcasting daily, the opportunity came to purchase time on the giant 50,000-watt station, W.H.O. in de Moines, Iowa, and a few months later, another superstation

W.O.A.I. in San Antonio, Texas. Then in August 1944, Mr. Armstrong was able to purchase time on even more powerful stations in Mexico. The World Tomorrow Program could now be heard nationwide, and mail was received from every state of the union. As a result, the Plain Truth circulation soon increased to 75,000 copies a month.

“Mr. Armstrong realized that the work had outgrown the office facilities at Eugene. The peaceful Oregon town had been a good place to begin, but if the message was to reach the world, Mr. Armstrong needed to be closer to Hollywood, the media capital of America. He also began to realize the need to train others to help in the fast-growing work. And so, 12 years after the work began in the Willamette Valley, the headquarters was moved to Pasadena in Southern California. In 1947, Ambassador College opened with just four students, but the college enrollment grew. The first class graduated in 1951, the first of many hundreds of young people who would be trained to help in the work.

“In 1953, the most powerful radio station on earth, radio Luxembourg began to broadcast The World Tomorrow to the British Isles and the continent of Europe, and so growth continued around the world, first on radio, and then on television. Today the program is heard around the world. The programs are also subtitled in the French language for viewers in France and Belgium. And Italian subtitled program is being prepared and will be seen in Italy. The circulation of *The Plain Truth* has kept pace with the growth of the TV and radio program.”

Behind the Work Film, “Transition from Sardis to Philadelphia”, Feast of Tabernacles 1983

“If you turn over here in Galatians in the first chapter and verses six and seven. I have read it so many, many, many times. Paul says, "I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel."

“The true gospel of Christ was being sabotaged, and that was about 53 A.D. **And the gospel of the kingdom was not proclaimed until 1953 when I went on Radio Luxembourg.** Tell me who was preaching it before that time to the world? **Prior to that time, I was preaching it over the United States. And we had gone, by radio, coast to coast over the United States.**

“But it was the first week in 1953 that we went on in Europe through Radio Luxembourg and that was not the 208 that reached northern England later, and Scotland and North Ireland. We didn't go on that until later. We were on a different channel, and I think the broadcast was on Wednesdays. And we were reaching all Europe at that time. Later we were reaching England.

“Tell me who was preaching the gospel of the kingdom between. I think maybe it was preached a little bit from that time up to 70 A.D., but certainly not after 70 A.D. **And actually, it didn't start going round to the world to kings and people like that until 1970, or nineteen hundred years later, and that's a century of time cycles.**”

Sermon, “The Unthinkable Will Happen”, Herbert W Armstrong, June 19, 1982

All Nations Finally Reached

Most may not know or may not be aware that Mr. Armstrong recognized that the gospel was not truly proclaimed in every nation and that the commission in Matthew 24:14 was not completely fulfilled until he began meeting with the heads of state in 1968.

The meetings with these heads of state and influential leaders eventually blossomed into large scale public appearance campaigns in these nations which allowed the gospel to be proclaimed. It was at this point in time that Mr. Armstrong began to understand that the gospel had finally reached the world and that Matthew 24:14 had actually been fulfilled:

“For forty years there was no way open to us by which we might get this vital end time message to the great nations of the world China, India, Russia, Indonesia, Japan, Bangladesh (just to mention the six largest nations on earth, not including the United States). Now the doors are opening.

“For one great purpose you were called, as well as I. That is: to get Christ's Gospel of the Kingdom of God proclaimed as a witness to all nations. The term ‘all nations’ does not necessarily mean every little tiny nation, including many whose names most people never heard. But it most assuredly does include many or most of these big population nations.

“Think what that means right now!

“For forty years in this Work the doors to these nations were closed to us. God opened the doors of radio and the printing press in the U.S. and Canada, and more recently, television in the U.S. and Canada. I walked through those doors. But we got the message into, primarily, only the United States, Canada, and Australia. We managed by those media to get the message to a portion only of Britain, France, Germany, Belgium, Holland, Switzerland, and the Philippines. Yet none of these nations is as large, in population, as Bangladesh, Indonesia, or Japan.

“I'll put it another way. Doors were opened for us to reach possibly, say, 300,000,000, but doors were closed to the other 3,300,000,000.

“But now, at last, God is opening the doors in several of these big population nations. Already the doors are opening in Japan, India, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Thailand, Nepal, Iran, Ethiopia, Kenya, Egypt, Lebanon, Israel, Korea, Costa Rica, and the South American nations. I have an invitation through the Chinese Ambassador to Ethiopia (who is the former Chief of Protocol in Peking) to visit Mao Tse tung and Chou En lai in Peking. The Russian Ambassador to Nepal is working on a meeting in Moscow with Mr. Leonid Brezhnev. Doors have started to open in Holland, Germany, and France for meetings with their heads of state.”

Co-Worker Letter, Herbert W Armstrong, February 11, 1974

“But when it came to getting this LAST MESSAGE FROM GOD TO ALL THE WORLD — AS A WITNESS TO ALL NATIONS, I found we were STUCK!

“I could not buy time on radio in Britain — nor in France, Germany, nor in Russia, China, India, Japan, Indonesia.

“THIS IS IMPORTANT. PLEASE UNDERSTAND!

“I found the governments in these other nations around the world CONTROL RADIO, TELEVISION, and COMMUNICATIONS! The GOVERNMENTS try to control the MINDS, and the thinking of their people! It is different from the United States.

“So what did we do? I was able to buy time on Radio Luxembourg, wedged in between France, Germany, Belgium and Holland. I tried to reach these nations from outside their borders — from Radio Luxembourg. But they would only sell time between 11:00 p.m. and midnight. We went on the air there at 11:30 p.m. It was the best we could do. It reached A FEW people in England, Scotland and Northern Ireland. BUT IT DID NOT REALLY GET GOD'S MESSAGE TO ENGLAND. Only partially!

“I found I could buy time on Radio Ceylon. It was beamed, by shortwave, on the eastern coast of Africa, and down into south- eastern Asia. We received a SMALL response from those areas. BUT WE DID NOT REACH INDIA! Apparently it was beamed DIRECTIONALLY AWAY from India, probably demanded by the government of India. Also apparently it was beamed over and beyond even Ceylon, for we received almost no response from there!

“I tried to reach China by buying time on Chiang Kai-shek's station on Formosa island. There was absolutely NO RESPONSE from China. I remember one letter came from a girl student in Taiwan. That was all. I tried buying time on Radio Monte Carlo, to reach Russia. Supposedly, it was beamed over all other countries from Monte Carlo, on the Mediterranean, all the way to Russia. I hired a supposedly fluent Russian interpreter to translate my scripts into Russian, and record them by his voice in the Russian language. **THERE WAS NO RESPONSE, except one letter I remember, from one of the satellite countries — but NOTHING from Russia.**

“We were able to buy time on a number of stations in Australia, but not the best stations, and always poor time.

“Then about five years ago I began praying earnestly that God would show us how HE wanted to use us in getting HIS MESSAGE as a witness into those major countries around the world. We did the best job we could. We DO have a good circulation of The PLAIN TRUTH in many countries — Britain, France, Germany, Holland. Through ads in Reader's Digest we have gained circulation of The PLAIN TRUTH in Mexico, and other countries. **But we were not reaching the BIG countries with sufficient EFFECTIVENESS!**

“About the same time, doors began to open for personal contacts and private meetings with heads of governments — kings, presidents, prime ministers, etc. I KNEW by the absolutely unusual favor I was given in their eyes that this was of GOD. I said then, I did not yet know WHY — but I knew God was

providentially opening these doors — giving me this unusual warmth, confidence, even affection in their eyes. I myself made no effort to open these doors, or to work my own way into these contacts. For example, when King Leopold of Belgium gave me a handwritten personal note to deliver to his friend the Imperial Crown Prince Akihito of Japan, I made no effort to make contact myself, because I did not want to make any personal effort myself to get to see the Prince. I was well acquainted with his uncle, Prince Mikasa, brother of the Emperor. But I had never met the Crown Prince. So I had the note taken to the Belgian Ambassador, asking him to deliver it.

“Even though I made no personal effort to meet the Crown Prince, some months later the invitation came from him for a private meeting. And it proved to be a very interesting meeting of 45 minutes...

“But these doors kept opening. And finally, about a year ago, I came to realize WHY God was opening these doors. This, unrealized at first, was the answer to the prayers. God was opening THE WAY to get HIS MESSAGE into these great nations where all doors had seemed to be slammed completely SHUT!

“This past year, 1973, I have spoken to highly distinguished guests at dinners in Bangkok, Saigon, Manila, Addis Ababa in Ethiopia, Tokyo, and New Delhi, India. At New Delhi I spoke to one hundred of India's very top people — members of the Cabinet, members of Parliament, judges, leading businessmen, some ambassadors from other nations. At Tokyo, I spoke before 57 very distinguished guests, all invited by Prince Mikasa, including members of the Diet (their Congress), of the Cabinet, presidents of the two largest and most prestigious universities, leading businessmen.”

Co-Worker Letter, Herbert W Armstrong, January 27, 1974

“The Living GOD has moved, these past four years to give me, as your fellow Minister whom YOU call **God's Apostle, and as God's chosen servant for getting His true GOSPEL into all the world, for a witness to ALL NATIONS** just before the END of this age, **almost unbelievable prestige, favor, and stature in the eyes of many kings, emperors, presidents, prime ministers and OTHER HIGH LEADERS OF MANY NATIONS.** I am now, by God's grace, received in many world capitals as an AMBASSADOR FOR WORLD PEACE. I can assure, with authority and confidence, world leaders and heads of state that WORLD PEACE not only is possible, but is definitely coming in our time. And this in spite of the fact that the efforts of world leaders for six thousand years have brought no peace but repeated WARS.”

Co-Worker Letter, Herbert W Armstrong, February 22, 1974

“Now I am eagerly looking forward to the NEXT public Appearance campaigns. I have received a PERSONAL REQUEST from the world-known Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia, that the next campaign be held in Ethiopia's capital city, Addis Ababa. Leaders in Saigon, South Vietnam's capital, are PRESSURING me, now, to hasten the campaign there.

“Other world capitals where the preliminary work toward Public Appearance campaigns already is well under way are: New Delhi, capital of INDIA; Jamaica; Djakarta, Indonesia; Costa Rica, in Central America; Nairobi, Kenya in Africa; Tokyo, Japan; Seoul, South Korea; Beirut, Lebanon; Cairo, Egypt; Jerusalem; Katmandu, Nepal; Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; Singapore, Buenos Aires, Argentina; Santiago, Chile; Dacca, Bangladesh; and capitals in Europe. And possible meetings with heads of state in Peking

and Moscow are pending. If God wants His Message to go to them, He has the power to open those doors!

“Co-Workers, THAT is getting the GOSPEL ‘into all the world for a witness in all nations’ for the first time in 18 1/2 centuries! It is a TREMENDOUS worldwide WORK! I have to ask you to PRAY EARNESTLY for me, personally, that God will prolong my life in dynamic, vigorous HEALTH, until I can get to ALL THESE WORLD CAPITALS, AND MORE!”

Co-Worker Letter, Herbert W Armstrong, May 21, 1974

“It took us FORTY YEARS to get Christ's Message with fairly good coverage over the United States and Canada, and to a far lesser extent, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Britain, and the countries of western Europe — the nations descended from the so-called ‘lost sheep of the House of Israel.’ Meanwhile, of course, more and more co-workers got back of this most important operation on earth. In time my son, Garner Ted, came along and took over virtually all of the broadcasting via radio and TV, besides the executive direction of Ambassador College in Pasadena.

“But we were NOT getting the true Gospel Message to these scores and scores of nations around the world.

“Another thing — most of those nations are NOT LIKE THE UNITED STATES. As high as 87 percent of their great masses of people CANNOT READ OR WRITE! If we even had a way to mechanically reach the masses, it would have been ineffective. Those countries have virtually NO middle class of people — there are just a few educated leaders at the top, but the masses are the POOR, the illiterates. The government, industry, business, and education are run by the small upper class.

“How would YOU get the Message to those whose minds could understand it in all those countries? Ever think about that? How would YOU? I used to lie awake nights pondering that very question. Five or six years ago we asked that question in a ministers' conference. We just didn't know how — WOULD YOU? It seems those doors were CLOSED to us — slammed tightly SHUT! **Two or three years ago God began answering prayer in showing me the answer. Since 1968 God began opening doors through seemingly unusual circumstances for personal meetings with kings, presidents, and leaders in education, commerce, and industry.** It was absolutely providential. Many came to have a warm, and even affectionate, feeling toward me.

“At first I didn't understand WHY this was happening. But I did know it was God's doing. For doors were opening miraculously and the warmth of their feeling toward me was far beyond normal. In most cases I soon became acquainted with high-ranking officials under these heads of state — such as members of the cabinet, members of their law-making bodies (diet, parliament, etc.). Dinners were hosted in my honor. **Opportunity began opening for ‘testimonial dinners’ where one or more high officials acted as host, sent out invitations to the most influential leaders, and I could have 35 to 45 minutes to present a message of the soon-coming Kingdom of God.**

“About two years ago, God began showing us how to develop these open doors into large-scale PUBLIC APPEARANCE CAMPAIGNS, reaching hundreds and thousands of leading people in these countries.

“I have come to see that my commission to take the GOSPEL of the KINGDOM OF GOD to all the world for a witness to all nations could only be accomplished through the very HEADS of government! I have explained this time and again in co-worker letters, editorials, and articles. I have tried to make it PLAIN! I hope you UNDERSTAND! I am now actively holding campaigns in world capitals, speaking before professional groups, even with heads of state worldwide! I am explaining WHY there is no PEACE — WHAT IS THE WAY TO PEACE — WHY humanity cannot solve its problems — WHY Christ's coming WORLD GOVERNMENT is the world's only HOPE! — and what is our very PURPOSE FOR BEING! And I am being given grace and favor in their eyes!”

Co-Worker Letter, Herbert W Armstrong, June 5, 1975

“Brethren, I've been preaching that gospel into all the world. I've been going to kings and nations speaking different languages. There was a translator or an interpreter that was put with Mrs. Armstrong and me and went everywhere we went in China to interpret everything.

“And, perhaps, to even listen to everything we said ourselves. We were careful even in the bedroom what we said to one another. But, nevertheless, we were very warmly and courteously received and, really, I think that people just warmed up to us over there and invited us to come again.”

Sermon, “Receivership and Prophecy”, Herbert W Armstrong, January 5, 1980

The Proof of an Apostleship

A very important question that people have asked is, “How does one know that an apostle has been sent forth by Jesus Christ?” This is an important question that needs to be considered in the final era of the Church where numerous splinters of the *Worldwide Church of God* exist and where most of them have assumed the commission to take the gospel message to the world.

This vital question can also be phrased in the following way, “How does one know whether an individual has been given the commission by Jesus Christ to preach the gospel?” Jesus Christ would not assign this commission to an apostle and to His Church and not provide a way for the membership to know whether someone has been “sent forth” with this commission. The following is the way that one can use to verify if an apostle has been “sent forth” to announce the good news of the kingdom of God:

“Christ Himself gave an answer. ‘BY THEIR FRUITS YOU SHALL KNOW.’

“The disciples of John, after he was in prison, came to Jesus to ask him a similar question: ‘How may we KNOW you are God’s ANOINTED ONE – the Messiah – the Christ?’”

“Jesus answered, ‘Go tell John what you see being DONE – being ACCOMPLISHED.’ **So I say: LOOK INTO YOUR OWN BIBLE. You will find where Christ Himself said what would be DONE in THE GREAT COMMISSION in our time; ‘And this GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the END [of this age] come’ (Matt.24:14).** That’s what it says!”

Plain Truth Magazine, “A Frank Answer to a Reader’s Sincere Question”, Herbert W Armstrong, April 1977

“Now let me just say that God has put one apostle in His Church. I have never claimed to be that apostle, that is, I didn't originally, until I found that all of the Church recognized it anyway. And I would just simply point to 50 years of the fruits, and what has happened, and what God has done, and how He has used me in the last 50 years.

“You know when John the Baptist sent some messengers to Jesus, when Jesus was on earth, to ask Him whether He was the promised Messiah, Jesus didn't say, ‘Yes.’ He didn't say, ‘No.’ He said, ‘You go tell John what you see being done. **Tell him the fruits that you see, and he will know.**”

Sermon, “Creation and the Gospel”, Herbert W Armstrong, May 13, 1978

“I know he was a wild crackpot or something. But I have had men come to me and claim they were Elijah or something like that. And, of course, they were not. But they were just mentally deranged, that is all. But there are no prophets in the Church today. **So we have the one apostle, and I did not appoint myself an apostle. I did not know I was an apostle until I looked backwards. Jesus said, ‘by their fruits ye shall know them.’**

“How do I know that I am an apostle? By the fruits! I look back and it's the fruits, and the Work was done, that can only be done by an apostle, and otherwise I would never say it. Now, the first time I ever knew I was an apostle was in 1951 or 1950. I believe it was, up in Belknap Springs, when Herman Hoeh, who was then a, let me see, he was about a junior, I think. He hadn't graduated yet from Ambassador College.

“But he was speaking up there, and he said, ‘Herbert Armstrong is not a prophet, he is an apostle.’ Well when I listened to that, I was absolutely shocked and stunned. But immediately I went to Herman and I said, ‘Don't you ever say that again. I don't want you telling people I'm an apostle. I'm not going around making any such claims at all.’ And I didn't. But I did think on it a little bit later, as time went on, and it was some time even, I think, two years after that, that I was able to see by the fruits, that God had made me an apostle, and that there was only one in the Church, and there should be one in the Church. But notice, it was of God, not of man. I was not made an apostle by men.”

Bible Study, “Galatians 3-4”, Herbert W Armstrong, December 5, 1980

“I am not here because a lot of people decided to vote for me, or put me here. You had nothing to do with me becoming God’s apostle. **Someone says to me, ‘Well Mr. Armstrong, how did you know you’re God’s Apostle?’**

“... Well, I will answer just as Jesus Christ answered when the messengers of John the Baptist came to Him and said, ‘Well, John wants to know, are You really the Messiah that was to come?’ Jesus didn’t say yes or no. He said, ‘You go tell John what you hear and what you see being done. Go and show him the fruit of what you see coming from Me’ and **by their fruits you shall know.**

“No, back in 1933, I didn’t know. **Well, how do I know now? Because I looked back on all these years and I see the fruits. And you’re here as part of it! You’re part of the evidence!** Because you’re here and I had something to do with that and so did Jesus Christ.”

Sermon, “Zerubbabels Temple” Herbert W Armstrong, July 21, 1978

The Fruits of an Apostle

The following is a small sample of the mighty work that took place in the 20th century. This is the proof that an apostle was “sent forth” by Jesus Christ to proclaim the gospel of the kingdom of God to the World. These fruits should leave no doubt that the work of the 20th century was authorized to be conducted and was blessed by the almighty God. And remember, this work had its humble beginnings during the Great Depression, and it began through one man and his wife:

“The great Work of God proceeds full steam ahead all over the world. In the first five months of this year a new all-time record was set in number of letters and cards received worldwide. A total of 3.8 million cards and letters were received, as against 3.1 million last year. In 1984 we averaged 465 baptisms per month worldwide — and **for the first four months of 1985 the average was 597 baptisms per month.** **God is adding an average of one new large church congregation per month.** This year our ministers have averaged 1,972 new contacts requesting a visit, compared to 1,292 last year.”

Co-Worker Letter, Herbert W Armstrong, July 25, 1985

“We have twelve hundred and six ordained ministers visiting prospective members, counseling about baptism — but they are swamped and unable to visit and counsel with all who have requested this spiritual counseling and help. These ministers have up to more than 75 new prospective members waiting for each minister to call personally for counsel toward baptism and complete conversion.”

Co-Worker Letter, Herbert W Armstrong, April 30, 1985

“It doesn't seem possible, but the time has already come to direct our attention toward **the 1985 Feast of Tabernacles!** Focus your mind now on the most joyous Festival — and also **the largest convention — held anywhere on earth.** **About 133,000 of our brethren will gather for eight days** in the glorious and happy reunion with those God has chosen and brought to Christ out of the billions on earth who do not know God and the joys of his way of life.

“This year will be the biggest Feast since the days of the first century church. **We shall assemble at 89 Festival sites in 49 different countries all around the world.** This year there will be a new site behind the Iron Curtain in Cracow, Poland, and once again in China and also in Jerusalem.”

Co-Worker Letter, Herbert W Armstrong, March 11, 1985

“Paul shows that he had the oversight of the charge of all of the churches in the Gentile area under Christ. He was quite a leader. Now he says ‘Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? For I've never bragged very much about being an apostle.’ As a matter of fact, I've never claimed I was an apostle until a few years ago. **I never myself admitted to being an apostle or claimed I was until I could look back and see by the fruits that God had made me an apostle, until I was sure that the fruits, which not only I saw it, but plenty of other people saw it too.** Did I ever say that?

“And I only say it now because I think that sometimes saying it and having people understand it helps them. That's the only reason I say it now. ‘Have I not seen Jesus our Lord?’ Now notice Paul says ‘He had seen Jesus.’ He wasn't converted in any way. He didn't mean he saw Jesus one time when he was going the wrong way. He saw Jesus and was with Jesus personally over in Arabia right after his initial conversion. So he was taught privately and personally by Jesus just like the other apostles were.

“‘Are not you my workmanship in the Lord?’ Now I say that to all of you people and all that are listening in, are you not my workmanship in the Lord? Directly or indirectly, you are all my children in the Lord. Now some of you who have only been converted because you heard one of our ministers and God brought you into the church and maybe you've never even seen me yet. Nevertheless, those through whom you were brought in got all of their knowledge from me and from what God has used me in doing. So in a sense, you are all my children in the Lord.”

Bible Study, “I Corinthians 8-9”, Herbert W Armstrong, August 22, 1980

The Seal of an Apostle

In I Cor. 9:1-2, the apostle Paul disclosed how an apostleship is connected to the fruits, the conversions that are a result of an apostle proclaiming the gospel. He called such conversions the seal of his apostleship. The fruit or seal mentioned in this scripture is no doubt a result of the preaching of the gospel that was conducted by him.

Therefore, it can be deduced that if the seal of an apostleship are the conversions that take place from preaching the gospel, the office of an apostle is the only office that is vested with the authority from God to announce the gospel to the world:

“In I Corinthians, chapter 9, the apostle Paul shows the proof of his apostleship: ‘Are not ye my work in the Lord? If I be not an apostle unto others, yet doubtless I am to you: for the seal of mine apostleship are ye in the Lord’ (I Cor. 9:1-2).

“Just as proofs in the life of Paul set him forth as an apostle of Jesus Christ, in our time another has also been used by God in a powerful way. Through him, the Worldwide Church of God was established. Through him, the doctrines of God were restored to the Body of Christ. Through him, directly or indirectly, all of us in the Church have come to the knowledge of the truth, repentance and baptism. Through him, demons have been cast out and many have been healed_- even of cancer. Isn't that the fruit, the seal of apostleship?”

“Directly, or indirectly, you are all MY children in the Lord. This Church is GOD'S Church. Jesus Christ is its living HEAD. He chose and has used me as His Apostle — as His human servant and instrument through whom HE, not just I, raised up all this Church. It was God the Father who called me, and later all of you. Jesus Christ founded and built God's Church. He raised up and built the present Philadelphia era of God's Church. But He used me as the human instrument in so doing.”

“WHERE DID YOU GET YOUR BELIEF — THE DOCTRINES WE ALL HOLD SO DEARLY? Every doctrine — every point of belief — you received directly or indirectly through me as Christ's Apostle!”

The Worldwide News, “Satan Intensifies Persecution”, Herbert W Armstrong, June 16, 1980

“And Paul explained here, that he had the opposers, and he spent a whole lot of that through the second letter to the Corinthians, in Second Corinthians. There were those who oppose him, and they said, well, they came with credentials of some kind signed by other people recommending them. Paul said, I don't need recommendations or credential signed by man.

“You are my credentials, written in your hearts by the holy spirit, because you're all my converts.

And I say that **all of those in the Church of God today are my converts, directly or indirectly. They're all my children in the Lord and they are my credentials.** I don't need to have written credentials that I carry around in my pocket and show the people. And Paul didn't need it.”

Bible Study, “II Corinthians 11”, Herbert W Armstrong, November 14, 1980

“Now Paul stated back in First Corinthians, basically what the test or what the proof of his apostleship was. It was the work that he had done. He told him, he said, ‘Look, I don't need letters from somebody, you are an epistle. You are my letter of recommendation. You are the proof that I am what I say I am’, he told the Corinthians. That was his proof that he was an apostle sent from God to raise up a work, the very fact that work existed which he had raise up, which God and raised up through him. That was the proof that he was what he said he was, the very fact that God had worked through him, in doing that. The fact that God had raised up people and given them His Holy Spirit, and given them his understanding through Paul and that the work had multiplied and had grown. That was proof that Paul was what he said he was.”

Sermon, “History of the True Church”, John Ogwyn, October 27, 1979

The Role of the Ministry

Some may now be wondering, if the authority to preach the gospel has only been vested by Jesus Christ to the apostles, do the other ministerial offices have a role in proclaiming the gospel? And if so, what is their role in this commission?

The ministry does play a vital role in preaching the gospel. The role of the ministry is to support the apostle in the various functions that are necessary to conduct such a great mission as announcing the gospel to the world. This includes feeding the flock and establishing new congregations that are a result of announcing the good news.

Another function of the ministry is to engage Church inquiries that are a result of preaching the gospel. And yet another function of the ministry is to support the operation that takes place at the Headquarters of the Church. In the 20th century, this included the printing of literature and magazines and the broadcasting and telecasting of the most wonderful news that a suffering world will ever hear.

The magnitude of undertaking such an endeavor is tremendous, no matter in what age and time a mission such as this occurs. This is why a ministry is needed and this is the purpose and the role of the ministry:

“Let's continue to pray fervently for the Work God is doing through His servant, Mr. Herbert Armstrong, for our fellow ministers and for all God's chosen ones in every nation who hold up Mr. Armstrong's hands. Let us never forget that our ability to fulfill our responsibilities in this Work comes only from God. We should each devote ourselves to the unity of oneness with Jesus Christ that we must have in order to faithfully complete the job God has given us to do.”

Pastor General's Report, Church Administration, November 22, 1985

“God is deeply concerned about His Kingdom, and about His Church, which is the ‘embryo’ of that Kingdom. We ministers, as we teach God's people, must be deeply concerned as well, keeping in mind that our Job is to train them to be teachers. We are not working with the brethren just to help them attain salvation, or just to ‘make it into the Kingdom.’ We must help them prepare for the great work ahead -- in that Kingdom through the work we are doing now of supporting Mr. Armstrong in proclaiming the message of the Kingdom of God to this world.

“Let's all continue to ask God for help and inspiration in giving His people the spiritual meat they need, which is so different from anything this dying world can offer or understand.”

Pastor General's Report, Ministerial Services, May 3, 1985

“An apostle is ‘one sent forth’ with Christ's gospel message, including the supervision of proclaiming that message to the world by means and persons other than himself. Also an apostle was given supervision over all the local congregations or churches (1 Cor. 16:1). The apostle Paul had oversight

over the churches of the Gentile world (II Cor. 11:28). The prophets set in the foundation of the Church are those of the Old Testament, whose writings were used to form a considerable part of New Testament and gospel teaching and functioning.”

Book, *Mystery of the Ages*, Herbert W Armstrong

“Now in going through this we had come to the tenth chapter of John and Jesus had been proclaiming that He was the Shepherd of the sheep. He is the Chief Shepherd. Now, ministers of Jesus Christ, the true ministers, are shepherds under Him. He is the High Priest and they are the priests or the ministers, or the preachers, ‘And God has set different ones in the Church, first apostles and then after that, prophets, and evangelists, and pastors and teachers’, and so on.”

“And we find the pattern as it was carried out by the apostle Paul through the Book of Acts, and also through the letters of Paul, especially his letters to Timothy and Philemon, and the young ministers that he sent out as evangelists, raising up Churches. But Jesus was the Chief Shepherd and He called the people sheep, and we are just like sheep. I wonder if you realize how much like sheep we human beings are? We want to follow others. We want to be like others.”

World Tomorrow Broadcast, “A Form of Godliness”, Herbert W Armstrong

“The Church continued to grow until today there are scores of thousands of baptized, Holy Spirit begotten members in God's Church worldwide! These men and women have been called by God to be the ‘firstfruits’ of His family-to be born of God at the first resurrection. They are now in training to rule all nations with Jesus Christ at His return.

“God is also using these thousands of members to support His work through Mr. Armstrong with their fervent, prevailing prayers, and their tithes and special offerings which are used in financing the preaching of the gospel of the Kingdom of God to the world. **Still others have been called to assist God's apostle in a more personal and direct way as trained and chosen ministers of the gospel of Jesus Christ and as other laborers within the very work of the Church worldwide.**”

Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course, “Lesson 18 - Proclaiming the True Gospel”,
The Worldwide Church of God

The Role of the Membership, Headquarters, & Ambassador College

And what about the role of the membership? Does the membership have a part in proclaiming the gospel to the world? And if so, what is their role? The role of the membership is to support the work of God through their tithes, offerings and prayers.

There were other means through which the membership was able to support the great commission in the 20th century, such as by becoming involved in the Newsstand Distribution Program (NDP). But just as the role of the ministry is supposed to be a supportive role, so is the role of the membership.

It should be noted that a headquarters and a college, an extensive ministry, and a membership of considerable size, were all necessary in the 20th century to preach the gospel and are still necessary in the 21st century to truly perform such a mission. And it must always be led, supervised and directed by a living apostle:

“WHY was Ambassador College founded? God did lead me to found Ambassador College. He did NOT call me to go into the college or the education business, or any business except God's Work of going into all the world and PROCLAIMING CHRIST'S GOSPEL MESSAGE!”

“But that Work needed the prayers, the encouragement, the financial support of GOD'S CHURCH. So God raised up His Church. WHY? To be the means of giving HIS MESSAGE TO THE WORLD, and to back the one in the Church God chose and used in proclaiming it.”

Co-worker Letter, Herbert W Armstrong, March 25, 1975

“Now as I say, I was not called to get into the college business. But in the first years of my ministry, I held six-week evangelistic campaigns in many towns and villages up in Oregon. And always there were converts, and I would organize a small local Church, but there was no minister. Now when the sheep have no shepherd, they do fall prey to the wolves or they run astray, and that's exactly what I saw happening. I saw that we had to have ministers in the Churches, that I needed educated personnel to serve under me, and to help me in the many other facets of the administration of the Work of God. And that's why Ambassador College was started.”

“Then later God opened the college in England, and we were all of us that saw it and were at the top at the time, were convinced that God had shown us that He wanted a college over there. And then even after that, about 1963 or '64, the college in Big Sandy, Texas. Now we had the three campuses. God blessed it, and we now have in the neighborhood of 700 ordained ministers around the world. We have an educated ministry. We have many people in top executive positions that are Ambassador College graduates. And, actually the mission of the college has been fulfilled.

“So we've come to see that the operation of a full 4-year liberal arts college is no longer necessary to fulfill the Great Commission. That's what I've been called to do. That's what my life has been devoted to, and will continue to be devoted to. So the college has closed its undergraduate program, and will continue to operate only in schools for ministerial and biblical studies. In other words, we will no longer have courses for job or professional training.”

Sermon, “Creation and the Gospel”, Herbert W Armstrong, May 13, 1978

“Since 1976, over 50 million Plain Truths have been distributed from newsstands. In 1982 alone, over 60 million were made available to the public. Since it began, the newsstand program has been responsible for adding more than 900,000 subscribers to the Plain Truth subscription list.”

“When you think about it, the scripture in Psalms 68:11 states, ‘great was the company of those that published it.’”

Presentation, "Behind the Work 1982", Herbert W Armstrong, First Day of the Feast of Tabernacles 1982

"Jesus Christ said to His disciples, **'Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel.'** Yet Jesus did not **intend that every converted child of God should actually preach, himself, personally, and directly.** **But there is a way in which Christ meant for YOU to preach His true Gospel—and for this you will be held accountable.** So I feel it is important that I explain clearly...

"Through the years, God has given me training and experience in preaching—and my son Garner Ted Armstrong. Possibly YOU may not have the voice for radio preaching, or the experience, or the full Biblical knowledge. **But when you put God's first tenth of your income (the TITHE), beside whatever offerings you are able, into this work of God, YOU are reaching HUNDREDS of people with the Gospel through OUR voices**—and other hundreds through The Plain Truth, the Bible Correspondence Course, and the other free literature which is reaching A MILLION PEOPLE!

"Yes, THAT IS HOW YOU can, and are, PREACHING THE GOSPEL in great POWER to MANY people today! **And, by your earnest and prevailing PRAYERS,** God will hear and answer your petition for Him to GUIDE ME and all our full-time Co-Workers in our part in His Work—He will cause more and more people to JOIN with us as Co-Workers with Christ in GOD'S WORK, and the work will continue to grow until EVERY NATION on earth is reached!"

Brethren & Co-Worker Letter, Herbert W Armstrong, July 31, 1962

"With those humble beginnings the Gospel of Jesus Christ was once again being proclaimed publicly as it had not been since the days of the original apostles. The true way to happiness, success and eternal life was once again being vigorously preached and practiced.

"Restoring true Christianity was pioneering in the truest sense of the word. The spirit of pioneering has never ceased to characterize the Work God has blessed and multiplied through the years. It has grown like a grain of mustard seed.

"In 1947 Ambassador College was founded in Pasadena, Calif., to provide trained personnel to assist Mr. Armstrong in the Work. As laborers became available, the number of local churches began to increase rapidly, and so did all other facets of the Work. In 1953 the doors opened to preach the Gospel to Europe by radio. Then in 1955, the World Tomorrow program, well on its way to becoming the largest radio program on earth, went on television for the first time: Meanwhile, the Plain Truth magazine increased in size and quality."

Good News Magazine, "After 54 Years – Christ's Apostle Was Still Ahead of His Time", May 1986

“Every year The PLAIN TRUTH becomes larger and/or finer, so that every year more and more people read it—and today, more than 2 MILLION are now reading every issue. Here are the TWO MOST POWERFUL MEANS OF REACHING AND INFLUENCING MASSES OF PEOPLE OVER THE EARTH—the modern miracle of radio and television, and the PRINTING PRESS!

“And—without ever asking the PUBLIC for contributions—without ever CHARGING for the Gospel—this Work has become the MOST POWERFUL on earth in radio broadcasting—and perhaps also in reaching people through the printed page.

“HOW IS THIS MADE POSSIBLE?”

“Thousands ask that question. It has never been done before. No one else does it today.

“HOW? Here's how: This is the very WORK OF GOD on earth today. **God carries it on by a THREE-WAY PARTNERSHIP, between the Living Jesus Christ, His called Co-Workers (including YOU), and our active trained staff (including me). God has made CHRIST the Head of His Work.**

“Christ's part is to guide the way, lead us according to His will, open doors before us, give us wisdom, understanding, and even providential intervention in our behalf, and to BLESS the Work with rich results.

“The preaching, writing, training of ministers and staff, and executive duties are my part along with our well-organized active staff.

“And making it all possible, by tithes and offerings, and joining us in earnest prayer for the Work—that is our Co-Workers' part. Together this forms GOD'S TEAM!

Brethren Co-Worker Letter, Herbert W Armstrong, July 16, 1965

“Help the brethren in your spiritual care to understand their part in what God is doing, and the fact that **God has called them to support Mr. Armstrong in proclaiming Christ's Gospel.** Remind them that God has called them as His Firstfruits to prepare them to become rulers and teachers in the soon-coming government of God that will solve the problems facing all nations today. Nothing in our lives can be more important than God's great purpose and plan for us. Encourage God's people to immerse themselves in their special calling, which will ultimately benefit all people everywhere.”

Pastor General's Report, Ministerial Services, May 24, 1985

An Instrument in God's Hands

In whichever way that we are involved with in proclaiming the gospel, it is important to remember that we are only tools in the hands of God which He uses to fulfill His will. And this is true whether one is a lay member supporting the work through one's tithes and offering, whether one is a minister in the field caring for the sheep and engaging Church inquiries, or whether one is involved in the production of the material that would be necessary to preach the gospel.

But God can only use us as His instruments in fulfilling His directive to announce the gospel if it is being preached through the one true Church, and if God's people adhere to the appropriate role that they were called to, and if we follow the Biblical guidelines in announcing this important message:

"Of the 'Philadelphia' Church, Christ says, 'I know that you have but little power.' It is probably the WEAKEST in numerical and physical strength and power — the smallest in membership, of any of the Churches from the time of the Apostles until the Second Coming. It has but few ministers. Yet this Church has KEPT God's Word — repented where it was wrong — accepted the new knowledge now revealed — lived by the Word of God — and is also called by the NAME, The CHURCH OF GOD. Because this Church, physically small and weak, has KEPT GOD'S WORD with patient endurance, it shall be PROTECTED and PRESERVED from the hour of trial — the Great Tribulation, and Day of the Lord, soon coming on the earth! **And THIS is the Church Christ USES as HIS INSTRUMENT in proclaiming His GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM — the GOVERNMENT of God — to the world. He sets before this Church an 'OPEN DOOR,'** for the proclaiming of this Gospel to ALL THE WORLD. The meaning of this 'DOOR' is explained in II Cor. 2:12-13. Paul said: 'I came to Troas to preach Christ's gospel, and a DOOR was opened to me of the Lord.' This was a means to preach the Gospel in EUROPE. Until then, for 19 years, the Gospel had been preached only in Asia!

"For one 19-year time-cycle, God carried on the Gospel thru His Church to North America. He had opened the DOOR of radio and the printing press. Then, 19 years to the exact month, God OPENED THE DOOR for the Gospel to go to ALL EUROPE, and the very next year to ASIA. The same identical time-pattern of 19-year time-cycles is being fulfilled in God's work thru His Church today, as it was thru His Church in Apostolic days.

Good News Magazine, "Must God's Ministers Be Ordained by the Hand of Men?", Herbert W Armstrong, January 1960

"Brethren, I have said many times that all **you who have God's Holy Spirit are directly or indirectly my spiritual children in the Lord.**

"Jesus Christ, the living HEAD of God's Church, started and built the present era of the Church.

"HE DID IT!

“But He used me as His human instrument and ONLY APOSTLE OF OUR TIME in this powerful WORLDWIDE Work. We are in the very LAST DAYS of this present evil world of Satan's. Satan knows he now has but a SHORT TIME.

“It is desperately important that we know that too! Christ, through me—with you BACK OF ME 100% (as so many of you have written me)—is now proclaiming IN POWER and IN ALL THE WORLD the fact that Christ and the KINGDOM OF GOD—and the abolishment of Satan—is SOON to happen—IN OUR PRESENT LIVING GENERATION!”

Co-worker Letter, Herbert W Armstrong, June 28, 1978

“Fellow ministers, God's Church a year ago WAS FAR from ready for that divine wedding! **But as I look back on the past year, the living Jesus Christ has used me as His instrument in swiftly setting His Church back on HIS TRACK.** There is much more in prophecy about this of which I will write later.”

The Worldwide News, “And Now – Christ Sets Church on God’s Organizational Track”, Herbert W Armstrong, April 23, 1979

“So we go on into further knowledge. Now as we do that in these very final days before Christ comes, we need to realize that Jesus Christ is the head of this Church. **It is Christ who has been putting us back on the track not I, not Herbert Armstrong, but Jesus Christ is the head of the Church. I'm not. I've been an instrument He has been using, and I hope I can continue to be, but Christ has been doing it. He is the head of the Church and** He also is our living High Priest at the right hand of God in heaven.”

Sermon, “Accreditation”, Herbert W Armstrong, April 1982

“You already know most of this history. But it is IMPORTANT that we all understand one ALL-IMPORTANT point right here! Jesus Christ said ‘I will build my Church.’ He did not build it to be a social club. **He built it primarily for two tremendous purposes: 1) as HIS BODY—that is, His instrument—empowered by His Holy Spirit, to carry on GOD'S WORK; and, 2) for the development in spiritual character of all its members—their TRAINING to become kings and priests in His Kingdom when it rules the world. And a large part of the individual spiritual development of each of us is received through our part in GOD'S WORK.** Primarily, this work consists of PROCLAIMING and PUBLISHING Christ's GOSPEL in all the world as a witness to all nations. It also includes FEEDING the members on the spiritual food—conducting the various local churches.”

Brethren & Co-Worker Letter, Herbert W Armstrong, October 16, 1961

“How much do you think you can do? How much can I do? Nothing! You give me credit for having done things in this Church. Brethren, **I didn't raise up this Church.** I didn't build Ambassador College. **I didn't do this Work. Jesus Christ did it! He only used me as an instrument.** Did you ever see a violin play a tune? I never did. I've seen Yehudi Menuhin play a tune on a violin, I've seen Isaac Stern do it, and I know both of them. But I never saw the violin play itself. Well, I'm only an instrument. Don't deify me!

Don't look to me as if I'm some great person. I'm not! I'm just a hunk of human clay, like you are. That's all.

“I've tried to let God come into my life, to take it and use it. I intended to give my life to Him 55 and some years, almost 56 years, ago. I haven't always left it there 100%, I'm sorry to say, but I intended to. When I didn't, I repented of it, and I asked Him to forgive me, but my attitude was right. Two can't walk together except they be agreed, and I was at least agreed with Him.”

Sermon, “Are You Ready”, Herbert W Armstrong, October 15, 1981

The Spirit of God Empowers the Work

And when the work of God is conducted according to the Biblical doctrine that has just been covered, the doctrine that was restored to the Church in the 20th century, with an apostle leading and supervising the work, with the ministry and membership the apostle, and when the Church of God is doctrinally on track, God will empower and bless the work through his holy spirit, and the gospel will go out unto the world as a witness in the power and might of the almighty God:

“In addition, **it is important to remember that it is God's spirit that empowers the 1st commission, and that God only works through and empowers his work through the one true Church.** He does not work through a number of different offshoots, groups or splinters all claiming to be to be proclaiming the gospel. The spirit of God only works through the body of Christ which is the Church;

“**God's Church is CHRIST'S BODY.** When Jesus was on earth in human flesh, He said that of Himself He could do nothing — the Father that dwelt IN HIM, thru the Holy Spirit, did the works. **The Spirit, or Power, of God, then, did the WORK OF GOD for that time thru the one human body of Jesus!**”

“But Jesus said to His disciples that they should do the same works He did, because He would go to the Father, and send the SAME SPIRIT to work IN THEM. After Jesus ascended to heaven, the SPIRIT of GOD entered into the human bodies of those God had put into HIS CHURCH, and now worked THRU THEM as His human instruments. **Thus THE CHURCH is the BODY of CHRIST — the human body (composed of its many human members) by which, empowered by the Holy Spirit, THE WORK OF GOD is carried on.**”

“**The Word of God clearly teaches us that there is but the ONE Spirit, and the ONE Body. (I Cor. 12:12-13, 20.) God cannot, and does not, carry on HIS WORK thru ONE BODY, with headquarters at Pasadena, California, and also thru some one man, or different Body, working independently and out of harmony with the Pasadena Body, in Pittsburgh, and another man pulling in a still different direction of opposition, in New York.**”

Good News Magazine, "Must God's Ministers Be Ordained by the Hand of Men?", Herbert W Armstrong, January 1960

"Now, I'm very thankful for the great increase in attendance and very often even overflow crowds, especially on the Bible Study Friday nights because we have Sabbath morning services and Sabbath afternoon services in two different places, so we have more auditorium space for the Sabbath daytime services than we do the Friday night Bible Study. But we certainly are blessed, and I just wanted to mention that. I think that we all ought to just praise God for it and be so thankful.

"You know, it would seem like somehow that Satan has managed to move our best ministers, our best speakers, out of the Church. I was remarking, was it last Sabbath, or when was it? How 50% of those ministers who have reached the top rank in God's Church have gone out or had to be put out. Really, they seemed to be the most able speakers. Yet we're getting so much more inspiring sermons today than we did then. Now, why is that?

"It seems that the good ones went out, but that was all personality and self. **It's a good deal like God said to Zerubbabel, 'It's not by might, or power, by your own human personality, but by My Spirit,' says God, the Lord.** I think that somehow God's Spirit is getting into us in a way that we didn't seem to have it to the same extent five years, seven years, ten years ago, fifteen years even ago.

Sermon, "Grateful for God's Blessings", Herbert W Armstrong, May 4, 1982

Did Mr. Armstrong state the Work was to continue after His Death?

There are a few final points that need to be mentioned which are related to preaching the most wonderful news that this world will ever hear, the good news of a soon coming kingdom that will bring peace, happiness, salvation and everything good to this earth.

The work of God was a top priority in the life of Mr. Armstrong, as one would expect after reading all of his excerpts in this chapter. He dedicated his life to accomplishing this goal because he was truly concerned about the welfare of all humanity. So before his death, and as early as 1981, he made sure that the Church understood that he expected the work of God to continue in the event of his death:

"Until the present moment I felt that God might provide a way for complete recovery, and he still may. So I have withheld this statement until now, but I feel it is better that you all know the condition. I am now in my 94th year. God may grant that I continue in this very limited manner to direct the work for some time, but the occasional severe heart pains that I have endured have made me feel the necessity of letting our co-workers know of the condition as it is.

"Remember, this is the work of the living Creator God. We are now very near the end of this present age. **I will continue to give my all to the work of God up to the last breath.** I hope you will all realize the seriousness of the time in which we live and that nothing is important any longer other than to be close to God and assured of a place in his very soon-coming Kingdom.

"This world is not God's world, and of that we may all be thankful. It is now in its very last days. This illness has impressed heavily on my mind, more than ever before, the uselessness of this present evil world. Thank God we are all very near to its end. And closer to God's wonderful world tomorrow. I thank you, beyond words to express, for your loving concern and for the many thousands of cards and well wishes that have been coming in from great numbers of you from all over the world.

"I thank God that he has organized this present work of his so thoroughly that regardless of the outcome of my present illness, the work will continue right on to the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. Meanwhile, dear brethren and co-workers, I and the work of God, need, as never before, your continued fervent prayers for the continued progress of this great work. Christ is the Living Head of this work, and He will continue guiding those He has chosen right up to His Second Coming, which grows daily nearer at hand."

Co-Worker Letter, Herbert W Armstrong, December 23, 1985

"This is my first letter to you in 1986, and could very well be my last. Now in my 94th year I am in a very physically weakened state enduring severe pain and with virtually no strength whatsoever. I briefly described my condition in last month's co-worker letter to you, and now it has worsened. **It may be that the Work God has given me to do is complete, but not the Work of God's Church, which will be faithfully doing God's Work till Christ, the True Head of this Church, returns.**"

Co-Worker Letter, Herbert W Armstrong, January 10, 1986

"Brethren, this world is being destroyed for lack of knowledge of and from GOD, as we read in Hosea 4:6. **Through my personal visits, and the PLAIN TRUTH magazine, on TV and radio and through other literature, we are proclaiming that knowledge in POWER and AUTHORITY. Some listen. It is God's last witness against those who do not. BUT WE MUST DRIVE RIGHT ON UNTIL CHRIST COMES!**

"More than ever I need your earnest prayers. God's great Work needs your generous support. And YOU need the great matchless blessing that comes from having YOUR PART in such a wonderful Work."

Co-Worker Letter, Herbert W Armstrong, November 18, 1984

"The Gospel of Jesus Christ is the message that Christ proclaimed. That message was the Good News or the Gospel of the Kingdom of God. That is the message He preached, the restoration of the Government of God by the coming Kingdom of God.

"The apostolic Church from A.D. 31 proclaimed it.

"Today we carry on God's Work in a world multiplied vastly larger in population, a mechanized, mechanical, complex world with instrumentalities to work with that were never dreamed of in the first century.

“If anything happened to me I would expect the Church to continue right on and the local churches and the local church ministry.”

The Worldwide News, “Congress of Leading Ministers,” Herbert W Armstrong, March 6, 1981

Special Note: As you have just read, Mr. Armstrong made it clear that he expected the Church to continue preaching the gospel, even if and after he died. With that said, there isn’t a single statement that was made by Mr. Armstrong or a single Biblical teaching that indicates that the all-important 1st commission can be proclaimed without the presence of one who has been chosen as an apostle and “sent forth”, or that the gospel can be proclaimed outside the one true Church of God, or that one can deviate from any of the doctrinal truths surrounding how the gospel is preached to the world.

The Work of God did Continue after the Death of Mr. Armstrong

As we have just read, Mr. Armstrong made several statements that the work was to continue in the event of his death. And he said this as early as 1981. But the *Worldwide Church of God* (WCG) defected from the truth a few years after Mr. Armstrong’s death and ceased to proclaim the true gospel.

But the work of God did continue after the death of Mr. Armstrong through the *Restored Church of God* (RCG) which began in 1999. All of the truths that were restored to the *Worldwide Church of God* through Mr. Armstrong were restored to the *Restored Church of God*, including the all-important Biblical doctrine and manner in which the gospel is proclaimed to the world.

The work of God in RCG came abruptly to an end sometime after 2015, when unusual doctrines infiltrated this group which were a result of a sermon series titled, “The Greatest Untold Story” (TGUS). These unusual teachings altered the original truth regarding the gospel of the kingdom of God. And thus, when “another gospel”, a false gospel took root in RCG, the preaching of the true gospel was cut short in the Laodicean era.

When RCG was doctrinally on track, it understood that it was fulfilling the work described in Romans 9:28. The work that was accomplished in RCG most closely resembles the end-time work described in Romans 9:28 which states, “For he will finish the work, and **cut it short** in righteousness: because a **short work** will the Lord make upon the earth.” This scripture indicates that a **short work**, which is a reference to the preaching of the gospel, **will be cut short** at the end of the age.

The work of God in the 20th century that was completed by the *Worldwide Church of God* when it was led by a faithful apostle lasted just over 50 years, from 1934 until shortly after Mr. Armstrong’s death in 1986. The work of God that was completed by the *Restored Church of God* in the 21st century lasted approximately 16 years, from 1999 until about 2015, when the work was **cut short** as a result of the infiltration of a false gospel. And thus, the work that took place in the 21st century was a **short work** compared to the work that was completed in the 20th century.

An interesting fact that should be noticed is that the prophecy in Romans 9:28 does not state or indicate that a worldwide work would be accomplished such as the worldwide work that was prophesied in Matthew 24:14, which is the worldwide work that took place in the 20th century during the Philadelphia era which was led and supervised by a faithful apostle, Mr. Armstrong.

Did Mr. Armstrong state that he Expected the Work to Continue up until the Return of Jesus Christ?

But didn't Mr. Armstrong also state that he expected the work of God to continue up until the return of Jesus Christ? He certainly did, but he never anticipated and could not have imagined what would occur to the *Worldwide Church of God* after his death. He would have been horrified if he knew.

God did not disclose the specific details to him that the top leadership of the *Worldwide Church of God* would apostatize from the truth, that most of the membership would leave the truth altogether, and that the remaining brethren would fracture into several large splinters and numerous slivers. In addition, there are now many brethren who are scattered, "Loner Christians", who believe this is the appropriate way to remain in, if one wants to hold fast to the faith that was once delivered unto the saints.

Mr. Armstrong believed that the *Worldwide Church of God*, which he understood was the Philadelphia era of the Church, would continue preaching the gospel unto all nations up until the Great Tribulation. And he believed that the Laodicean era would arise during the Great Tribulation.

This is why he thought that the Philadelphia era of the Church would continue preaching the gospel up until the return of Jesus Christ. And once again, God did not reveal the specific details to him regarding how the Laodicean era would arise, just like God did not allow the prophet Daniel to understand the meaning of end-time prophecies that he recorded in the Bible:

"And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is to be nourished for a time, and times, and half a time.' That's 3 ½ years, 'from the face of the serpent.'

"And then he goes after the remnant that'll be the Laodicean Church and persecutes them. And then Christ comes. And half of that Church, you read in Matthew 25, the door is shut, and they're kicked out or kept out, and half go in. **That's the Laodicean Church** that hasn't risen up yet. **That'll come up out of the Great Tribulation, just ahead of us now."**

Sermon, "From Sardis to Laodicea", Herbert W Armstrong, June 24, 1983

"And our Work will stop very soon after this Holy Roman Empire has this next, and last, resurrection, and our work will stop and then will come the Great Tribulation. **And out of it and during the Great Tribulation will rise up the Laodicean Era of God's Church.**

“Well you are either going to risk death, or you’re going to take the mark of the beast, one or the other, unless we are taken to a place of protection and safety, and there are two places in the book of Revelation that certainly indicate we shall be. But it's going to take a miracle. Now it took a miracle from God to get the Israelites out of Egypt way back there in the days of Moses.”

Sermon, “The Mark of the Beast”, Herbert W Armstrong, December 11, 1982

An Extension of Mr. Armstrong’s Ministry

Some in this age claim they are an “extension” of Mr. Armstrong’s ministry, which is the commission found in Matt. 24:14, “**And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations.**” It should be noted that if those who make this claim were truly an “extension” of Mr. Armstrong’s ministry, they would proclaim the gospel according to the Biblical doctrine and manner that Mr. Armstrong used in the 20th century.

In addition, the fruits of this “extension” would be evident to everyone, just as the “fruits” of an apostle were evident in the 20th century. And the gospel would be reaching all nations in the same manner that it reached all nations in the last century. Finally, it should be noted that the “open door” for preaching the gospel “in all the world for a witness unto all nations” was given to the Philadelphia era of the Church and once that door closed, no man has been able to open it, Rev. 3:7:

Deviating from the Doctrinal Truth Regarding the Gospel

Just about every splinter and sliver of the *Worldwide Church of God* makes the claim that they are preaching the gospel to the world by posting this message on their website or by placing some of the material that they have produced for public access. There are also some offshoots of the *Worldwide Church of God* who post the material that was produced in the *Worldwide Church of God* and claim they are preaching the gospel unto the world.

While it is not wrong in and by itself to post the truths of God on a website, the message of the gospel will not reach all nations as a witness if this is the only avenue that is used, just like Mr. Armstrong understood that the broadcasting of the World Tomorrow program through the most powerful radio stations in the world, did not reach all nations. And in reality, very few people in this world are reached when the internet is the only avenue that is used.

In addition, not a single group is preaching the gospel according to the Biblical doctrine that was restored to the Philadelphia era of the Church, which has just been reiterated in this chapter.

And the final important point that has already been stated once but it needs be repeated again, is that not once did Mr. Armstrong state that the Church could deviate from any Biblical truths, including the Biblical

doctrine in which the gospel is proclaimed to the world. This is because he understood that all truth comes from God, including the Biblical truth regarding how the gospel is preached unto the world, and no one has the authority to alter or deviate from any of these doctrines:

“But during these 43 years, I have frequently been pressured to compromise – ‘just a little’ – with God’s TRUTH.

“But honestly, now, WHAT DO YOU THINK? Wouldn't it be all right to compromise, ‘just a little,’ on some ‘unimportant minor point’? Especially on some ostensibly unimportant point where we appear ‘crazy’ to the world.

“Nevertheless, if we begin to compromise with God's TRUTH, even in smallest, slightest manner, we have allowed Satan to get a foot into the door of the Church, and soon he will push open the door (he is stronger than we) and take over the whole Church.

“A little leaven leavens the WHOLE LUMP! In my position, as chosen by the living CHRIST to be first under Him *in* AUTHORITY over the Church and the Work, I have been charged with the commission of KEEPING GOD'S WORD. Keeping it inviolate – NO COMPROMISE! **I have NEVER compromised with God's TRUTH – regardless of the cost or the circumstances. I never shall!**”

Good News Magazine, “Personal”, Herbert W. Armstrong, December 1976, Page 1 & 28

“I want to get as CLOSE to GOD's true doctrines as possible, and as far away from Satan's ways as possible.

“If there is any reason why the living Christ chose me as His Apostle, it is that **I will not compromise a thousandth of an inch on God's true doctrines.**

“Did you ever realize GOD won't compromise with them? No doubt God had the POWER to just forgive us our sins, without having to give His only begotten Son Jesus to pay our penalty— and Jesus had to give His LIFE to pay our penalty rather than compromise with His Law!

“Brethren, LET US STAND FIRM in the truth of the Eternal GOD! If ever I needed you to stand back of me as Christ's chosen Apostle, IT IS NOW!”

Co-worker Letter, Herbert W Armstrong, June 25, 1985

“Now I'd like to give you one little prophecy in the New Testament (in Revelation 3 and verses 7 and 8). **This is the Philadelphia Church, and it is speaking of our Church today, Verses 7 and 8.** Revelation 3:7 And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write ...

“Revelation 3:8 ‘I know thy works; behold I have set before thee an open door, no man can shut it you have but little strength and hast kept my word’. **Has believed what He says and kept His Word, and has not watered it down and has not compromised.** And when I found it watered down, brethren, we

got back onto the track. We're almost back there, if not entirely and we must get all the way back.”

Sermon, “Microwave From Tucson”, Herbert W Armstrong, March 2, 1981

Proclaiming the Gospel through Many Organizations

One thing that stands clear is that if God has authorized the gospel to be proclaimed in this era, it will occur through only one organization, and not many groups who each adhere to a varying degree of truth. And if the gospel is announced, it will also be led by a man who has been chosen and “sent forth” as an apostle. And the fruits will be the underlying proof that a man has been chosen by God for this commission:

“God forbids and condemns going off separately, one being of Paul, one of Apollos, one of Cephas— one of Garner Ted, one of Raymond Cole, one of Ernest Martin, one of Ken Westby.

“WHERE have all those who went out gone? What fruit have they borne? How much of this whole world has heard the TRUE GOSPEL MESSAGE through them?”

Co-worker Letter, Herbert W Armstrong, September 25, 1978

“Two or three have broken off from God's Work, seeking a personal following, trying to draw away members from God's Church so they may devour God's sheep for Satan. **But they have no way to get Christ's vital message as a witness into these great nations now opening their doors.”**

Co-Worker Letter, Herbert W Armstrong, February 11, 1974

Heart in the Work

Another point that is related to preaching the gospel is that Mr. Armstrong stated numerous times during his ministry that the membership needed to have their hearts in the work. And he stated that this was extremely important in order to grow and to qualify for the kingdom of God. This is the ultimate way that a Christian can give to the world, the best news that they will ever hear.

Many in the *Worldwide Church of God* demonstrated this attitude in numerous ways. There were fundraising events, there was a great company that distributed the *Plain Truth Magazine* through the *Newsstand Distribution Program*, and many also sacrificed by giving as much as they were able to the Church so that the message of good news could be shared with the world.

In addition, many in the *Restored Church of God* sold everything they had so that the work could be accomplished when the *Restored Church of God* was on track. Some cashed in their retirements and their pensions and gave it to the Church so that the gospel could be announced. Others took out home equity loans and gave the proceeds to the Church for the same purpose. In addition, brethren sold many of their possessions and organized numerous fundraising events, and all of this was done so that the most wonderful news can be declared. And because of these actions, many now have very little left to give in this world.

Those who performed such actions have demonstrated an attitude of giving and sacrificing for the work of God and have demonstrated the importance of the all-important first commission, in their lives:

“Brethren, if we are to continue to grow—and to grow SPIRITUALLY as well as in numbers—we must remember that the PURPOSE of the Church is, first, to GO INTO ALL THE WORLD and preach Christ’s GOSPEL. The FIRST commission to the Church is just that. Anyone who looks on that Great commission of Christ as ‘Armstrong’s private work’ is just not a member of GOD’S Church. **Anyone who does not have his whole heart in that work IS NOT A MEMBER OF GOD’S TRUE CHURCH**, and has no right whatsoever to attend or fellowship in any of its local congregations.”

The Good News Magazine, “Why Local Assemblies?”, Herbert W Armstrong, March 1954

“It would have been utterly IMPOSSIBLE for me to carry out this great commission alone. THAT is why God has called YOU now, instead of later, in the Millennium! And this great WORK OF GOD is THE WAY God has set before us for each to GROW and develop SPIRITUALLY. God’s WAY — that of HIS LAW — is the way of GIVING, not getting. Those who try to simply GET their salvation are in danger of losing it!

“God’s WORK is a work of GIVING — GIVING the GOSPEL of the KINGDOM OF GOD. In 40 years I have observed that ONLY those whose hearts are in this great Work are themselves growing spiritually.”

Co-Worker Letter, Herbert W Armstrong, February 22, 1974

A Reiteration

In the current world of electronic media that we live in, there are many who have a *Worldwide Church of God* background who often post material that is related to the gospel, the truth, and prophecy through the various social media avenues that are now available such as Facebook.

The following short excerpts from Mr. Armstrong were taken from the much longer excerpts that were included in this chapter regarding preaching the gospel. These short quotes are meant to reiterate and to emphasize the point regarding who is responsible for, and who should be announcing this message:

“The apostle is the one sent. Not you.”

Sermon, “Zerubbabel’s Temple”, Herbert W Armstrong, July 21, 1978

“God called me, taught me, committed His GREAT COMMISSION to me.”

Sermon, “Creation and the Gospel”, Herbert W Armstrong, August 28, 1978

“God forbids and condemns going off separately.”

Co-worker Letter, Herbert W Armstrong, September 25, 1978

“But Jesus Christ had not taught them how to go out and carry the gospel message. It was only those that became His apostles.”

Sermon, “Zerubbabel’s Temple”, Herbert W Armstrong, July 21, 1978

“Christ did not train all of the people... But Jesus Christ had not taught them how to go out and carry the gospel message. It was only those that became His apostles.”

Sermon, “Zerubbabel’s Temple”, Herbert W Armstrong, July 21, 1978

“Forty-three years ago, God committed to me His GREAT COMMISSION...”

Plain Truth Magazine, “How I Came to be Going to Kings and Heads of Government”, Herbert W Armstrong, February 1978

“Jesus Christ said to His disciples, ‘Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel.’ Yet Jesus did not intend that every converted child of God should actually preach, himself, personally, and directly.”

Brethren & Co-Worker Letter, Herbert W Armstrong, July 31, 1962

Special Note: These short excerpts emphasize the instruction to God’s people that brethren are not to freelance. They are not to take matters into their own hands. The Great Commission was not given to the membership, except as a supporting role and under the direction of an apostle.

Furthermore, people should not be using the avenues of social media and the internet, Facebook or Blogs to post messages about the gospel, prophecy or other matters related to Biblical truth without the direction and supervision of an apostle, or under the direction of a minister who is under the supervision of an apostle.

As has already been covered in this chapter, the role of the membership is a supportive role. This means that in order to play a supportive role, there must be someone to support, and that person is an apostle. And we have already seen what a supportive role entails, which is tithes, offerings and prayers.

When people begin to freelance and post the information related to the gospel or prophecy on the internet or on social media without the guidance and direction of an apostle, it creates a cacophony of different voices and ideas, instead of speaking with one voice. It creates a landscape of confusion and discord because we live in an age where those who have a *Worldwide Church of God* background no longer agree on what is truth and what is error. And it makes God’s people look awkward among those who have not been exposed to the truth.

Why the Office of Apostle & Proclaiming the Gospel was so thoroughly Covered

The office, the role and the duty of an apostle were covered extensively in this chapter because it is a Biblical doctrine that many have forgotten, or perhaps never understood, and one that many have deviated from. Proclaiming the gospel to the world is a duty that is directly tied to the ministerial office of an apostle.

Since an apostle is vested with the authority and duty to preach the gospel, the presence of a living apostle is necessary to guide, direct, supervise and spearhead this commission. If there is a living apostle, it means that he has been “sent forth” by Christ to proclaim the gospel. And if the gospel is being proclaimed, it must be proclaimed, led and supervised by an apostle.

If an apostle has been vested with this duty, the proclamation of the gospel will naturally occur only through the one true Church of God because this is the only place where a true apostle will be found. This doctrine was a teaching that was restored by Jesus Christ to the Philadelphia era of the Church through Mr. Armstrong in the 20th century.

Those who deviate from this Biblical doctrine have strayed from the faith, from the truth that was once delivered unto the saints through a faithful apostle. In addition, those who depart from this teaching and decide to engage in preaching the gospel in any other manner or form, have assumed a commission that has not been bestowed upon them by Jesus Christ or God the Father:

“And notice verse 42, after baptism, the early Church of God had begun, ‘And they continued steadfastly in the apostle’s doctrine.’ We didn't do that for a couple of years. We rejected some of the apostle’s doctrines. And to some degree, at least in certain cases, some of our people rejected the apostle, not only the doctrine, but the man through whom the doctrine is to be given to in the Church of God. Well, they clung to the apostle’s doctrine, as we must do as well.”

Sermon, “Love for the brethren”, Carn Catherwood, 1981

Chapter 4

Ordinations, Authority, Responsibility, & Duties of all Offices

Ordinations by the Laying on of Hands in the Body of Christ

This chapter will cover a plethora of the Biblical teachings pertaining to the ministry. All of the responsibilities and duties listed in this chapter, as you will notice from all of the excerpts provided, pertain to all of the ministerial ranks.

The specific duties and responsibilities that are assigned to each individual ministerial rank will be covered in the next chapter. But first, we will begin with the only prescribed method listed in the word of God by which a minister is ordained to an office, what an ordination entails, and what it means to be ordained:

“VERSE 2: While they were worshipping and fasting, GOD, thru the Holy Spirit, gave order: **‘Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for THE WORK TO WHICH I HAVE CALLED THEM.’ THAT IS, ORDAIN THEM!** UP to this time, Saul HAD NOT ENTERED UPON THE WORK TO WHICH CHRIST HAD CALLED HIM. He had been merely gaining preparatory experience. **What is the Bible definition of ‘ORDAIN’? From ‘Cruden’s Concordance,’ it is: ‘To appoint, or design to a certain end or use. To choose, or SET APART for an office.’**

“So here we see in operation THE GOVERNMENT OF GOD IN HIS CHURCH, THROUGH His human officers chosen by Him, headed by prophets sent by Apostles! Verse 3: ‘And when they had fasted and prayed, AND LAID THEIR HANDS ON THEM, they SENT THEM away.’”

Good News Magazine, “Must God’s Ministers Be Ordained by the Hand of Man?”, Herbert W Armstrong, January 1960

“But of supreme importance are two remaining questions regarding proper government in the Church.

“Who appoints the ministers in the Church and how?”

“Since the leaders of the Church are appointed and not elected, who keeps the leaders on track and guides their actions to ensure they remain steadfast?”

“But of supreme importance are two remaining questions regarding proper government in the Church. First: Who appoints the ministers in the Church and how? Second, since the leaders of the Church are appointed and not elected, who keeps the leaders on track and guides their actions to ensure they remain steadfast?”

“To begin with the first question, **ministers are appointed to their posts and ordained to their ranks by the Church, through the other ministers who are already ordained. This is in accordance with clear biblical directives.**

“Christ told His disciples that they had not chosen Him, but that He had chosen them (John 15 :16). They were not voted in nor did they volunteer. Further, the apostles were commanded by God to ordain others (Acts 13:1-3), and Paul directed that qualified men be ordained (Titus 1:5).”

Good News Magazine, “Prove All Things: Government in God’s Church”, May 1986

“JANUARY 22nd was a Sabbath that will go down in the eternal history of God's Church and His Kingdom!

“On that day, **for the first time in 750 years, the government of God was fully restored in His Church. Every administrative office which Christ set in His Church is functioning once again.**

“On that day, at the headquarters Church in Pasadena, six additional God called, consecrated, Ambassador-College-trained **ministers were ordained with fasting and prayer, by the laying on of hands of the ministers previously ordained.**”

Good News Magazine, “Six More Ministers Now Ordained”, Herbert W Armstrong, February-March 1955

“That government in God's Church is government from God, thru Christ, thru apostles, thru evangelists, thru pastors, thru other elders, IN THAT ORDER!

“Now suppose God did NOT have these various officers ordained by the hand of man. What would happen? One man in New York would APPOINT HIMSELF, and come up and say, ‘I claim equal office and authority with those ordained from Pasadena. I wasn't ordained by the hand of man, but direct by the hand of God.’ And then this man carries on his own independent work. Such a work CANNOT be a PART of the work of GOD'S TRUE CHURCH, for the simple reason that sooner or later it will start pulling off in an opposite direction — unless there is DIRECTION from Christ on down, in ONE CHURCH ORDER OF GOVERNMENT as God ordained. Sooner or later competition, misunderstanding, strife, and division will result! CHRIST IS NOT DIVIDED!

“So you see, Brethren, WHY God always ordains men to office THRU HIS OWN CHURCH, THRU HIS OWN ESTABLISHED ORDER, as laid down in HIS WORD! **GOD ALWAYS ordains to office BY THE HAND OF MEN, whom HE has placed in office. THERE IS NOT ONE EXAMPLE IN THE NEW TESTAMENT WHERE ANY MAN WAS SELF-APPOINTED, OR ORDAINED WITHOUT THE HAND OF MAN, SEPARATE FROM AND INDEPENDENT OF HIS ORDERED CHURCH! Any such claims to ordination or office are WITHOUT A SHRED OF SCRIPTURAL AUTHORITY!**

“Notice a few Scriptural examples:

“JOHN 15:16: Jesus Christ Himself ORDAINED His Apostles — by His Hand in Person, direct. Also Mark 3:14.

“ACTS 1:22: Matthias, after God thru the Holy Spirit directed that he be chosen, was ORDAINED thru the other eleven as one of the TWELVE APOSTLES (Also verses 23-26).

“ACTS 14:23: Elders were chosen and ORDAINED in every city, by the hands of Paul and Barnabas, with fasting and prayer.

“I TIM. 2:7: Was Paul actually ORDAINED, or just made an Apostle by God direct without ordination? Paul here says plainly, HE WAS ORDAINED! That settles it!

“II TIM. 1:6 AND 4:1-5: Timothy was sent out by Paul as an evangelist, clothed with AUTHORITY to appoint and ordain elders and deacons in the local churches, and given authority over local pastors and churches. God did this THRU THE HAND OF PAUL, and in this Scripture, we see Paul had laid hands on Timothy. If for receiving the Holy Spirit, then certainly also for his ordination.

“TITUS 1:5: Paul gave to Titus the evangelist authority to ORDAIN elders in every city, AS PAUL HAD APPOINTED HIM. Thus Titus was ordained to this authority by the hand of Paul, and elders in many churches were ordained by the hand of Titus, the evangelist. Here is the GOVERNMENT OF GOD, operating from Christ, thru Paul THE APOSTLE, thru Titus, THE EVANGELIST, thru local ELDERS, in the order of God's authority in His Church according to Eph. 4:11.

“And so it goes. There is not one example in the New Testament showing that any man was ever ordained to an office of authority WITHOUT the hand of man! The ONLY examples and instructions we have show God doing it thru the hand of men of His choosing!”

Good News Magazine, “Must God’s Ministers Be Ordained by the Hand of Men?”, Herbert W Armstrong, January 1960

Examples of Ordinations in the *Worldwide Church of God*

The following are just a few examples of the ministerial ordinations that took place in the *Worldwide Church of God* when it was led by Mr. Armstrong:

“At Sabbath services in Trinidad on August 18, 1984, Mr. Nikey Nungal was ordained a local church elder. **Hands were laid on him by evangelist Mr. Gerald Waterhouse and Caribbean Regional Director**

Mr. Stan Bass. Also ordained a local church elder was Mr. Robert Thompson, who serves in the Auckland, New Zealand congregation. Evangelist Mr. Raymond McNair and New Zealand Regional Director Peter Nathan performed the ceremony October 10, 1984 at the beginning of the Feast of Tabernacles.”

Pastor General’s Report, Ordinations, February 15, 1985

“Mr. Fritz Sonderegger, who serves in the Canberra, Australia congregation, was ordained a local church elder at Sabbath services December 8. **Hands were laid on him by Church pastor Mr. Rod King.**”

Pastor General’s Report, Ministerial Services, December 28, 1984

The Authority of God Rests *ONLY* in the One True Church

Most people in this world recognize that there is a need for a government and a governing authority in the respective countries where they live. The Church of God is no different, except that it recognizes God as the ultimate authority in the Church. And it also understands that God governs His Church through His ministry.

When a minister is ordained, he is set apart for a special service to God and to His people. Not only does a minister receive extra help from God to perform the service that he has been set apart for, but the office that a minister serves in is an extension of God’s government.

Each office carries with it the authority and the power of God, but this authority and power are only valid if a minister is ordained in the one true Church and if a minister is a member of the one true Church of God. The authority and power that comes from God to govern His people is not valid if a minister is ordained outside the one true Church or if a minister is not functioning inside the body of Christ:

“Now for the lay member, if someone does something wrong to you go to that person alone and tell him. But tell him in as kind a way as you can, but maybe you might have to be a little firm about it if he's really done something, but pray over it first. ‘If he won't hear you take one or two that in the mouth of one or two other witnesses the thing may be established. And if he neglects to hear them tell it to the Church.’

“And that means to the constituted offices of the Church and they will be those whom God has called, whom God has chosen and set in a position of authority and they carry the authority of Jesus Christ, if it is the true Church of God. ‘Now, then let the Church tell him’ and that means of course either the pastor or someone with delegated authority.”

World Tomorrow Broadcast, “Forgiveness and Repentance”, Herbert W Armstrong

“Now what developed from that forbidden fruit that Adam took? Well, knowledge that was acquirable by man, and he didn't know how to get along with his fellows. But he exalted himself. Vanity above all, and vanity makes him want to get from the other fellow. Vanity means, ‘I love me.’ Vanity means, ‘I want for me.’ Vanity goes hand in hand with greed and coveting. And then toward others it's resentment, and envy, and jealousy, competition, strife, rebellion against authority. **And the authority of God is in the Church, brethren. The authority of God is in the Church!**”

Sermon, “Back on Track”, Herbert W Armstrong, December 12, 1981

“In I Corinthians 12:28, God tells us in plain language: ‘And GOD hath set some in the Church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.’ **Notice, it is GOD who sets these officers and powers in the Church.** The people do not elect officers by vote. **GOD rules His Church.** The people do not rule it. Here three offices are mentioned, apostles, prophets, teachers, then come powers which GOD supplies in the Church. God is a miracle-working God. His Church is His instrument for manifesting His POWER, carrying out His COMMISSION.”

Good News Magazine, “Six More Ministers Now Ordained”, Herbert W Armstrong, February-March 1955

“What is God's order of authority in His Church?”

“You find it in Ephesians 4:11-12: ‘And He (Christ, the HEAD of the Church) gave some, APOSTLES, and some, PROPHETS, and some, EVANGELISTS, and some, PASTORS (leading or presiding elders of local churches), and TEACHERS; for the perfecting of the saints, for THE WORK of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: TILL we all come to the UNITY OF THE FAITH...’ In other words, to PREVENT separate, INDEPENDENT, and competing work which would introduce confusion, and division, driving many out of the Body of Christ, GOD HAS ORGANIZED GOVERNMENT in His Church. That government is the government of GOD.

“It operates from GOD, at the top, on down. It is government of and by and from GOD the Father, thru CHRIST, thru God-called and ordained APOSTLES, thru EVANGELISTS, thru PASTORS, thru TEACHERS, IN THAT ORDER. This government means TEAMWORK. It works for UNITY, not division.

“In Christ's apostolic organization, during those first two 19-year time-cycles of His Church, there was always TEAMWORK, harmony, unity, in God's GOVERNMENT in His Church.

Good News Magazine, “Must God's Ministers Be Ordained by the Hand of Men?”, Herbert W Armstrong, January 1960

The Authority to Govern in the Church comes from God

The authority and power that is granted to all ministers in the one true Church comes from God, through Jesus Christ. This applies to all of the ministerial offices as will soon become evident. And since we have already seen in chapter 2 that the overarching law of God is the law of love, it is this law that the ministry uses to govern the Church.

The authority to govern is granted when a minister is ordained in the body of Christ, which as we have already seen, occurs upon the laying on of hands. And that authority to govern those in God's Church only applies if a minister is a member of the body of Christ, the one true Church of God (I Tim. 5:17 and Heb. 13:7, 17):

“Throughout the Bible the laying on of hands is used in ordination. Have you wondered why? Notice again this ceremony is symbolic of God's divine Government...

“Ordination is the conferring of certain added responsibilities upon someone who has proven his trustworthiness. It is always preparatory to the doing of a job or the handling of a responsibility, never as a reward for work already done. **With ordination goes authority! But that authority doesn't come from men, it is the charge of God Almighty and is confirmed by the laying on of hands!**

“In I Timothy 5:22, Paul warned Timothy. ‘Lay hands suddenly on no man...’ But Paul wasn't admonishing Timothy to avoid physical combat. This phrase is clearly translated in the Revised Standard Version, ‘Do not be HASTY in the laying on of hands.’

“It is a true principle that a man can't execute authority until he has learned to thoroughly respect and instantly obey that authority. God will not give responsibility to a man until he has learned to rightly handle the duties he already has.

“Paul instructed Timothy to be sure — over a period of time — of how well a man handles his personal responsibilities before he ordained him to a place of service in the Government of God's Church by the laying on of hands.

“Ordination by the laying on of hands is God's way of setting apart and conferring the responsibility and authority of God's Church Government to a human instrument who has learned how to serve faithfully under the authority of that Government.”

Good News Magazine, “Why We Have the Laying on of Hands Ceremony”, April-May 1965

“And it is plain from these verses that although all ministers are ‘elders’ (a general term roughly equivalent with ‘minister’), all ministers are not of equal rank or responsibility.

“Other verses, such as I Timothy 5:17 (‘Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor’) and I Corinthians 5:1-5 (which shows the power: of the ministry to discipline), all prove that **God has given the ministry authority to govern** and not merely to preach truth without being able to enforce it within the Church.

“Hence we see that the Church is governed through its officers, the ministry, according to their individual ranks and function, under the direction of Jesus Christ, who Himself is subject to God the Father.”

Good News Magazine, “Prove All Things: Government in God’s Church”, May 1986

“Unity is a subject that affects not only Festival Coordinators and Regional Directors, but each of us as ministers of Jesus Christ. **We are all under authority: Jesus Christ is under the authority of God the Father; Mr. Armstrong is under the authority of the Head of the Church, Jesus Christ; and the ministry is under the authority of Mr. Armstrong. Unity is maintained and preserved through submission to authority. That is how God's Church is able to follow God's instruction to ‘all speak the same things.’** As ministers, we must always strive to maintain a spirit of cooperation and submission to the authority God has placed in His Church here at Headquarters. But it is not natural for human nature to be responsive to Headquarters. It is quite easy to allow an attitude of self-will and independence to develop. However, that kind of attitude will eventually cause one to fall away! We must remember the instruction Paul gave Timothy in II Timothy 1:6. We must stir up God's Spirit. **Unity cannot be maintained without our own effort and the spiritual help of God!**”

Pastor General’s Report, Ministerial Services, March 1, 1985

“Now, so Jesus said that openly, and then Peter began to rebuke Him for it. Peter hadn't been converted yet. But, Jesus turning about, and seeing His disciples, rebuked Peter. And there He set an example, and you know, **His ministers have to rebuke once in a while, and that's exactly what the apostle Paul said. In the writings of the scriptures, the people are told never to rebuke an elder, or a minister, and never to bring an accusation against them. But to entreat them as they would a father, and in love, and after a great deal of prayer, if they feel it's necessary. But the ministers are commanded to rebuke the people, and especially those in God's congregation.**”

“And Jesus here set that example. He rebuked Peter. Peter was out of line in rebuking Christ. His example while he was still unconverted is not the example for us to follow today. But the example of Jesus is the one for us to follow. So He, ‘Rebuked Peter’, and He said, ‘Get you behind me, Satan’, look what a name He called him, ‘for you mind not the things of God, but the things of men.’”

World Tomorrow Broadcast, “Are You A Conformist to Christianity”, Herbert W Armstrong

Ministerial Offices are Listed in Terms of Rank

I recently exchanged several emails with an individual who was in one of the congregations that I served in when we were in RCG. This person is now attending services in a group that does not believe that the ministerial offices listed in the Bible are listed according to rank. He believes that all ministers are equal in rank.

It will become evident in the next several excerpts that the ministerial offices that are listed in the Bible are listed in terms of rank. The government of God, including the teaching that the ministerial offices in the Church are listed in terms of rank (I Cor. 12:28 and Eph. 4:11) is a truth that was restored to the Church through Mr. Armstrong, with Jesus Christ listed as the head of the one true Church, Eph. 1:22, 2:19, & 5:23:

The following are the ministerial ranks that are listed in I Cor. 12:28 and Eph 4:11; Apostle, Prophet, Evangelist, Pastor, & Teachers. You will also read in a "Special Note" following the excerpts below that Mr. Armstrong came to understand that there were 2 types of Teachers that are described in the Bible and therefore 2 separate and distinct ministerial ranks, that of Preaching Elder (Preaching Teachers) and Local Church Elder/ Local Elder (Non-Preaching Teachers):

"Here are some important scriptures to. specially note: Ephesians 1:22, 5:23 — Christ is the Head of the Church. Ephesians 2:19-20 — the foundation of Church government is key men **upon the cornerstone of Jesus Christ.** Ephesians 4:11 and I Corinthians 12:28 — **offices of the ministry are listed in terms of rank.** I Corinthians 5:1-5 and I Timothy 5:17 — ministers have authority to rule. Acts 13:1-3, Titus 1:5, I Timothy 3:1-7 — ministers are appointed by God's will according to their qualifications. I Corinthians 12:7-10 ,18— Christ places men into various offices as it pleases Him.

"Yes, though men through the millennia have struggled to form effective governments for their nations, they have left virtually unnoticed the question of proper Church government. But God has not neglected His Church, and has put within it the **corner stone of His Son Jesus**, and the foundation of those He has called to serve as leaders in His Church with power and vigor."

Good News Magazine, "Prove All Things: Government in God's Church", May 1986

"That ONE BODY of Christ, carrying on HIS WORK, must function as a UNIT. It must work in harmony and unity, with teamwork, for God is not the author of confusion. There must be no pulling off in different directions by different men IN that one Body. There must be no competition, or division. And anyone who knowingly promotes, or encourages anyone in promoting, such disharmony, competition, and division, becomes the enemy of God, and is serving the devil and not God!

“In order that this ONENESS — this UNITY of purpose and action — this HARMONY and co-operative teamwork, be maintained and preserved in GOD'S WORK, **God has ordained GOVERNMENT IN HIS CHURCH.** And He has empowered His Church with DIVINE AUTHORITY.

“That government in God's Church is government from God, thru Christ, thru apostles, thru evangelists, thru pastors, thru other elders, IN THAT ORDER!”

Good News Magazine, “Must God’s Ministers Be Ordained by the Hand of Men?”, Herbert W Armstrong, January 1960

“In I Corinthians 12, the Word of God tells us that in addition to spiritual GIFTS, ‘there are DIFFERENCES OF ADMINISTRATIONS, but the same Lord.... But all these [spiritual gifts] worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he [God] will.... For the body is not one member, but many. If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? ... But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him [not politicians].... **And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles...**’ (verses 5, 11, 14-15, 18, 28).

“In Ephesians 4 these ranks are **apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers.** They are for the Church's WORK (Ephesians 4:11-12).

“Very evidently these officers are listed as ranks in authority. For example, only four prophets are mentioned in the New Testament, and not one set any church doctrines or beliefs. Not one exercised any authority. There are no prophets in the Church today, and no record of any for 1900 years.

Plain Truth Magazine, “Who Is Lord? Caesar or Christ?”, Herbert W Armstrong, December 1979

Special Note: It should be noted that the Bible does not in detail specify that there are “Preaching Elders” and “Local Elders/Local Church Elders”. But Mr. Armstrong came to understand that there were some men who were preachers and some men who were teachers and leaders.

Thus, a truth regarding the government of God that was restored by Jesus Christ to the Philadelphia era of the Church, is that the ministerial description of “teachers” mentioned in I Cor. 12:28 and Eph. 4:11 are 2 separate and distinct ranks or offices in the ministry:

“The word ‘prophet’ has two meanings. One is to receive direct from God instruction or foreknowledge of a happening. In the early first century, before the Bible was completely written, God did send a message through a prophet, who conveyed that message to an apostle. There has been no occasion for that function today. A ‘prophet’ also can mean one who PREACHES. We do have that function in the Church today. **The Bible does not in detail specify ‘preaching elder’ and ‘local elder,’** but it appears **that some local elders were preachers** and others were not, but were leaders in meetings. We designate these accordingly.”

Co-worker letter, Herbert W Armstrong, May 2, 1974

“Christ is the living HEAD of the Church!

“HE sets the apostle in office. But we do find historic example in the New Testament of the apostle setting in office the evangelists, pastors and teachers, and even delegating to the evangelists the responsibility of ordaining pastors and other elders, and deacons.

“By a study of other New Testament passages, we learn that there were, besides pastors, both preaching and nonpreaching elders in local churches. All elders were teachers, but not all were preachers.

“Also we learn by various Scriptures that all these officers are called ELDERS. **A non-preaching elder, who must be a leader and apt to teach, is, of course, an elder.** So is the preaching-elder, also the pastor, and also the evangelist. And even Peter, the apostle, was also an elder. In the New Testament the terms bishop and overseer are synonymous with elder...

“So there are the COMPLETE offices in God's Church—Christ the HEAD, then apostles, evangelists, pastors, minister-elders, non-preaching elders, deacons, deaconesses.”

Good News Magazine, “Six More Ministers Now Ordained”, Herbert W Armstrong, February-March 1955

The Biblical Title “Elder”

There are several titles that are found in the Bible which are used as a general term for all ministers. Some of these titles are Elder, Bishop, Overseer, and Presbyter. All of these terms mean the same thing, which is elder. A common title that was sometimes used in the *Worldwide Church of God* when referring to a minister was Elder.

All ministers from Apostle down to Local Church Elder, are Elders. Therefore, when the term Elder or Minister is used, it is a generic term that applies to and is referring to an individual who serves in the ministry. Of course, only the offices that are inside the body of Christ are vested with the authority that comes from God:

“It is well, here, to explain the titles God uses for those in office in His government. We have just considered such offices as those of APOSTLE, PROPHET, EVANGELIST, PASTOR, TEACHER. **But what about such titles as ‘Elder,’ ‘Bishop,’ ‘Overseer,’ or ‘Presbyter.’** All these are used in the New Testament. Actually, **all these latter four mean exactly the same thing.** A Bishop, or an Overseer, is an Elder — and the Presbyters are, simply, elders.

“But some Elders hold higher office of AUTHORITY than others. Actually, Apostles are also elders, and the assistant pastors, or even non-preaching teachers and leaders in local churches are elders. The Apostle John called himself an Elder (II John 1, and III John 1). The Apostle Peter called himself an Elder (I Pet. 5:1). **In other words, ALL ministers of Christ, no matter how high or low the office of authority, are Elders.** All Apostles are Elders, BUT ALL ELDERS ARE NOT APOSTLES!

“To understand the derivation of the term ‘Elder,’ let me briefly sketch for you the history of the title. The original government of the Hebrews, from Abraham, was patriarchal. The head of the family exercised the supreme rule (under God), over all his descendants. His married sons bore rule over their respective families, children and grandchildren, etc., but still remained subordinate to their father as supreme head. **It was government from the TOP, DOWN.** At the father's death, his firstborn son succeeded him in supreme headship over the family. Naturally, these positions, **hence the designation, ‘Elder,’ which simply meant the oldest one.** Thus Jacob (Israel) was the supreme head over all who went to Egypt with him, also his sons had families of their own. **Thus ‘Elder’ became the official title of those in authority.**

“The earliest mention of ‘Elders’ in government office (aside from family rule), is at the time of the Exodus. The seventy elders mentioned in Exodus and Numbers were a governing body, a sort of parliament. This was the origin of the Sanhedrin, or Council. This carried to the time of Christ. **In the New Testament Church, the Elders, or Presbyters, were the same as Bishops — the general title for ALL spiritual offices of authority over the Church.**”

Good News Magazine, “Must God’s Ministers Be Ordained by the Hand of Men?”, Herbert W Armstrong, January 1960

Different Talents & Abilities

The Church of God is a spiritual organism with various operations and functions within it. Not every individual that is ordained into the ministry is chosen by God for the mission of preaching the gospel to the world because not every person has the ability to accomplish such a daunting and tremendous task.

God selects the men that are ordained into each ministerial office according to the abilities that they have. In addition, when an ordination takes place, God imbues these men with special gifts and powers to assist them in completing their responsibilities:

“Now you notice there that there are different administrations and different operations. For these different operations, we have to have different administrations. In other words, a different group of people administering those operations. In other words, different departments. And each department is an administration.

“You know, in the United States Government we talk about the administration, the President. Well, he administers, he does what Congress tells him to do. In other words, Congress makes the laws and he's supposed to enforce them, or to run them. And so, you will notice now beginning with verse 8 again, ‘For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom. To another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit. And to another faith by the same Spirit. To another gifts of healing by the same Spirit.’”

“We don't all have ability to do the same things. God is showing us that He gives special abilities to special people for different performances, different operations in the functions of the Church.”

World Tomorrow Radio Broadcast, “The Gospel and the Church are Concerned with Government”, Herbert W Armstrong

“In II Corinthians the 11th chapter, you will find how Paul feared that there were false teachers out that would turn them to another gospel, and that did happen. And the true gospel was suppressed, and it was not preached.

“But God did raise me up from the advertising field in which I had put myself, and yanked me right out of that, and opened my eyes to see these things in his word, and to carry it to kings, and to nations all around the world, and to people that this gospel may go as an announcement today, just as Jesus announced it then.”

World Tomorrow Telecast, “Christ the Coming King”, Herbert W Armstrong

“We are all so accustomed to this world's system, that unless we understand this difference, unlearn the world's system, and fix firmly in mind the view point of God's government and its various functions, **some, for example, might wonder why Norman Smith, who is technician and manager of our radio studio and control-room, was ordained as a pastor.** Because we are steeped in the non-Scriptural organization and functioning of this world's churches, many will assume that, to be a pastor, one must be a preacher in charge of a local church.

“But in GOD'S government, as we find it clearly revealed in His Word, pastor is a rank of office next under that of evangelist, and higher than that of a Minister-Elder. **In God's government men are ranked according to their own spiritual and general ability, the responsibility of their function, and its importance in the over-all commission of getting the true GOSPEL to the world.**

“If Norman Smith were merely a technician, he would not have been ordained to any office whatever. **His technical abilities are merely a supporting requirement for his very important ministry-one of the most important ministerial functions in the church today.** Mr. Smith is a graduate of Ambassador College, as fully trained for the spiritual ministry as any of our pastors. He is my first assistant in the radio ministry to the whole world. I spend hours every week in consultation with him about the

content of sermons in broadcasts. For some months now it has been his job to decide what sermons this nation, and even the whole world, shall hear.

“This was made necessary during my trip to Europe, and other absences. It became necessary to re-broadcast former sermons. It was Mr. Smith's duty to determine which sermons were appropriate for this later date. In many instances most of a broadcast was suitable, but some few remarks were ‘dated’-timely at the time of original broadcast, but no longer suitable. In these instances Mr. Smith had to edit my sermons.

“You will recognize instantly that I could never delegate to anyone but a thoroughly trained minister-one who is capable, and experienced, and fully responsible-the function of actually editing and, when necessary, rearranging my sermons to be heard by MILLIONS of people.”

“It was for this top-level ministerial service, of a completely spiritual nature, that Norman Smith was ordained to the office of pastor. He is fully competent to be placed as the settled pastor of any of our churches, but his present responsibility is of far greater importance in God's ministry.”

“This one example will have to suffice. Since God has opened the tremendous doors of radio and the priming press, the ministry assumes an entirely different requirement of functioning than the programs of the worldly churches.

Good News Magazine, “Six More Ministers Now Ordained”, Herbert W Armstrong, February-March 1955

“It's all from the spirit of God, but the spirit of God gives to one, one of these gifts, and to another, another. Now notice what God says about this. He put different abilities in the Church. And you will find from the parable of the talents, in the 25th chapter of Matthew, that God gives these things, divided them severally, as he will, each man according to his own natural ability.” But all of these work the one in the self, same spirit. It comes from the same spirit, ‘Dividing to every man severally, as he or Christ will. For as the body is one’”

Bible Study, “I Corinthians 12”, Herbert W Armstrong

“God gives special gifts — special powers of His Spirit — to those who are set apart by the laying on of hands.”

“Remember that it was by the laying on of hands that Timothy received the added ability, called ‘prophecy’ by the King James translators. This word should actually have been translated, ‘inspired preaching’ (I Tim. 4:14 and II Tim. 1:6).”

“By setting apart Timothy in ordination — **by the laying on of hands — Timothy received the additional help of God's Spirit in preaching. Timothy's natural ability coupled with God's power helped him become Paul's right-hand Evangelist — a DYNAMIC SPEAKER.**”

“This spiritual gift of inspired preaching was conferred to Timothy by the laying on of hands. Why? So that Timothy could better serve God's Church.

“In the case of Joshua we are told, ‘And Joshua the son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom; for Moses had laid his hands upon him: and the children of Israel hearkened unto him, and did as the Lord commanded Moses!’ (Deut. 34:9.)

“Joshua was given additional spiritual wisdom in governing God's people by the laying on of hands. Wisdom is also a spiritual gift.

“God's spiritual gifts were given to those who were set apart by God to carry out the service of Government as God's chosen human representatives!”

Good News Magazine, “Why We Have the Laying on of Hands Ceremony”, April-May 1965

The Duty of all Ministers - Hold Fast

It is the duty and responsibility of all ordained ministers of the true Church of God to hold fast to the truths that were restored to the Church by Jesus Christ through the apostles. This instruction is found in I Corinthians 4:1-2, “Let a man so account of us, as of the **ministers of Christ**, and **stewards of the mysteries of God**. **Moreover, it is required in stewards that a man be found faithful.**”

True ministers of any rank, are first and foremost the stewards, the men who guard, keep, protect and hold fast to the “mysteries of God”, which are the truths that are restored and revealed to the Church of God by Jesus Christ through the apostles. And moreover, being a faithful steward is something that is required in order to serve in and maintain the office of a true minister of God. This instruction is reiterated in Titus 1:7 and 9, “For a bishop [an elder] must be blameless **as the steward of God... Holding fast to the faithful word as he has been taught.**”

Ministers, doctrinal committees, or groups of men do not have authority to modify, water down, loosen, alter, or change any of the truths that were put into the Church by Christ through the apostles. Once a minister begins to compromise, alter, water down, loosen or change any of the doctrines that were put in the Church by a faithful apostle, he automatically disqualifies himself from being a true minister, if he doesn't repent of these actions in a timely manner. This includes those ministers who do not stand up for the truth when they see these changes occur. The following are the words of a faithful apostle on this very important and key point:

“I have sensed that some of God's ministers felt that THEY were SO STRONG that they were BEYOND BEING DECEIVED BY HIM OR THAT SATAN could actually WORK IN THEM as I have described above. Brethren, I am Christ's chosen apostle, and I know Satan is a thousand times stronger than I. I have to rely on CHRIST, who is MORE POWERFUL than Satan. Those ministers WENT-OUT from US. ' Satan DID deceive them and WORK IN THEM!

“But LISTEN CAREFULLY! A DECEIVED man does not KNOW he is deceived. He THINKS he is RIGHT. If he KNEW he was deceived, he would not be, would he? Satan is MORE POWERFUL, and, in addition, MORE CUNNING, MORE CLEVER, MORE SUBTILE, THAN ALL OUR MINISTERS PUT TOGETHER!

“I say to you ministers! You may feel you have grown so great in the ministry that you are greater than I and so strong you can overpower Satan. THAT'S PRECISELY WHAT SATAN WANTS YOU TO THINK! No, you ministers - directly or indirectly my CHILDREN in the Lord - better teach your flocks what I am teaching them here - what CHRIST teaches them.”

Good News Magazine, “WHAT YOU MAY NOT KNOW”, Herbert W Armstrong, August 28, 1978

“Ministers were crying for more and more watering down of truths Christ had put into His Church through His apostle. For example, a number of ministers either had never been really converted or had slipped so far from Christ by lack of prayer, that it was too embarrassing for them to anoint and pray for healing. They were demanding that healing be eliminated.

“Meanwhile, in these same years, a small group of self-professed ‘intellectuals were busy preparing the STP (Systematic Theology Project).

“I had repeatedly asked ministers or members to contact me personally on problems in the field — but my requests fell on deaf ears.

“Mr. Dart was sent away by Ted to Texas on a sabbatical for further study at the University of Texas. Garner Ted then brought C. Wayne Cole back as ‘head of the ministry.’ He was Ted's tool, working with Dr. Robert Kuhn and the ‘intellectuals.’ Ministers who should have been fired were left in. Mr. Cole always has worked to keep people ‘friendly’ to him.

“As the ancient prophet Eli was condemned and punished by God for allowing his sinning sons to remain in the priesthood, so ministers who should have been eliminated were left in. Mr. Cole would offend no one. After Garner Ted was put out of the Church, Mr. Cole did all he could to keep disqualified ministers loyal to him personally, building power for himself.

“A power bloc developed

“What has happened, through the years? A power bloc has developed in the Work — a power bloc headed by these various ‘heads of the ministry’ — of ministers who were NOT loyal to Christ or His apostle, but to the one using politics at Pasadena.”

Good News Magazine, “Christ Now Moves to Put God’s Government Back on the Track”,
Herbert W Armstrong, September 1979

“Paul warned that ‘the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine’ (II Tim. 4:3) and **charged Timothy and other ministers that they teach no other doctrine than that Christ put into the Church through His apostles** (I Tim. 1:3).

“Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son’ (II John 9).

“True Christians practice what God's Church teaches, and will be blessed by God for so doing. Notice Paul's compliment to the Romans: ‘But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you’” (Rom. 6:17).

Good News Magazine, “See You Next Year”, September 1981, Page 37

“Fellow ministers, I say to you by Christ's authority that for one claiming to be a minister of Jesus Christ and receiving a salary as a minister of, and representative of this Church, **to water down or make less binding the teachings and doctrines Jesus Christ put in this Church through me is taking money (salary) under false pretenses. It is SERIOUS and a SERIOUS SIN. God will call everyone who does that to account.**

“Compare this to a captain in the army. He is in a comparatively low authority, but he is over first and second lieutenants, sergeants, corporals, etc. Suppose an army captain begins to water down or change the military rules. Suppose he tells those under him, ‘You don't need to obey this or that order — unless you want to.’ Such a captain would be court-martialed and PUT OUT with DISHONORABLE DISCHARGE!

“I know that the large majority of you ministers are faithful in preaching the doctrines the living Christ has put into His Church through me. Yet under my son's assuming more authority than had been given him, **there was a great letdown and dereliction of duty creeping in through a portion of the ministry. In the army, during wartime, for such dereliction of duty they might just rid the guilty officer by a firing squad. HOW MUCH MORE SERIOUS IS WATERING DOWN OF DOCTRINES AND THE FAITH IN GOD'S WORK?**

“It is far more important than being a captain in the army in time of WAR! If you did not agree with the military regulations and orders and openly proclaimed your dissidence to those under you, you would

be court-martialed and probably shot! **Yet disagreement and contrary teaching of those under you in GOD'S CHURCH is, in God's eyes, FAR MORE SERIOUS!**

“Now I am not, of course, going to order any firing squads. But the LEAST you can do, if you cannot wholeheartedly accept and loyally teach the truths Jesus Christ put into His Church through His chosen apostle, is to resign and LEAVE THE CHURCH!

“God commands in His Word that we all ‘SPEAK THE SAME THING.’ That ‘same thing’ He put into His Church through His apostle. **If you can't agree on any point, you may bring your disagreement privately to your superior or directly to me — but to teach disagreement to the children of GOD is the height of disloyalty!**”

Worldwide News, “Watering Down – Or Building Solidly Up?”, Herbert W Armstrong, June 11, 1979

The Duty of all Ministers - Feed the Flock

One of the duties of all elders in the Church, which includes all ministers, no matter their rank or tenure, is to feed God’s people the truths that they received from the apostles. This is a Biblical instruction that can be found in Eph. 11:11-4, in Acts 8:30-25, 20:28, and Matt. 24:45. And it includes feeding them meat in due season:

“So we use the terms in physical reproduction of begettal or conception and then all the period from then until what they call parturition or delivery of the child into the world, when the child comes out to live its own life in the world.

“Well, we haven't come to that place spiritually yet. We are in the begettal stage and the Church above is the mother of us all, and we're all children to be fed spiritually by the Church, to be protected by the Church from false doctrine and false ways and to be developed by the Church by the spiritual food from the word of God, in the Church.

“Now the Church is called to be prepared, in order to reap the first spiritual harvest. That harvest won't really be reaped until the second coming of Christ, and that's what we're observing today, is the second coming of Christ.”

Sermon, “Trumpets and the Purpose of the Church”, Herbert W Armstrong, September 11, 1980

“Now then, the words that Jesus spoke are spirit and life and we receive eternal life that way. Of course, you receive it literally by being impregnated by the Spirit of God. But we have to grow spiritually and once that you are a begotten child of God, just like the begotten child of human parents, still in its mother's womb, it must be nourished and fed and protected by the mother, and in a sense the Bible teaches that the Church is the mother of us all.

“The Church is the Jerusalem that is above, that is free, and is the mother of us all and **the function of the Church is to nourish and to feed** and to protect **the spiritual infants that have been begotten of God**, that are not yet really born, only begotten at this time, **to feed them on the Word of God, to nourish them on the spiritual manna** and to protect them from the wolves and the false prophets on the outside.

“And that's why when the false prophets come, even into the Church congregation, that the ones that God has set in authority in His Church are to mark them and to have nothing to do with them, not to admit them even into the house. **And God has given authority in His Church** but most churches don't run their churches according to God's authority or God's way but according to man's ideas.”

World Tomorrow Broadcast, “Some Offended By Christ’s Message”, Herbert W Armstrong

“So now, once spiritually begotten, we are merely a spiritual embryo. Now we must be fed and nourished on SPIRITUAL food! Jesus said man shall not live by bread (physical food) alone, but by EVERY WORD OF GOD (spiritual food)! This we drink in from the Bible! But we drink in this spiritual knowledge and character, also, through personal, intimate, continuous contact with God through PRAYER, and through Christian fellowship with God's children in his Church. And also by the continual teaching imparted by the Church.

“Now the *physical* embryo and fetus is fed physically through the mother. God's CHURCH is called Jerusalem *above* ‘which is the MOTHER OF US ALL’ (Gal. 4:26). Notice the exact parallel! The CHURCH is the spiritual MOTHER OF ITS MEMBERS. **God has set his called and chosen ministers in his Church to FEED THE FLOCK** - ‘for the *perfecting* of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body [CHURCH] of Christ: **TILL WE all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ’ (Eph. 4:11-13).**”

Book, *Mystery of the Ages*, Herbert W Armstrong

“You have often heard Mr. Armstrong speak this truism over the air, ‘You can't get into the Kingdom of God on the coat tail of another!’ Also, ‘Any dead fish can float downstream, but it takes a good swimmer, caking strong, sure strokes to swim upstream.’

“Brethren! This is the responsibility of the Church of God. The Church, the Body of Christ, is to FEED you the sure Word of God. It is to SHEPHERD — to guard — the flock. The ministers, ordained and placed in office by God, are to encourage, to exhort, to admonish, to counsel with, and to WARN YOU! The basis always used is the ‘more sure word,’

“But God has not appointed them to live your lives for you — to shoulder all your problems and solve them for you. YOU must stand on your own feet.”

The Good News Magazine, “Is the Church Responsible?”, Selmor L Hegvold, February 1963

“In five passages where the true NAME of the Church appears, the entire body of Christ-the Church as a whole is indicated. Thus when speaking of the entire Church, including all its individual members on earth, the name is ‘The CHURCH OF GOD.’ Here are these five passages:

“1) Acts 20:28: **The admonition to the elders is to ‘feed THE CHURCH OF GOD.’**

“2) I Corinthians 10:32: ‘Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to THE CHURCH OF God.’

“3) I Corinthians 11:22: ‘... Despise ye THE CHURCH OF GOD, and shame them that have not?’

“4) I Corinthians 15:9: Paul wrote: ‘For ... I persecuted THE CHURCH OF GOD.’

“5) Galatians 1:13: This verse repeats the one last given-‘I persecuted THE CHURCH OF GOD.’ Where one specific local congregation is mentioned, the true Church is called ‘The Church of God,’ often in connection with the place or location. Here are four more passages:

“6) I Corinthians 1:2: ‘THE CHURCH OF GOD which is at Corinth.’

“7) II Corinthians 1:1: ‘THE CHURCH OF GOD which is at Corinth.’

“8) I Timothy 3:5: In speaking of a local elder in a local congregation, Paul wrote Timothy: ‘For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of THE CHURCH OF GOD?’”

Book, *Mystery of the Ages*, Herbert W Armstrong

The Duty of all Ministers - Protect the Sheep

An all-important duty of ministers, no matter their rank or tenure, is to protect God’s people from false ministers, false prophets, and false teachers. Christ is the ultimate shepherd who set the example and gave his life for His sheep and all true shepherds are to follow the example He left us in John 10:7-15. And once again, this pertains to all true shepherds, no matter their ministerial rank:

“And it’s a little like, you know, Jesus called the people in the Church sheep, and sheep without a shepherd certainly get lost, or they are meat for wolves that are hungry. Wolves just love sheep. They will kill sheep and eat them.

“Which reminds me that in St. Louis one time many, many years ago, before my conversion, the Association of, I think livestock or sheep people, wanted me to write a large size ad that was to go in newspapers against dogs killing sheep, because stray dogs would get out and kill sheep. Well dogs are of the wolf type, and wolves will prey on sheep.

“Well, without a shepherd, the sheep become lost. And I found that, in place after place, little Church groups of maybe five, maybe seven or so would be raised up and I would try to leave a Church there. Now there were even some former brethren in Eugene, and I had believed then, and I had organized a Church and left it in the hands of one of the men that had come up from California as a minister. And it didn’t even last three months, because he was not an able or qualified minister. **And so we need a Church.**”

"It is the duty of Christ's TRUE ministers (and how scarce today) to PROTECT the begotten but yet unborn saints from false doctrines, from false ministers.

"The HUMAN mother carries her unborn baby in that part of her body where she can best PROTECT it from physical harm; and that protection is part of her function, as well as to nourish the unborn child! Even so, the CHURCH, through Christ's ministers, instructs, teaches, counsels with, advises, and PROTECTS from spiritual harm the unborn members! What a WONDERFUL picture is human reproduction of spiritual SALVATION!"

Book, *Mystery of the Ages*, Herbert W Armstrong

"Now then, the words that Jesus spoke are spirit and life and we receive eternal life that way. Of course, you receive it literally by being impregnated by the Spirit of God. But we have to grow spiritually and once that you are a begotten child of God, just like the begotten child of human parents, still in its mother's womb, it must be nourished and fed and protected by the mother, and in a sense the Bible teaches that the Church is the mother of us all.

"The Church is the Jerusalem that is above, that is free, and is the mother of us all and **the function of the Church is to** nourish and to feed and to **protect the spiritual infants that have been begotten of God**, that are not yet really born, only begotten at this time, to feed them on the Word of God, to nourish them on the spiritual manna and **to protect them from the wolves and the false prophets on the outside.**

"And that's why when the false prophets come, even into the Church congregation, that the ones that God has set in authority in His Church are to mark them and to have nothing to do with them, not to admit them even into the house. And God has given authority in His Church but most churches don't run their churches according to God's authority or God's way but according to man's ideas."

World Tomorrow Broadcast, "Some Offended By Christ's Message", Herbert W Armstrong

The Duty of all Ministers – Unity in Doctrine

The unity of the faith means that the Church is united together in the same teachings, which are the truths that are placed into the Church by Jesus Christ through the apostles. It means that all ministers must speak the same thing regarding the doctrines that they received from the apostles and that all ministers must all be part of one organization, the one true body of Christ:

"We have had a very positive and successful series of meetings with the Regional Directors this week. **Mr. Armstrong began the annual conference on Monday morning with an inspiring message on the subject of unity and teamwork.** He compared the regional offices to the spokes of a wheel, all connected to the hub - headquarters. But, Mr. Armstrong stressed, it is an unusual wheel - one that

has no rim. Each spoke is connected to the hub, and to each other through the hub, not by a rim. **We all work through headquarters, and thereby are all able to speak the same thing.** We must all respond as one, like a well-functioning team, or a well-oiled machine, all regulated from headquarters.

“Mr. Armstrong also stressed the personal examples of ministers. He reminded us of the old saying, ‘Actions speak louder than words.’ **Our personal examples of unity, faithfulness and loyalty to Jesus Christ and the government He has placed in His Church inspire that same unity in God's people.**”

Pastor General’s Report, Ministerial Services, February 1, 1985

“Unity is a subject that affects not only Festival Coordinators and Regional Directors, but each of us as ministers of Jesus Christ. **We are all under authority: Jesus Christ is under the authority of God the Father; Mr. Armstrong is under the authority of the Head of the Church, Jesus Christ; and the ministry is under the authority of Mr. Armstrong. Unity is maintained and preserved through submission to authority. That is how God's Church is able to follow God's instruction to ‘all speak the same things.’** As ministers, we must always strive to maintain a spirit of cooperation and submission to the authority God has placed in His Church here at Headquarters. But it is not natural for human nature to be responsive to Headquarters. It is quite easy to allow an attitude of self-will and independence to develop. However, that kind of attitude will eventually cause one to fall away! We must remember the instruction Paul gave Timothy in II Timothy 1:6. We must stir up God's Spirit. **Unity cannot be maintained without our own effort and the spiritual help of God!**”

Pastor General’s Report, Ministerial Services, March 1, 1985

“**Well, first I want to explain about the government of God. Two can't walk together except they be agreed. So they were in absolute harmony. And everywhere in the Bible it shows that Jesus and God the Father were completely as one, of one mind, of one belief, of one agreement, no discord, no disagreement of any kind whatsoever. Also two cannot walk together except one is the leader.** You must have leadership, and we had a sermonette on that. You must have leadership! And God was the leader. Jesus obeyed His Father. He said ‘I have kept My Father's commandments.’ And He also said He'd set us an example. We should also keep them.”

Sermon, “Mission of the Philadelphia Era Part 2”, Herbert W Armstrong, December 17, 1983

“Noah walked with God and is given as an example of faith. Now **those men proved their belief in God by walking in the ways of God, by doing the things that pleased God.** In other words, they didn't have a dead faith, they had a living faith. And it was really living, and they walked in it. **No man can walk with God except he is in agreement with God,** and with the will of God, in doing it.

“Now did you ever notice that here is something that is in your Bible, and this is true. It's one of the very basic truths of life. Remember this. Amos the third chapter and the third verse, **‘Can two walk together except they be agreed?’** Not very far, two people can't continue together very far except they be agreed. But Enoch was walking with God for 300 years. That's a long time.”

"You find it in Ephesians 4:11-12: 'And He (Christ, the HEAD of the Church) gave some, **APOSTLES, and some, PROPHETS, and some, EVANGELISTS, and some, PASTORS (leading or presiding elders of local churches), and TEACHERS;** for the perfecting of the saints, for THE WORK of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: **TILL we all come to the UNITY OF THE FAITH...**' In other words, **to PREVENT separate, INDEPENDENT, and competing work which would introduce confusion, and division, driving many out of the Body of Christ,** GOD HAS ORGANIZED GOVERNMENT in His Church. That government is the government of GOD.

"It operates from GOD, at the top, on down. It is government of and by and from GOD the Father, thru CHRIST, thru God-called and ordained APOSTLES, thru EVANGELISTS, thru PASTORS, thru TEACHERS, IN THAT ORDER. This government means TEAMWORK. It works for UNITY, not division."

Good News Magazine, "Must God's Ministers Be Ordained by the Hand of Man?", Herbert W Armstrong, January 1960

The Duty of All Ministers – Refute the Gainsayers

A duty that pertains to and is exclusive to the ministry is to refute the gainsayers. The gainsayers are those who oppose, speak against, or teach doctrines that are contrary to the Biblical truths of God. In the age of the internet, Facebook and other social media outlets, many who have a *Worldwide Church of God* background now use these avenues to refute, attack, renounce, and even accuse others who disagree with them in terms of doctrine and other matters.

The lay members should not take it upon themselves to repudiate others, even if someone is speaking against the truth. If someone is speaking against the truth or teaching doctrines contrary to the truth, it is the exclusive duty of a faithful minister to determine the course of action that should be taken or the manner in which a gainsayer is refuted. Much care and consideration should always be taken when this action is performed to prevent an accusative attitude from developing:

"The smart ones, the sharp ones, the strong ones are going to be attacking God's people. Keep that in mind. **And here's what God says, 'Look, if it's another doctrine, and you get something that maybe you want to know a little bit about it.'** Well, here's what God says. **There's a lot of people in the Church that say, we ought to be able to refute the gainsayers. Well, that's speaking to the ministry. They are the ones who are supposed to refute the gainsayer.** Talk to Timothy. He's supposed to do that. That's the job for, 'We're the professionals.' Maybe you've heard that on T.V. We're trained. We teach as we have been taught. We're aware of these things. God gives us extra added wisdom, and strength, and ability to spot this, and to work with it. **Not the lay members.**

“They don't go around and say, ‘Okay, let's see, what does Cecil have to say here?’ Or about G.T.A. Oh, he's got hurt feelings and he is down there crying and he wants us to cry with him. Oh, feel sorry for poor Ted. He didn't get his way once again. He goes up and he doesn't agree with dad so he pouts and goes off and does his own thing. I don't care what it is. God says here clearly in Second John 10, ‘If there come any unto you and bring not this doctrine.’ Okay, it can't get any clearer. ‘Receive him not into your house.’ Don't wave him in.

Sermon, “How Satan Attacks”, Keith Walden, 1979

All Ministers are Leaders and Spiritual Men

All ministers, no matter their rank or tenure, are the leaders and spiritual men in God's Church. Being a leader in the one true Church of God often means taking direction from an elder with a higher rank or from a minister with with more seniority:

“God's government in His Church is a theocracy, with Christ at the helm and God's chosen ministers fulfilling responsibilities under Christ in the form of a pyramidal hierarchy.”

“It is a government of faith, in which the leaders submit their wills to Christ and the members trust God to administer His Church through those leaders.”

Worldwide Church of God Study Tool, “Doctrinal Outlines – Government in God's Church”, 1986/1987

“This first and great commission was given to the apostles. To a lesser extent evangelists were used in carrying forth the message. **Other leaders—ordained ministers—were stationary**, yet even the local pastor of a church may hold evangelistic services in his area—not the ‘soul-saving crusade’ type, but lectures ANNOUNCING and PROCLAIMING as a witness the coming KINGDOM OF GOD (the true Gospel)!”

Plain Truth Magazine, “A Voice Cries Out Amid Religious Confusion: Part 11”, Herbert W Armstrong, March 1981

“Now ‘bishops’ is a word used in the New Testament, in Paul's writings, interchangeably with ‘elders.’ All ministers are called ‘elders’ in the Bible, but the term ‘bishop’ is sometimes used and that is usually a preaching elder at least, but it is an elder and not a deacon. Now the deacons serve in the physical things, **but the elders are spiritual elders serving in the scriptures, and in the more spiritual things.**”

“Some were preachers, **some were just leaders, but spiritual leaders**, but not really preaching sermons. **That's why in the Church today we have ‘local elders’, which are leaders, are spiritually men of the Holy Spirit, but are not actually preachers.** Well then, some of them do, do some preaching, and after a while, we ordain them as preaching elders, and then, when they are in charge of

a Church and are more experienced. Why, many of them later, are raised to the rank of pastor and, of course, then the highest rank, except for apostle, is evangelist.”

Bible Study, “Philippians 1-2”, Herbert W Armstrong, October 30, 1981

“Christ is the living HEAD of the Church!

“HE sets the apostle in office. But we do find historic example in the New Testament of the apostle setting in office the evangelists, pastors and teachers, and even delegating to the evangelists the responsibility of ordaining pastors and other elders, and deacons.

“By a study of other New Testament passages, we learn that there were, besides pastors, both preaching and nonpreaching elders in local churches. All elders were teachers, but not all were preachers.

“Also we learn by various Scriptures that all these officers are called ELDERS. **A non-preaching elder, who must be a leader and apt to teach, is, of course, an elder.** So is the preaching-elder, also the pastor, and also the evangelist. And even Peter, the apostle, was also an elder. In the New Testament the terms bishop and overseer are synonymous with elder...

“So there are the COMPLETE offices in God's Church—Christ the HEAD, then apostles, evangelists, pastors, minister-elders, non-preaching elders, deacons, deaconesses.”

Good News Magazine, “Six More Ministers Now Ordained”, Herbert W Armstrong, February-March 1955

“There is no record that we have, in the Church today, of any prophets. Although in both First Corinthians twelve and in Ephesians, let's see, it's five, isn't it, or four, we read that God set in the Church, in order of rank and of responsibility for the various administrations, operations, and services that are performed by members of the Church.

“First apostles, then prophets, and then evangelists, and then elders or then pastors, as one of them says, and then elders. **And you'll find in other scriptures that some of the elders were ministers and preaching elders, and others did not preach at all, but were just sort of leaders**, and if the preacher or the minister was not there he would at least take charge of the meeting. For some years we had a man like that, Basil Wolverton, but later he was made an elder, but for a long time he was not, but he did hold the Church together for years.”

Bible Study, “Galatians 3-4”, Herbert W Armstrong, December 5, 1980

God Never Takes an Office from a Man that has been Performing His Duty Well

Those ministers, no matter their rank or tenure, who were ordained in the one true Church, and who remain faithful to the truths that were restored to the Church by Jesus Christ through the apostles will never lose the office they were ordained to. But this also includes serving, protecting and caring for God's flock, since these are the duties of the ministry. God will therefore never take an office from a minister who is performing the duties just mentioned well, even during a time of apostasy:

“Now Christ is the head of the Church today as Elijah was the head and the leader of the sons or the disciples of the prophets in that day. But God wanted Elisha to direct his work as Ahaziah the King had died as you read in Second Kings 1:18. So now, what did He do?

“He could not allow Elijah to be among the people with Elisha directing the work now. That would have been the same as disqualifying Elijah. And since Elijah was not to die yet, his time had not come to die, and since **God never takes an office from a man, when that man has been performing his duty well,** the only thing that God could do was to remove Elijah, so that the people would not see him or know where he was. Not that's exactly and precisely what God did.

“Now, this mantle of his that dropped off and Elisha picked up, you remember? What was that mantle? And I showed you, in according to Clark's Commentary or you can get it in any authority, that it was a cloak that was worn by the priests and the prophets as a simple insignia of their office. And it represented their office, well like a badge shows you that a man as a policeman today. His badge is the insignia that tells you he's a policeman and this cloak, was the insignia that meant that this man was the prophet of God. And so this mantle or this cloak fell off and Elisha, you'll remember, picked it up.”

World Tomorrow Broadcast, “Hebrews Part 11”, Herbert W Armstrong

God Works Through One Man at a Time

Throughout the history of mankind, when God is working with a certain group of people, He always uses men to govern and rule those through whom He is working with. He has always used one man at a time to lead and govern the group of people that He is working with. This applies to the one true Church and body of Christ.

There are many examples throughout the Bible that can be referenced to confirm that this is true. Of course, the head of the Church of God is Jesus Christ, but God will always use one man at the human level to lead, guide, and govern His Church:

“Now *IF this truly IS* the Church of *GOD* and not of the *PEOPLE* – if *GOD* is not only very much *IN the* picture but *FIRST* and *AT THE HEAD* of it - *UPPERMOST in our minds then HOW* does *GOD* run or operate it? *HOW* did He raise up this generation or succession of it? Just as *GOD ALWAYS* has done when raising up anything through humans. How is that?

“All of God's calling and election of humans in His great overall SPIRITUAL PURPOSE FOR MAN, started with ONE MAN - Abraham...

“When God decided to call a certain group of humans to be His people His congregation or CHURCH of the OLD Testament, He chose to lead them ONE MAN, specially prepared and trained for the purpose MOSES! God freed the Israelite slaves - made them HIS NATION, His CONGREGATION or OLD TESTAMENT Church. WHO really led them? GOD did! By supernatural miracles God took them across the Red Sea. But the people were led by God's chosen, MOSES! They did not SEE God - they only saw the leader GOD chose Moses. GOD led them, through Moses.”

Good News Magazine, “Shall We All Leave THE CHURCH OF GOD and Join ‘THE CHURCH OF THE PEOPLE’?”, Herbert W Armstrong, September 1980

“He took Simon, whom He had called, and gave him the title of Peter, and Peter is a surname or a title. Jesus surnamed him Peter. That means he was the leader of the apostles. Some people don't believe that, and don't even know it, but that is the truth. There was a chief apostle. There always has to be a leader. God never works through committees. God works only through one man at a time, and always did. All through the Bible you will find that God had to work through one man at a time.”

Sermon, “Another Civilization”, Herbert W Armstrong, October 2, 1982

“What GOD has done through man in this world of Satan, He has always carried out through one man. Even before man, God put one archangel, Lucifer, over all angels on the earth.

“When Satan's world had come to a population explosion, with violence, destruction, evils and consequent human suffering, God decided to SAVE all mankind from the agonies of universal sin in a manner understood by FEW. God decided to blot out all human life, except for eight souls, to bring them all back to life in a happier world millennia later, ruled by the Kingdom of God. **God chose ONE MAN to keep humanity alive - Noah,** and his family.

“A few generations later God called ONE MAN, Abraham. Then Isaac, then Jacob, then Joseph. Four hundred thirty years after Abraham, God chose Moses to lead Abraham's descendants out of Egyptian slavery, into the promised land. God had prepared Moses in advance, as a prince in the pharaoh's palace.

“When Moses' job was finished, God chose ONE MAN, Joshua, to lead the Israelites across the Jordan River into their promised land.

“The Israelites continually disobeyed God. When they got themselves into trouble, and became a vassal people under neighbor nations, **God would raise up ONE MAN to lead them back,** upon their repentance.

“After this God chose ONE MAN, Samuel, by whom GOD would rule this people. But the people wanted a king like all other nations. God gave them Saul, then David and David's dynasty...”

Good News Magazine, "The History of the Beginning and Growth of the Worldwide Church of God – Chapter 1", Herbert W Armstrong, April 1980

"I've often said that God knocked me down in an entirely different way, but as surely as he knocked down the Apostle Paul and blinded him. When Jonah and tried to run away, God brought him back. **If God calls anyone to a specific responsibility or duty or calling, God is going to make that person do it.**

"Now God doesn't call everyone to salvation. And those he does call make their own decision, whether they will respond or not. But if God is calling one to a specific duty or obligation, believe you me, he's going to make that person do it. Jonah had to do it. The apostle Paul had to do what God called him to do. And I had to do what I was called to do."

Behind the Work Film, "Transition from Sardis to Philadelphia", Feast of Tabernacles 1983

How God Selects the Leader of the Church

It is evident that God uses one man at a time to lead His Church at the human level, that is, if it is truly the one true Church of God. So if He uses one man at a time to lead His people, and if God does not use a democratic system as the method to select the man that will lead His Church, what process does He use to pick the leader of the Church? And how is the mantle transferred from one man to another when the leader of the Church dies, disqualifies Himself from leading His Church, or is removed from this top leadership position? The following excerpts and Biblical references will answer these questions:

"From the time of Moses and the rebellion of Korah (a leader in the congregation who was killed by God for insubordination — Numbers 16), **through the age of the apostles and the rejection of Judas Iscariot from his apostleship, to the present day, Christ has demonstrated His ability to run His Church, place capable men in their proper positions,** discipline those who need it **and reject from His Church those unfit to wear the Christian mantle.** The very existence of the Church and the Church's continuing vitality prove this beyond dispute!"

Good News Magazine, "Prove All Things: Government in God's Church", May 1986

"Because ministers are appointed by those above them in the chain of authority, one might wonder how the chief minister of the Church, the pastor general, is chosen, and by whom.

"In the case where an existing pastor general anticipates his own death or disability, he may, after prayer and wise counsel, himself appoint a qualified successor. If he dies or becomes disabled without having appointed a successor, the ministers of highest rank in the Church would appoint a successor according to God's will after prayer. **If no such appointment were made, God would by circumstances of His own design thrust the man of His choice into the forefront of His Work (even against the man's own will if necessary — see Jonah 1 and 2).**

"It must be stressed that God chooses the man appointed to the job of pastor general. The individual does not choose himself. It is not something for which a man can volunteer. Neither is it the choice of the man or men who may appoint him, although they might be used as human agents to discover God's will and then implement it. The choice is God's."

Good News Magazine, "Prove All Things: Government in God's Church", May 1986

"There are too many people that are wondering, 'Well now, who's going to take over if Mr. Armstrong dies?' I'm supposed to die right away because, of course, a lot of people do die before they are as old as I am now. But whether or not I die is going to depend on whether the Living Christ lets me, or whether He keeps me alive. And maybe we'll see something about that before we get through right here. But someone says, 'Well, have I appointed someone to follow and take my place?' The answer is, no! That is not my place to do! I have no authority to do any such thing!

"You know, it's a great deal like the woman who was the mother of two of Christ's apostle, and she came to Jesus. She said, 'Lord, when You come into Your Kingdom, I want to make a request. Please let one of my sons be on Your right hand and the other on Your left hand, when You come into Your Kingdom.' He said, 'Madam, you don't know what you're talking about. **That is not Mine to decide. I have nothing to say about it. My Father only, God the Father, will decide who will be on my right hand and My left. I can't do it! That's out of My hands.**'

"And let me tell you, the Head of this Church is alive! Do you believe it? Jesus Christ! Do we believe He lives? Do we believe He's on the job? Do we believe, if I am in need of correction, that He is able to see to it and give it? Let me tell you, I believe it! I believe it through and through. And I fear it! And I tremble at it!

"If anything should happen to me, and it will only happen if God allows it. God can keep me alive as long as that is necessary, and He will, as long as He feels it is necessary. And I don't think He is going to take me from this work until this job is finished. But if He should, if I should be wrong about that, can you trust the Living Christ to provide the man that will take over?"

"If you'd ask me to choose, I couldn't do it. I wouldn't know who to choose right now. And I have no authority to do it. This is going to be a test of your faith! Or, do you want to take it into your own hands, and know who it's going to be, someone you can know in advance? Someone you can approve? Someone you can vote for? Oh, sometimes I say, 'Shame on us.' Let's wake up."

Sermon, "Zerubbabel's Temple", Herbert W Armstrong, July 21, 1978

"Maybe they're like the man that came to me up in Oregon about 35 years ago, and he said, Now, this was about 40 years ago. Anyhow, this man came to me and said, 'Well, I've just recently married.' And he said, 'Now I've got a wife to support.' And he said, 'I am a minister, but I've not had a pastorate for some years. I've been out of employment.' He said, 'Mr. Armstrong, do you know of a vacant pastorate in some church in this county?' He says, 'I have to be in this county because my wife wants to live here.'

“Well,’ I said, ‘I know of just one, and, so far as I know, that's the only one. But, that won't help you a bit.’ Well, he says, ‘Why?’ I said, ‘Because that's a Church of Christ, and you're a Methodist. And you'd have to preach different doctrines than the Methodists believe if you.’ ‘Well,’ he says, ‘That's all right. I'll preach whatever they want me to. I just got to have a job!’ That's the way it is! Now, if we've got any of that kind of ministers, I'll be very happy to say, ‘Good riddance.’ **And God will supply us with men filled with His Spirit.**

“Well, He goes on to show the blessings He will pour out then, if we do obey Him and we trust Him. Can you believe that Christ is alive? Are you worried about if anything happens to me? I'm not. **I know that God will do one of two things, He'll either keep me alive or He'll raise up the right man, that'll be His man. And it won't be someone that you people are going to vote on. You'll have nothing to say about it!**”

Sermon, “Zerubbabel’s Temple”, Herbert W Armstrong, July 21, 1978

A Residence as the Headquarters of the Church

When the preaching of the gospel began in the 20th century, it had its humble beginning in a small single room office with only 2 people, Mr. Armstrong and his wife. The work of the Philadelphia era of the Church had its inception during one of the most difficult economic times in the history of the United States, the Great Depression.

As a faithful apostle guided, supervised, and spearheaded this work at the human level for the next 50 years, God blessed the work and poured His spirit upon this work that eventually became a worldwide work. But in order to support such a great work and the faithful apostle that had been “sent forth” by Christ to proclaim the gospel, a Headquarters campus was established in Pasadena California.

Several colleges, one of which was also located in Pasadena, were built to provide the training for the staff and the ministers that could support and that could hold up the hands of Mr. Armstrong so that this good news of a soon coming kingdom could be announced in all nations. This is why a large headquarters campus and several colleges were established.

But is the establishment of a large headquarters campus and college always required? And has a headquarters campus and college always been established? The necessity of a headquarters campus and a college are driven by the necessity of the first and second commissions and by circumstances that are taking place in and around the Church of God:

“The Church began with a headquarters there in Jerusalem. Now, after that, there were kind of two sub headquarters, the headquarters over the Israelites work, which was headquartered in Babylon, which at that time was the capital of the Parthian Empire, which was basically an Israelite empire.

Peter spent much of his time in Parthia, overseeing that phase of the work, the work of the 12, which were primarily sent to the tribes of Israel.

“Paul had a secondary headquarters at Antioch that he kind of worked out of, particularly in the beginning phases of His ministry. As we went through the life and letters of Paul, we kept seeing how Paul kept returning back to Antioch. This served as kind of a headquarters for the Gentile work. In later years, we find that particularly after Paul's first imprisonment, from that time on, clearly, Ephesus served as basically the headquarters of the Church. **By this time, the Jerusalem Church was being scattered.**

“Shortly after that, it was kind of where originally Paul moved his headquarters. **And then the Israelite aspect of the work was basically devastated when Jerusalem was destroyed.** And by this time, the original 12 were dead, most of them were dead by the time Jerusalem was destroyed. **John used Ephesus as his main place of residence in later years, and he died and was buried and Ephesus. And Ephesus was the headquarters of the Ephesian era of the Church in its latter years and Ephesus as a city gave its name to that era.**”

Sermon, “The History of God’s Church”, John Ogwyn, October 27, 1979

“By this time, Paul was dead. Peter was dead, James the brother of Christ in Jerusalem was dead. All martyred in the 60s. John was left alive but we know little about him in the 70s and in the 80s, and we don't pick him story up until in the 90s, when he was an old man, and presumably the other apostles were dead, most of them suffering martyrdom, most of them out in the diaspora somewhere, not only of the Jews, but in the dispersion of Israel.

“And so they may have been one in India, and one in North Egypt, and seven in Europe somewhere, where they were with the lost tribes. And we don't know anything about the success or failures of their ministry. Any successes they enjoyed were stamped out, and did not and we're not perpetuated, that is, there were no colonies of Christians that perpetuated themselves over the many centuries. They all died out in the second century, or by the third or fourth, certainly, and there are no historical evidences of the success of the ministry of a Thomas or a Matthew, or whoever it might have been that was out there.”

Ambassador College Lecture 06, “Church of God History”, Ronald Kelley, 1987

“But that group, those who were really converted and close to God was in the minority. **Many professing Christians continue to grow restless and uneasy, and they became vulnerable to false teachers and the heresy. And divisions began to set in, in this time now,** following 70 A.D. Not to say that there were not false teachers and another gospel already being preached, prior to that time. We know that even back as early as 50 A.D., Paul was talking about another gospel and another Jesus being preached.

“But now this heresy really began to make headway. It had not really made as much headway up to this time. **But under these new conditions, with some of this doubting and disappointment in some way that Jesus hadn't returned, now, the false teachers were really beginning to make some progress,** as they would have looked at it. Some began to teach that the kingdom was already there, that it was the church itself, or that it was in the hearts of Christians. You know, the kingdom of God is in your heart, as many even say today.

“Who was leading the Church of God and the faithful during this time? Well, it was the apostle John. We're now, as we're moving ahead in the decades after the conquest of Jerusalem, for more than three decades after the death of Peter and Paul, in A.D. 68, the Church was under the sole leadership of the apostle John, all the way up to the turn of the century.

“Now, when John died in the city of Ephesus around the turn of the century, and he was no longer there, you know, he was the last surviving apostle, and he was able to some extent, to hold the Church together. **But when he died, then finally, then everything broke loose. A full-scale rebellion broke out against the authority of God's government in the Church. And the faithful elders who were working under the apostle John, the faithful elders and the faithful members, who were holding fast to sound doctrine, soon found themselves in the minority, a small minority as it as it was, in fact.”**

Ambassador College Lecture 05, “Church of God History”, Keith Stump, 1987

“The Work of God started from Eugene, Oregon. No state government gave us instructions as to how the Church and its work should be organized or conducted. In 1947, headquarters were moved to Pasadena, California. The Work was growing 30 percent a year. **To conduct the growing operations of Christ's Great Commission, Ambassador College was founded in 1947.** It was the ONLY college on earth ACCREDITED by GOD!”

Plain Truth Magazine, “Who Is Lord? Caesar or Christ?”, Herbert W Armstrong, December 1979

“As soon as my mind had been instilled with the basic TOOLS for an APPROACH to knowledge — that is, ability to read, write and figure — God directed me in the development of knowledge and understanding through a GOD-directed SELF-education.

“For example, I had to learn psychology, NOT as mistaught from theoretical textbooks and impractical and unworkable teaching of theoretical college professors, but from actual EXPERIENCE in dealing with the human and public mind! That practical and workable knowledge of psychology is utilized in the full-page advertising campaign presently carried in the New York Times and other leading mass-circulation high-prestige newspapers.

"In the Work of God carried on by the Church it became necessary to establish GOD'S OWN COLLEGE for training personnel for various operations and administrations of the Work (I Cor. 12:5-6). It of necessity had to be GOD'S college.

"But where, back in 1947, was Christ's human leader to go for teachers — for faculty? We had no members in the Church capable of teaching at a level higher than high school. It was a dilemma. God led me in the only way then possible — to employ professors and faculty members trained in THIS WORLD'S higher education — BUT TO TEACH ALL BIBLICAL AND THEOLOGICAL COURSES MYSELF. I had to go further! I enforced a one-hour weekly FORUM, attended by students and faculty alike, at which I myself, with CHRIST'S HELP, taught the true BASIC FOUNDATION of education — the REVEALED knowledge of GOD!"

Good News Magazine, "How Christ Chose and Educated His Apostle", Herbert W Armstrong, October-November 1980

Chapter 5

The Office of Prophet, Evangelist, Pastor, Preaching Elder, Local Elder

The Common Duty Granted to all Ministerial Offices

In Chapter 4, we learned that all ministers are vested with the authority from God to Govern His Church. We also learned about the Biblical duties and responsibilities that apply to all of the ministerial offices in the one true Church of God. The duties and responsibilities that were covered in Chapter 4 are the common duties that every minister in the Church, from apostle to local elder, must adhere to and are responsible for. The following is a list of these common duties;

- All ministers are granted authority and have a responsibility to Govern in the Church of God.
- All ministers have a responsibility to hold fast to the doctrinal truths that are received from a faithful apostle.
- All ministers have a responsibility to feed the flock of God the doctrinal truths received from a faithful apostle. Of course, all truth comes from Jesus Christ through the apostles.
- All ministers have a responsibility to protect the sheep from wolves, false teachers and false prophets.
- All ministers are required to speak the same thing, and therefore must be united together in doctrine and in one organization, which is the one true Church of God.
- All ministers have the exclusive responsibility to refute the gainsayers.
- All ministers are spiritual leaders.

The Specific Duties of each Ministerial Office

Unlike the common duties that every minister is responsible for, there are also specific Biblical duties that each ministerial office is responsible for. In addition, there are also some limitations that apply to certain offices. In this chapter, you will learn about the specific duties that each ministerial office is granted by God and is therefore responsible for.

Since there are specific duties that apply to each ministerial office in the Church, an ordained minister should be careful not to exceed these duties unless one is granted or given this permission from a higher-ranking minister. And usually, when this occurs, it will happen under the supervision of a higher-ranking minister. This is the only time that a minister can exceed the specific duty of his office, which is, once again, under the supervision and permission of a higher office.

The Ministerial Office of Apostle

The office of apostle has already been extensively covered in Chapter 3, but it is worth reviewing the specific duties that pertain only to this office. Truth enters the Church through one avenue. It comes from Jesus Christ and enters the Church through the office of an apostle. This is the way that a truth can be validated as an authentic teaching that came from Christ.

The second specific duty that pertains to an apostle is the preaching of the gospel. It is a commission that a man is chosen for by God. It is a mission that an apostle is trained in by Jesus Christ. And after he is chosen and trained, he is "sent forth" into the world to proclaim this good news.

The Ministerial Office of Prophet

The prophets of the Old Testament were used by God to write the scriptures of the Old Testament. They were also used by God to pass on messages to specified individuals, and in certain cases to warn the leaders of His people of impending doom if they do not correct their actions.

The prophets that are referenced in the New Testament reported to the apostles and were used by God to pass on messages to them. These prophets did not carry any administrative duties and they did not have preaching or teaching duties.

It should be noted that there were no prophets in the Church during the Philadelphia era. There is no indication anywhere in scripture that a prophet or prophets will be sent to the Church in the Laodicean era. But there are numerous warnings of deceivers and false prophets that will attempt to mislead God's people at the end of the age.

There are 2 prophets that are mentioned in the book of Revelation at the close of the Laodicean era. Close observation indicates that these men do not begin their mission, their prophecy, until right before the Great Tribulation begins since the period of their prophecy is a thousand two hundred and threescore days or 1260 days (Rev. 11:3) and since these men are killed right before the 7th Trumpet, which is the time right before when Christ returns (Rev. 11:7-15).

Remember, the Great Tribulation will last 2 and ½ years (360 + 360 + 180) or 900 days and the Day of the Lord will last 1 year or 360 days. This is a total of 1260 days, which is equivalent to the time frame when the 2 witnesses' prophesy to the world.

Therefore, from this detail, all indication is that no one will know who these men are until the time right before the Great Tribulation. In addition, since God is not the author of confusion, God will make it evident to His one true Church who these men are at the point in time when they begin their prophecy.

Anyone who states they are a prophet or who claims they are one of the 2 witnesses, before the point in time just mentioned, is assuming an office that has not been granted to them by God, and thus, are more than likely deceivers and false prophets:

“And God has set some in the Church, first apostles and then prophets, and primarily the prophets that he speaks of are the Old Testament prophets. I wonder if you ever realized that. You know, there are only one or two prophets mentioned in the New Testament.

“I think Agabus was the name of one. But you hardly ever remember the names of them. There was one prophetess by the way. **But their sole duty was to receive a message direct from God and God communicated direct to them and they carried that message on to the apostle.**

“But they themselves had no administrative office. They didn’t preach. They didn’t teach. They just received the message and took it to the apostle. Now, **I know that there is no such living prophet in the Church today for the simple reason they would have brought it to me if there was and no one ever has.**

“Of course, I know, I’ve had men come to me who said they were Elijah and some men that have come to me have said they are Napoleon and so on, but I rather doubted that.”

World Tomorrow Telecast, “The Coming Utopia”, Herbert W Armstrong

“Jesus taught the early apostles. Where did the Church get its teaching? It didn't get it from Jesus, and it didn't get it from Satan. It got it from the APOSTLES, and the prophets and the writings of the prophets. **That's why you read in Ephesians the 2nd chapter that the church was ‘founded on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets’ of the Old because there were no prophets in the New Testament that had anything to do with the founding of the Church, or the teaching of the Church, or the setting of policies, or the giving of truth to the Church.**

“I think there are only, I believe, 4 or 5 prophets even Mentioned in the New Testament, and not one of them had anything to do with the administration or the revealing of knowledge to the Church. They were not prophets in that sense at all. So it is referring definitely to the prophets of the Old Testament and they are constantly quoted in the New Testament and by the apostles. The apostles received their knowledge, which they taught the Church, they received it from Jesus in person AND from the writings of the PROPHETS.

Sermon, “50th Anniversary of the Eugene Church”, Herbert W Armstrong, September 24, 1983

“There are no prophets in the Church today. No prophets had anything to do with preaching the gospel, with the administration of the Church, with the administration of the work in the New

Testament, not one. Only four are mentioned and not one of them had anything to do with, either putting doctrine into the Church, preaching to the Church, ministering spiritually to the Church, or in the administration, or carrying the gospel to the world. So there are none today, and apparently there is no need for one today. The prophets in the New Testament were used to receive the message direct from God and carry it to Paul or one of the apostles.”

Bible Study, “Philippians 1-2”, Herbert W Armstrong, October 30, 1981

“Now pick up the story in Acts 11:19. The disciples who were scattered as a result of Stephen's martyrdom traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching to Jews only. Then some of them at Antioch preached to the Greeks also, and God blessed their work, and a great number turned to Christ. News of this reached the Church at Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. Under the ministry of Barnabas a large number were added to the Lord there. Then (v. 25) Barnabas went to Tarsus after Saul, and brought him to Antioch to help in the growing work there. Barnabas (his name now mentioned first) and Saul taught in the Church there for one year. Here the disciples for the first time were called ‘Christians.’

“In these days prophets came from Jerusalem to Antioch. **These prophets ranked second to the apostles in the framework of God's Church. (Eph. 4:11.) Their mission seems to have been to receive messages or prophecies direct from God, and to convey these messages from God to the apostles or evangelists or elders.** God's Word had not yet been completely committed to writing. The New Testament was still in process of being written. **There is no evidence of the existence of any prophets in the Church since the New Testament was written.**

“Every example in the New Testament, however, shows that Christ carried on affairs in His Church according to HIS GOVERNMENT, and in definite order. There is no doubt, therefore, that THESE PROPHETS WERE SENT from Jerusalem BY AUTHORITY OF THE APOSTLES.”

Good News Magazine, “Must God’s Ministers Be Ordained by the Hand of Man?”, Herbert W Armstrong, January 1960

Special Note: A vast amount of prophetic truth was revealed during the Philadelphia era of the Church by Jesus Christ through Mr. Armstrong. Jesus Christ unsealed the book of Revelation and He also revealed the identity of the modern nations of Israel (key of David) and this unlocked a vast number of end-time events that were never before understood to the Church.

Although Mr. Armstrong said that some of the specific prophetic details were not revealed to the Church. You will soon read a statement by Mr. Armstrong where he makes this statement. But God’s people in the one true Church are expected to be able to connect the world events that take place with the prophetic end-time prophecies that were revealed in the 20th century. This is why both the porter and the Church are instructed 3 times to “watch” and be vigilant regarding the world events that will soon take place, Mark 13:32-37.

It is important to understand that anyone who claims to have new prophetic knowledge regarding the end-time, and their new prophetic knowledge opposes the prophetic truths that were unsealed during the 6th era or do not harmonize with the prophetic truths unsealed in the 6th era by Jesus Christ, should be considered a deceiver and a false prophet.

And there is one additional detail that needs to be mentioned. It was understood in the Philadelphia era of the Church that there will be 2 conditions that will exist in the final era of the Church, Laodicea and Philadelphia. And it was also understood that many who are in the Laodicean condition will also be able to connect the world events that take place with the prophetic end-time prophecies that were revealed in the 20th century, Rev. 12:17:

“Now we’ve been going through an outline of prophecy and in the Book of Revelation you’ll find all of the prophecies of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation coordinated as to time sequence. We found that the main prophecy begins in the 6th chapter and there were Jesus is opening the seals and He is the Revelator and still what is revealed to us is merely symbols.”

“And so we still can’t understand but Jesus is the revelator. He is the one who reveals and who can make us understand. And so, just as Jesus Christ did reveal the meaning of parables in plain language to His disciples, so we find that He does reveal, in plain language, the meaning of these symbols. And we found the key in the 24th chapter of Matthew.”

World Tomorrow Broadcast, “The True Church Part 7”, Herbert W Armstrong

“The Revelation was given as a mystic and CLOSED book, sealed with seven seals. Some of the prophecies revealed to and written by Daniel also were closed and sealed until this very time of WORLD-CRISIS at the close of this present age.”

“Daniel wrote, at the conclusion of his Book: ‘I heard, but I understood *not*’ - that is, he heard what the angel had revealed, which Daniel wrote in his Book - but he himself did not understand the very prophecies he had been inspired to write. The angel said to Daniel: ‘The words are CLOSED UP, and SEALED, till the *time of the end*’ - and the Moffatt translation renders it ‘*till the crisis at the CLOSE*’ - that is, till this world-crisis at the close of this age! (Dan. 12:8-9.) Again, verse 4: ‘But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the *time of the end*: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.’”

“As the prophecies of Daniel were CLOSED and SEALED until this time of the END - this world-crisis at the close - this time of rapid transportation, men running to and fro - this time of INCREASED KNOWLEDGE - so also the prophecies of the Book of Revelation were SEALED!”

“Yes, they were sealed with seven seals, as we shall see!

“But today we live in the dynamic, exciting, terrible ‘time of the END’ - the world-crisis at the CLOSE of the age! **The prophecies and mysteries of God, sealed until now, are today REVEALED to those whom God has chosen** to carry His last Message to the world as a witness! **Jesus Christ, Head of His Church, is the REVEALER!** Christ has opened these mysteries to His servants!

“The time has come for God's servants to open up to YOU - to lay bare before your startled eyes - these tremendous prophecies of the Book of REVELATION!”

Booklet, “The Book of Revelation *Unveiled at Last!*”, Herbert W Armstrong

“But the all-important master key has been found!

“That key is knowledge of the astonishing identity of the American and British peoples-as well as the German-in biblical prophecies. This very eye-opening, astounding identity is the strongest proof of the inspiration and authority of the Holy Bible! It is, at the same time, the strongest proof of the very active existence of the living God!

“An exciting, pulsating, vital third of all the Bible is devoted to prophecy. And approximately 90 percent of all prophecy pertains to OUR TIME, now, in this latter half of the twentieth century! It is a warning to us-to our English-speaking peoples-of immediate life-and-death import. The prophecies come alive once their doors are opened by this now discovered master key! **This book will open, to open minds, this hitherto closed vital third of all the Bible.** No story of fiction ever was so strange, so fascinating, so absorbing, so packed with interest and suspense, as this gripping story of our identity-and our ancestry.”

Book, “The United States and Britain in Prophecy”, Herbert W Armstrong

“Now, ‘Jesus answered and said to them, my doctrine is not mine’, and in the revised version, that is, ‘my teaching is not mine, but his that sent me.’ The things He taught He did not teach out of His own mind, they were not His own ideas. **Most of our listeners know and understand that the prophecies that I give you are not mine, but His that sent me.**

“And I have made it very plain, for instance, going through the book of Revelation that John was not the Revelator, and Herbert W Armstrong is not the revelator, and I was not giving you the ideas of the apostle John as a revelator, or the ideas of Herbert W Armstrong of this day. I was giving you the interpretation of Jesus Christ. I was giving you the Revelation of Jesus Christ. He is the true Revelator. And the book of Revelation is called in your Bible, the inspired words say, “The Revelation of Jesus Christ.”

World Tomorrow Broadcast, “The Feast of Tabernacles Part 2”, Herbert W Armstrong

“Just how near we are to the nuclear World War III? Well only Bible prophecies can tell you that. **Bible prophecies tell you what is going to happen, in general, from here on out, not the details, but in general. We can know a great deal about it.** The book of Revelation is the chief book of prophecy in the New Testament.”

The Ministerial Office of Evangelist

In terms of ministerial rank, the office of evangelist is considered the 3rd office in the list of authority under the office of apostle and prophet. The Greek word for evangelist is "euaggelistes" which means a preacher of the gospel.

Therefore, it can be inferred by the meaning of this word, that an evangelist can be involved in preaching the gospel and that this is a main responsibility or duty of this office. With that said, every Biblical teaching surrounding the all-important first commission being led by an apostle is just as valid and needs to be adhered to and taken into consideration in relation to the duty of an evangelist preaching the gospel.

Once every Biblical doctrine that was covered in chapter 3 of this document is considered in addition to and in relation with the duty of an evangelist to announce the good news, it can be understood that it is the duty of an evangelist to work in a close manner and under the direct supervision of an apostle, in proclaiming the gospel to the world.

In the *Worldwide Church of God*, these men were typically assigned as department heads in the work of God and they reported directly to God's apostle, Mr. Armstrong. Their duties were closely related to the preaching of the gospel during the Philadelphia era of the Church and they assisted Mr. Armstrong directly with the great commission that was given to and accomplished in the 20th century through the Philadelphia era of the Church.

It should also be noted that in the *Worldwide Church of God*, many of the evangelists were also dynamic preachers who often delivered sermons and were able to help and move God's people towards living the way of life that is described in the Bible and adhering to the truths that were restored in the 6th era:

"Remember that it was by the laying on of hands that Timothy received the added ability, called 'prophecy' by the King James translators. This word should actually have been translated, 'inspired preaching' (I Tim. 4:14 and II Tim. 1:6).

"By setting apart Timothy in ordination — by the laying on of hands — Timothy received the additional help of God's Spirit in preaching. Timothy's natural ability coupled with God's power helped him become Paul's right-hand Evangelist — a DYNAMIC SPEAKER.

"This spiritual gift of inspired preaching was conferred to Timothy by the laying on of hands. Why? So that Timothy could better serve God's Church."

Good News Magazine, "Why We Have the Laying on of Hands Ceremony", April-May 1965

“No prophets are mentioned as having either administrative, executive or preaching functions in the New Testament Church. **Evangelists were leading ministers, proclaiming the gospel to the public, even raising up local churches and having supervision over some churches under the apostle.** Therefore an evangelist may hold executive functions under the apostle in the Church headquarters or work today. An evangelist is not necessarily stationary.

Book, *Mystery of the Ages*, Herbert W Armstrong

“Now, verse 28, ‘And God has set some in the Church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers’, and after that miracles and so on, with different helps, governments, and different languages and so on. Now that is explained a little more explicitly in Ephesians 4, where it says in verse 11, that God gave some, or Christ, ‘Gave some apostles and some, prophets.’ Now there are no prophets in the New Testament Church now. The prophets were, as I say, Old Testament prophets, ‘And some, evangelists and some, pastors and some teachers.’

“Now the preaching of the gospel is primarily to apostles and evangelists. An apostle is ‘one sent forth’, with the gospel, ‘one sent forth.’ Well, an evangelist is one who also carries the gospel out and they’re called evangelists in the New Testament, who went out, preaching the gospel to the world. But pastors are pastors over a local Church and preach to those that are already in the Church. But a pastor even can carry the gospel to the world in his own. He usually is a settled man in a certain location, but he can go out and preach the gospel in his own community or in neighboring communities.”

Sermon, “Trumpets and the Purpose of the Church”, Herbert W Armstrong, September 11, 1980

“This first and great commission was given to the apostles. To a lesser extent evangelists were used in carrying forth the message. Other leaders—ordained ministers—were stationary, yet even the local pastor of a church may hold evangelistic services in his area—not the ‘soul-saving crusade’ type, but lectures ANNOUNCING and PROCLAIMING as a witness the coming KINGDOM OF GOD (the true Gospel)!”

Plain Truth Magazine, “A Voice Cries Out Amid Religious Confusion: Part 11”, Herbert W Armstrong, March 1981

The Ministerial Office of Pastor

The next ministerial office after evangelist in terms of rank is that of Pastor. The men who are ordained to the office of Pastor and who serve in this office are senior men in the Church who have a greater ability or perhaps a special ability to conduct a necessary function in the work of God.

These individuals are men who have the ability and were also used to pastor, to care for a local Church or a number of Churches. They sometimes supervised a number of men that were overseers of the local congregations. And they fed the sheep by preaching sermons to the congregations within their areas.

In addition, Pastors can also proclaim the gospel in their local areas. Mr. Armstrong understood that they were limited to announcing the good news to a local area. This often happened through question-and-answer Bible studies that were conducted in a local hall or public meeting place which were open to the public. And of course, these question-and-answer Bible studies were conducted under the authority and with the permission of an apostle during the time when there was a living apostle in the Church who was directing and supervising the work of God:

“Now ‘bishops’ is a word used in the New Testament, in Paul's writings, interchangeably with ‘elders.’ All ministers are called ‘elders’ in the Bible, but the term ‘bishop’ is sometimes used and that is usually a preaching elder at least, but it is an elder and not a deacon. Now the deacons serve in the physical things, **but the elders are spiritual elders serving in the scriptures, and in the more spiritual things.**

“Some were preachers, some were just leaders, but spiritual leaders, but not really preaching sermons. That's why in the Church today we have ‘local elders’, which are leaders, are spiritually, men of the Holy Spirit, but are not actually preachers. Well then, some of them do, do some preaching, and after a while, we ordain them as preaching elders, **and then, when they are in charge of a Church and are more experienced. Why, many of them later, are raised to the rank of pastor** and, of course, then the highest rank, except for apostle, is evangelist.

“There are no prophets in the Church today. No prophets had anything to do with preaching the gospel, with the administration of the Church, with the administration of the work in the New Testament, not one. Only four are mentioned and not one of them had anything to do with, either putting doctrine into the Church, preaching to the Church, ministering spiritually to the Church, or in the administration, or carrying the gospel to the world. So there are none today, and apparently there is no need for one today. The prophets in the New Testament were used to receive the message direct from God and carry it to Paul or one of the apostles.”

Bible Study, “Philippians 1-2”, Herbert W Armstrong, October 30, 1981

“We are all so accustomed to this world's system, that unless we understand this difference, unlearn the world's system, and fix firmly in mind **the view point of God's government and its various functions, some, for example, might wonder why Norman Smith, who is technician and manager of our radio studio and control-room, was ordained as a pastor.** Because we are steeped in the non-Scriptural organization and functioning of this world's churches, many will assume that, to be a pastor, one must be a preacher in charge of a local church.

“But in GOD'S government, as we find it clearly revealed in His Word, pastor is a rank of office next under that of evangelist, and higher than that of a Minister-Elder. **In God's government men are**

ranked according to their own spiritual and general ability, the responsibility of their function, and its importance in the over-all commission of getting the true GOSPEL to the world.

“If Norman Smith were merely a technician, he would not have been ordained to any office whatever. **His technical abilities are merely a supporting requirement for his very important ministry-one of the most important ministerial functions in the church today.** Mr. Smith is a graduate of Ambassador College, as fully trained for the spiritual ministry as any of our pastors. He is my first assistant in the radio ministry to the whole world. I spend hours every week in consultation with him about the content of sermons in broadcasts. For some months now it has been his job to decide what sermons this nation, and even the whole world, shall hear.

“This was made necessary during my trip to Europe, and other absences. It became necessary to re-broadcast former sermons. It was Mr. Smith's duty to determine which sermons were appropriate for this later date. In many instances most of a broadcast was suitable, but some few remarks were ‘dated’-timely at the time of original broadcast, but no longer suitable. In these instances Mr. Smith had to edit my sermons.

“You will recognize instantly that I could never delegate to anyone but a thoroughly trained minister-one who is capable, and experienced, and fully responsible-the function of actually editing and, when necessary, rearranging my sermons to be heard by MILLIONS of people.

“It was for this top-level ministerial service, of a completely spiritual nature, that Norman Smith was ordained to the office of pastor. He is fully competent to be placed as the settled pastor of any of our churches, but his present responsibility is of far greater importance in God's ministry.

“This one example will have to suffice. Since God has opened the tremendous doors of radio and the priming press, the ministry assumes an entirely different requirement of functioning than the programs of the worldly churches.”

Good News Magazine, “Six More Ministers Now Ordained”, Herbert W Armstrong, February-March 1955

“Now, verse 28, ‘And God has set some in the Church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers’, and after that miracles and so on, with different helps, governments, and different languages and so on. Now that is explained a little more explicitly in Ephesians 4, where it says in verse 11, that God gave some, or Christ, ‘Gave some apostles and some, prophets.’ Now there are no prophets in the New Testament Church now. The prophets were, as I say, Old Testament prophets, ‘And some, evangelists and some, pastors and some teachers.’

“Now the preaching of the gospel is primarily to apostles and evangelists. An apostle is ‘one sent forth’, with the gospel, ‘one sent forth.’ Well, an evangelist is one who also carries the gospel out and they're

called evangelists in the New Testament, who went out, preaching the gospel to the world. **But pastors are pastors over a local Church and preach to those that are already in the Church. But a pastor even can carry the gospel to the world in his own. He usually is a settled man in a certain location, but he can go out and preach the gospel in his own community or in neighboring communities.**

Sermon, "Trumpets and the Purpose of the Church", Herbert W Armstrong, September 11, 1980

"It's the same spirit working in each one of us. Now that is explained a little more explicitly in Ephesians 4 where it says in verse 11 that God gave some or Christ gave some 'apostles and some prophets', now then there are no prophets in the New Testament Church now. The prophets were, as I say, Old Testament prophets. 'and some evangelists and some pastors and some teachers'.

"Now, the preaching of the gospel is primarily to apostles and evangelists. An apostle is one sent forth with the gospel, one sent forth. Well, an evangelist is one who also carries the gospel out. And they're called evangelists in the New Testament who went out preaching the gospel to the world. But pastors are pastors over a local Church and preach to those who are already in the Church. **But a pastor even can carry the gospel into the world in his own community or neighboring communities.**"

World Tomorrow Broadcast, 'Gospel of Government', Herbert W Armstrong

The Ministerial Office of Preaching Elder

The men who serve in the office of Preaching Elder are men who are capable and able to deliver the spiritual messages, sermons in the areas that they were assigned to. Many of them also cared for the sheep and were the overseers of local congregations.

During the time when I was in the *Worldwide Church of God*, the minister who served the El Paso and Las Cruces congregations was a minister who held the rank of Preaching Elder. He was a young man, perhaps in his late 20's, who had recently been ordained to this office. He had a wife and two younger children around the age of 6 and 7 years.

He was a very kind and loving shepherd. He delivered most of the sermons to the both congregations each Sabbath. I am extremely thankful for his service and for all of the sermons and Bible studies that he gave. And I learned a vast amount Biblical truth through his sermons:

"Pastors are stationary pastors over a local church or contingent group of local churches. Then there were placed in the Church teachers-not necessarily preachers. Yet all ministers and teachers are called elders in other New Testament texts. Therefore, in God's Church today there are both preaching and nonpreaching elders. **Preaching elders pastor local churches.** Then some elders, not preaching, are called local elders in the Church today."

Book, *Mystery of the Ages*, Herbert W Armstrong

“Now ‘bishops’ is a word used in the New Testament, in Paul's writings, interchangeably with ‘elders.’ All ministers are called ‘elders’ in the Bible, but **the term ‘bishop’ is sometimes used and that is usually a preaching elder at least**, but it is an elder and not a deacon. Now the deacons serve in the physical things, **but the elders are spiritual elders serving in the scriptures, and in the more spiritual things.**

“Some were preachers, some were just leaders, but spiritual leaders, but not really preaching sermons. That's why in the Church today we have ‘local elders’, which are leaders, are spiritually, men of the Holy Spirit, but are not actually preachers. **Well then, some of them do, do some preaching, and after a while, we ordain them as preaching elders, and then, when they are in charge of a Church and are more experienced.** Why, many of them later, are raised to the rank of pastor and, of course, then the highest rank, except for apostle, is evangelist.”

Bible Study, “Philippians 1-2”, Herbert W Armstrong, October 30, 1981

The Ministerial Office of Local Church Elder/Local Elder

The duties and responsibilities of all true ministers have already been covered but I would like to list them here again. This is because these duties and responsibilities applies to me personally and directly and of course, to all Local Church Elders/Local Elders:

- All ministers are granted authority and have a responsibility to Govern in the Church of God.
- All ministers have a responsibility to hold fast to the doctrinal truths that are received from a faithful apostle.
- All ministers have a responsibility to feed the flock of God the doctrinal truths received from a faithful apostle. Of course, all truth comes from Jesus Christ through the apostles.
- All ministers have a responsibility to protect the sheep from wolves, false teachers and false prophets.
- All ministers are required to speak the same thing, and therefore must be united together in doctrine and in one organization, which is the one true Church of God.
- All ministers have the exclusive responsibility to refute the gainsayers.
- All ministers are spiritual leaders.

When I attended services in the *Worldwide Church of God*, there were two men who served the brethren in the El Paso congregation as Local Church Elders. These men had their own jobs outside of the ministry. One was a painter and one was an engineer. They were both very kind and gentle men. I remember being anointed by one of them when I was ill.

These men usually gave sermonettes each Sabbath. They sometimes gave the sermons when the Preaching Elder was attending a ministerial refresher/conference and also at other times when the Preaching Elder was not able to be present for Sabbath services. In addition, I remember one of the Local Church Elders giving at

least one Bible Study on a Wednesday evening. The Local Church Elders were under the supervision of a Preaching Elder and this is why they were allowed to preach.

The final ministerial office that is listed in Church is teachers, I Tim 4:11. But Mr. Armstrong came to understand that there are 2 ministerial offices that are being referred to as teachers in this scripture. This is because the Bible describes 2 types of teachers, a Preaching Elder/teacher and a Non-Preaching Elder/teacher.

A Non-Preaching Elder is often referred to as a Local Church Elder and is considered a teacher but not a preacher, although a Local Church Elder may be given the opportunity to preach if it occurs under the supervision of a Preaching Elder as was just explained.

Therefore, a Local Church Elder has a limitation that does not allow him to preach unless he is under the active supervision of a Preaching Elder or a minister of a higher rank. But they are expected to be teachers, leaders and adhere to all of the common duties that pertain to the ministry.

And this is why I do not engage in giving sermons or sermonettes or in proclaiming the gospel. Instead, we use the sermons and World Tomorrow Broadcasts and Telecasts that were recorded in the *Worldwide Church of God* when it was led by Mr. Armstrong. This ensures that the sheep are being fed the “original truths” and that they are being taught the way of life that is revealed in the Bible, which were the teachings that were restored to the Church during Philadelphia era.

In addition, everything that I have written has been done in an effort to help God’s people “hold fast” to the faith that was once delivered unto the saints. This is the way that I can “teach” and help others to also “hold fast”. And I take great care in writing these documents to ensure that the material contained in them are the “original truths” which is why every point that is made in them is supported by numerous excerpts from Mr. Armstrong and/or the material that was produced during the Philadelphia era:

“Now ‘bishops’ is a word used in the New Testament, in Paul's writings, interchangeably with ‘elders.’ All ministers are called ‘elders’ in the Bible, but the term ‘bishop’ is sometimes used and that is usually a preaching elder at least, but it is an elder and not a deacon. Now the deacons serve in the physical things, **but the elders are spiritual elders serving in the scriptures, and in the more spiritual things.**

“Some were preachers, some were just leaders, but spiritual leaders, but not really preaching sermons. That's why in the Church today we have ‘local elders’, which are leaders, are spiritually, men of the Holy Spirit, but are not actually preachers. Well then, some of them do, do some preaching, and after a while, we ordain them as preaching elders, and then, when they are in charge of a Church and are more experienced. Why, many of them later, are raised to the rank of pastor and, of course, then the highest rank, except for apostle, is evangelist.

“There are no prophets in the Church today. No prophets had anything to do with preaching the gospel, with the administration of the Church, with the administration of the work in the New Testament, not one. Only four are mentioned and not one of them had anything to do with, either putting doctrine into the Church, preaching to the Church, ministering spiritually to the Church, or in

the administration, or carrying the gospel to the world. So there are none today, and apparently there is no need for one today. The prophets in the New Testament were used to receive the message direct from God and carry it to Paul or one of the apostles.”

Bible Study, “Philippians 1-2”, Herbert W Armstrong, October 30, 1981

“Christ is the living HEAD of the Church!

“HE sets the apostle in office. But we do find historic example in the New Testament of the apostle setting in office the evangelists, pastors and teachers, and even delegating to the evangelists the responsibility of ordaining pastors and other elders, and deacons.

“By a study of other New Testament passages, we learn that there were, besides pastors, both preaching and nonpreaching elders in local churches. All elders were teachers, but not all were preachers.”

“Also we learn by various Scriptures that all these officers are called ELDERS. **A non-preaching elder, who must be a leader and apt to teach, is, of course, an elder.** So is the preaching-elder, also the pastor, and also the evangelist. And even Peter, the apostle, was also an elder. In the New Testament the terms bishop and overseer are synonymous with elder...

“So there are the COMPLETE offices in God's Church—Christ the HEAD, then apostles, evangelists, pastors, minister-elders, non-preaching elders, deacons, deaconesses.”

Good News Magazine, “Six More Ministers Now Ordained”, Herbert W Armstrong, February-March 1955

“There is no record that we have, in the Church today, of any prophets. Although in both First Corinthians twelve and in Ephesians, let's see, it's five, isn't it, or four, we read that God set in the Church, in order of rank and of responsibility for the various administrations, operations, and services that are performed by members of the Church.

“First apostles, then prophets, and then evangelists, and then elders or then pastors, as one of them says, and then elders. **And you'll find in other scriptures that some of the elders were ministers and preaching elders, and others did not preach at all, but were just sort of leaders, and if the preacher or the minister was not there he would at least take charge of the meeting. For some years we had a man like that, Basil Wolverton, but later he was made an elder, but for a long time he was not, but he did hold the Church together for years.**”

Bible Study, “Galatians 3-4”, Herbert W Armstrong, December 5, 1980

Chapter 6

Disqualification of Ministers, Splinters Defined, & False Teachers/Prophets

Necessary Information

Much of the information in this chapter has been covered in some of the previous articles that have been written to prevent God's people from being deceived by those who have disqualified themselves from the ministry. But it is necessary to include this information again in this article because it is directly related to the subject of the government of God.

The disqualification of a minister is a sad but a sobering fact and one that needs to be included in this document, especially this late in the Laodicean era where false teachings and false teachers are pervasive. Most men who believe they are ministers of God in this era do not understand the ramifications of adhering to or going along with doctrinal teachings that have been altered or watered down, not to mention that some ministers have accepted heresy and doctrines that oppose the truths that were restored to the Church in the 6th era. You will soon come to understand the ramifications, the consequences of these actions.

There are also men who were removed from the ministry or who left the Church or an organization for reasons that are not related to holding fast in a time of an apostacy, and these men have popped up as leaders of some of the splinters they lead. And so, God's people need to understand the actions that disqualify a minister from an office in the government of God which once again, is only valid inside the one true Church.

God's Ministers Can Be Deceived

The following statement may surprise many, but God's true ministers can be deceived and even become confused. This is a sobering reality and one that has been well documented. It has happened in the history of God's Church and it can happen to any true minister if he is not careful. Mr. Armstrong emphatically warned the Church of this fact.

It is important to understand that a deceived person does not know that he has been deceived, and because of this fact, he will not be able to admit that he has been deceived, no matter how sincere the individual may be:

“ALL, except Jesus, since Adam, have been DECEIVED and led by Satan from earliest life. Satan began working on and deceiving human minds even during the first year of life — injecting his attitude of SELF-CENTEREDNESS, vanity, coveting, competition, resentment of authority. **But what about a top ranking minister?** He is one who, supposedly had previously become aware of that, had REPENTED of that self-centered way of sin, and turned to God's way.

“He, if deceived by Satan and used by him, is one who, like Lot's wife, began to ‘look back’ — even if just a little at first. **He may have been willing to compromise on a minor point. He became a little ‘liberal’ on some point. Or he let vanity, covetousness, desire for personal POWER, or self-righteousness, or disagreement on a doctrine, introduce a wrong ATTITUDE against the Church or God's WAY.** I have explained all this above. **One step in the wrong direction leads to another.** He becomes ‘lost in the dark woods’ so to speak. He is for the moment not being ‘LED BY GOD'S SPIRIT.’ **Soon he will be misled on another point, then another.** Or, he comes to a new ‘truth’ and allows it to ignite a wrong attitude. **He will go farther and farther away from God's REAL truth, and farther and farther into error.** But HE IS STILL IN HIS ‘RIGHT,’ BUT CARNAL MIND — not necessarily demon possessed.”

The Worldwide News, “Satan Deceived And Use Me? - Never”, Herbert W Armstrong, December 8, 1980

“These ministers thought they had discovered a new truth, contrary to the teaching of God's Church. They knew well they should have come with it first to headquarters or to me personally, to make it official doctrine. Thus it might — if true, — be shared with the whole Church worldwide. But they allowed a spirit of vanity, self-centeredness and competition to enter. They kept it from headquarters, but began teaching their ‘new truth’ to their own churches.

“But their ‘new truth’ was gross and harmful error. They misled brethren — for the time being. They opened their minds for Satan to DECEIVE and to USE them!

“You take one such false step, accept one false ‘truth’ and refuse to REPENT of it at once, and turn from it, you will then go into more and more error.”

The Worldwide News, “Satan Deceived And Use Me? - Never”, Herbert W Armstrong, December 8, 1980

“In God's Church in our time I have seen how Satan cleverly and without their knowledge uses humans to destroy GOD'S TRUTH and inject false or counterfeit doctrines instead.

“The record, in our time, has been written. And the record has been written of how it was done in the first three centuries of the Church.

“The Church of God started out, A.D. 31, under the original apostles, taught personally by Jesus Christ, pure in doctrines.

“Yet by about A.D. 58, the apostle Paul wrote to the churches of Galatia: ‘I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel...but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of [Jesus] Christ’ (Gal. 1:6-7).

“To the church at Corinth the same thing was happening. To them Paul wrote, ‘But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted’ (II Cor. 11:3). **Today, if one should suggest that a brother or minister in the Church has unsuspectedly been led in any degree by Satan, he will rise up in furious indignation and angrily retort that Satan can't influence him!** That is to say, ‘I am stronger and more firm and righteous than Satan — Satan never could deceive me!’”

Good News Magazine, “How Satan Injects False Doctrines”, Herbert W Armstrong, August 1979

The Only Biblical Reason to Leave the Church

Mr. Armstrong described only one Biblical reason (Rom 16:17) that a member or a minister may leave the Church of God, and that reason is when an apostasy strikes the Church. An apostasy is a time when the ministry defects from the truth, from the teachings that come from Jesus Christ. This often happens when the truth is watered down, altered or when teachings are introduced into the Church that oppose the teachings that were restored during the Philadelphia era.

When an apostasy occurs in the Church, the Church of God ceases to exist as the one true Church. And the members and faithful ministers must flee until the point in time that a faithful minister stands up for the truth and begins to gather the sheep again. But once again, it is critical to understand that there is only one reason when a member or a minister may leave the Church, which is, during the time of an apostasy:

“Now, notice the next verse, **“For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple”,** and that is Romans 16:18. And **some of you brethren have wanted to hear those good words and those fair speeches** coming from persons of a personality of charisma even though you were disobeying God. ‘Well, if I disobey God I still want to know what they say’. Is that the way you think of it? Is that what you are going to say to Christ in the judgment?

“Notice further the commands of Paul. God’s message through Paul, I Thessalonians 3:6 **“Now we command you, brethren”** it’s a command from God. **“in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly”**. I Thessalonians 3:14 **“And if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and have no company with him,** that he may be ashamed’. **Do you do that?** Oh no, several of you members want to disobey that. How do you ever expect them to get into the kingdom of God?

Bible Study, “Romans 15-16”, Herbert W Armstrong, July 7, 1980

“Now some of our ministers have wanted to water down that doctrine. And they wanted to change that doctrine. They didn’t want to teach that doctrine of the Bible. They didn’t want to teach the doctrine of Christ and of God. And so they were causing division and that’s why they were put out.

And so they come by speaking trying to draw you after them and I'm speaking unto you people that are going to hear this in the other Churches. And so you say, well I just want to hear what they have to say and so you go. God says don't go! **God says avoid them!**

"Christ taught His chosen apostle through the written word of God. *The Worldwide Church of God*, the same Church as founded in 31 AD, received its doctrine through God's chosen apostle. Every doctrine you have come through God's chosen apostle."

Bible Study, "Romans 15-16", Herbert W Armstrong, July 7, 1980

"Well, supposing that one even who has received the Holy Spirit changes his mind and wants to go off a different way and he begins to cause friction and trouble. Some will say 'Yeah, you are still going to have friction in the Church.' Oh, no. We are not, brethren. No we're not! And I want to show you why.

"Next we have to turn back to Romans, the last chapter of Romans, the 16th chapter and verse 17 where Paul says; 'Now I beseech you, brethren, **mark them which cause divisions** and offences **contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned**, and avoid them.'

"Different doctrines, they are causing division, they are causing trouble. That is what we had in the past. And the REASON that we had it was we said, 'Well, we must be more loving and more kind and more good than God; and we must just leave them in among us.' **God says, MARK THEM AND AVOID THEM. Now there are two ways we can avoid them, and only two that I know. One is if we leave them in the Church and we all go out, we're no longer in the Church. The other is that we put them out, and we stay in."**

Sermon, "Unity", Herbert W Armstrong, February 4, 1984

"By their false doctrine these false teachers were dividing the Church. And **the true Christians were put out of the visible Church and the visible Church persecuted God's people.** Already in the days of the Apostle John, at the end of the first century, **an apparent elder by the name of Diotrephes cast out of the Church any of his people who would have fellowship with the disciples of John** (III John 9-10). This trend continued and eventually many were following the errorists (II Pet. 2:1-2)."

Good News Magazine, "The Faith Once and for All Delivered", August 1974

Comment: As you have learned, false doctrinal teachings can originate from within the Church of God and even from its top leadership. God instructs his people to avoid those who are the authors of heresy. This means staying away from members, ministers, and even the leader of the Church if he is teaching heresy. And there are only two ways of doing this. The first way is to remove the individuals responsible for the heresy from the Church and if this is not possible, the second way is that the Church members must leave the organization in order to remove themselves from these individuals. And this must happen immediately! Or risk being infected by the false teachings.

How Ministers are Disqualified

Therefore, any minister who leaves or is removed from the one true Church for any other reason other than to “hold fast” to the truth when an apostasy is happening, or who leaves or is removed from the Church prior to a time of apostasy, are like branches that have been separated from the vine and thus disqualify themselves as ministers. These men are outside the Body of Christ which is synonymous with the One True Church. It should be noted that a minister who leaves or is removed from the Church is also not qualified to lead or serve God’s people:

“The CHURCH is the BODY OF CHRIST. And Jesus pictured Himself as THE VINE, and we of His Church are the BRANCHES on that vine. Notice it — study it — in John 15. Jesus is not SEVERAL SEPARATED VINES — He is one vine! **The members of the BODY OF CHRIST are the BRANCHES! — but not separated, isolated branches. ALL ARE JOINED TO THE ONE VINE — the BODY OF CHRIST.**

“Separated ‘Christians,’ or ‘groups’ are branches broken off from the VINE — the BODY OF CHRIST!”

Good News Magazine, “Is God’s Church Composed of Many Separate ‘Groups?’”, Herbert W Armstrong, December 18, 1978

“Now, notice the next verse, **‘For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ**, but their own belly; and **by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple**’, and that is Romans 16:18. And **some of you brethren have wanted to hear those good words and those fair speeches** coming from persons of a personality of charisma even though you were disobeying God. ‘Well, if I disobey God I still want to know what they say’. Is that the way you think of it? Is that what you are going to say to Christ in the judgment?

“Notice further the commands of Paul. God’s message through Paul, I Thessalonians 3:6 **‘Now we command you, brethren**’ it’s a command from God. **‘in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly**’. I Thessalonians 3:14 **‘And if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and have no company with him**, that he may be ashamed’. **Do you do that?** Oh no, several of you members want to disobey that. How do you ever expect them to get into the kingdom of God?”

Bible Study, “Romans 15-16”, Herbert W Armstrong, July 7, 1980

“But now, again, Paul was opposed a bit by his critics. Now, I understand that. Some of you might not quite understand that in the same way I do, but you haven't been in my position. But I have been opposed. I've had my critics. One young man who was quite young wrote me a letter and implied that I am not qualified or capable of running the Church and the work. And I don't know whether this young man who is no older than his early twenties. I don't know, right now, his exact age. I don't know if he thought he was qualified or not.

“But I have had some that were top evangelists, top ministers, who tried to keep my name out of things and **put forth their names, and who we're trying to teach other doctrines.** And they were

beginning to divide the people. **Well, they're outside of the Church now, and I did finally have to exercise my authority and I have put out some of those. And they are on the outside, and looking in,** and they are looking in."

Bible Study, "II Corinthians 11", Herbert W Armstrong, November 14, 1980

Comment: All of God's people must be able to discern a true minister from one that has been disqualified. This is because some of them have started new groups and with so many Churches of God in existence in this final era, distinguishing a true shepherd from a false shepherd is imperative to God's people because these men and the groups they lead must be avoided.

Ministers who are removed or disfellowshipped from the Church or who leave the Church for the wrong reasons will rarely, if ever, admit that they were removed from the Church for just cause. But on the contrary, they will almost always provide a reason to justify their removal from the Church:

"The Church of God started out, A.D. 31, under the original apostles, taught personally by Jesus Christ, pure in doctrines.

"Yet by about A.D. 58, the apostle Paul wrote to the churches of Galatia: 'I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel ... but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of [Jesus] Christ' (Gal. 1:6-7).

"To the church at Corinth the same thing was happening. To them Paul wrote, 'But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted' (II Cor. 11:3). **Today, if one should suggest that a brother or minister in the Church has unsuspectedly been led in any degree by Satan, he will rise up in furious indignation and angrily retort that Satan can't influence him! That is to say, 'I am stronger and more firm and righteous than Satan — Satan never could deceive me!'**"

Good News Magazine, "How Satan Injects False Doctrines", Herbert W Armstrong, August 1979

Comment: In these next few quotes, you will hear Mr. Armstrong talk about some of the additional Biblical reasons that disqualify a minister. It has already been mentioned that a minister who has disqualified himself as a shepherd is in no position to lead or shepherd the one true Church:

Seeking Higher Office:

"I was forced to disfellowship from the Church forthwith a number of those seeking HIGHER OFFICE FOR THEMSELVES. They were seeking personal POWER in a spiritual organism with an annual income of some \$70 to \$80 million, which they wanted to change into a worldly secular ORGANIZATION where they could wield the POWER!"

Brethren Co-Worker Letter, Herbert W Armstrong, September 15, 1980

Watering Down God's Truth:

"Some ministers, whom I have not taught directly — who have come along since I was able to continue personally teaching the Bible courses in college — **have been tending to want to WATER DOWN God's precious TRUTH — to see how close to SATAN'S WAYS they can get and STILL make it into God's Kingdom.**

"Let me tell you with power — the POWER OF THE LIVING CHRIST — you CAN'T DO THAT: You'll make it into the LAKE OF FIRE INSTEAD!"

Good News Magazine, "What You May Not Know!", Herbert W Armstrong, August 28, 1978

Liberalizing God's Truths:

"For the past two years I have been laboring very hard to be Christ's servant and apostle in SETTING GOD'S CHURCH BACK ON THE TRACK. The entire Church had been derailed. A LIBERAL spirit from Satan had been injected into some in high positions under me at Headquarters in Pasadena. Instead of wholeheartedly OBEYING Christ through HIS WORD, THE BIBLE, there was creeping in, during years when I was in other parts of the world up to 300 out of the 365 days in the year, a LIBERAL spirit of SATAN.

"Those leaders to whom I had delegated the responsibility of ADMINISTERING the POLICIES and DOCTRINES Christ had set in God's Church through His apostle, went way BEYOND the authority given them. They started CHANGING POLICIES and watering down God's TRUTH, changing DOCTRINES, compromising—seeing HOW CLOSE they could go —and lead the Brethren in going—to the ways of SATAN! They wanted to be more LIBERAL —more like THIS WORLD OF SATAN."

Co-Worker Letter, Herbert W Armstrong, September 15, 1980

Teaching Doctrines Contrary to God's Truth:

“Let's UNDERSTAND this! What doctrine have you learned? Where did you learn the doctrine? Answer? In or through the WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD! How did the Church receive its doctrine — its beliefs — its teachings — when the Church first started, A.D. 31? The Church from the start received its doctrine from the APOSTLES!

“Jesus is the personal Word of God. The Bible is the written word of God. Both are the same!

"In our day, Jesus Christ taught His chosen apostle through the written Word of God. The Worldwide Church of God — the same Church as founded in A.D. 31 — received its DOCTRINE through God's chosen Apostles!

“Now back to Romans 16:17. **Why have some leaders had to be disfellowshipped — MARKED?**
Because of **causing divisions and offenses CONTRARY to the doctrine which you have learned!**

“God's Church is UNITED. We are commanded (I Corinthians 1:10) that we must ALL SPEAK THE SAME THING! **Those put out were splitting the Church speaking DIFFERENT THINGS!**

“Now notice the next verse: ‘For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly, and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple’ (Romans 16:18).

“And some of YOU brethren have wanted to hear those good words and fair speeches coming from persons of charisma, even though YOU WERE DISOBEYING GOD!

“Notice FURTHER THE COMMANDS OF GOD!

“**God's message through Paul, ‘Now we COMMAND YOU, brethren in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly...** And if by any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed’ (II Thessalonians 3:6,14).”

The Worldwide News, “God Commands That WE Avoid Certain Ones!”, Herbert W Armstrong

Teaching Doctrines that Oppose God’s Truth:

“**Perhaps these ministers now opposing God's TRUTH and HIS CHURCH are themselves now deceived. Perhaps they are sincere — BUT THEY ARE SINCERELY WRONG AND IN THE CLUTCH OF SATAN!**

“Well then, you may say, ‘Should we not show them KINDNESS and LOVE?’ Well, should Christ himself show kindness and love toward Satan?

“**These people, even if sincere and deceived, are in SATAN'S service doing what SATAN WANTS DONE — helping Satan try to DESTROY God's one and only TRUE CHURCH!**

“Let's not REASON our way to DISOBEY GOD! **God COMMANDS ‘AVOID THEM!’ ‘AVOID THEM!’** does not mean to go hear them out of curiosity! You who do that are DISOBEYING GOD. You are trying to be more righteous than GOD!”

The Worldwide News, “God Commands That We Avoid Certain Ones!”, Herbert W Armstrong, February 25, 1980

Teaching Heresy & Twisting Scripture:

“Besides false brethren, **false ministers and teachers have come among God's people on many occasions. Peter mentions that false prophets will try to set themselves up as teachers among God's people today (II Peter 2:1). Such people secretly bring in heresies**, denying Jesus Christ by their works (Titus 1:16) as well as their tongues.

“These people with feigned words, smooth speech, false pretenses and hypocrisy, make themselves appear as if they are religious and holy. Some brethren look only on the outside, and are deceived!

“If a false brother came to you, apparently agreeing with what you say, apparently agreeing with God's ministers, **would you then be fooled if he gradually began to twist the Scriptures**, or to bring accusations against the brethren and ministers, **or to bring some ‘new doctrine’?**”

The Worldwide News, “Beware of False Brethren, Warns Evangelist”, August 27, 1984

Turning God’s Truths to False Truths:

“Yes, Satan has tried to WATER DOWN true doctrine — to turn God's Church to false truths.

Apparently it is unhappily true that some willingly fall by the wayside and shall not continue on to enter into the KINGDOM OF God! But I have not retired — I am still vigorously active. Jesus Christ is still on God's throne, as the dynamic living HEAD of God's Church!”

Good News Magazine, “How Satan Injects False Doctrines”, Herbert W Armstrong, August 1979

Disagreeing with God’s Truth:

“A true minister of God must study, preach and live by EVERY word of God! **If a man tells you something that he knows disagrees with God's revealed Word, he instantly disqualifies himself from being a true minister of Christ! Isaiah 8:20 and Matthew 4:4 confirm this!**”

Tomorrows World, “What About False Prophets?”, November –December 1970

Comment: The true Biblical doctrines are the “original truths” that were restored to the Church and the prophetic truths that were revealed to the Church by Jesus Christ through Mr. Armstrong during the Philadelphia era.

What is an Offshoot or a Splinter of the *Worldwide Church of God*?

A vital understanding that all of God’s people need to have, is the understanding of what a new Church of God group entails. The term splinter, sliver or offshoot has been used to describe a new church of God group that originated from the *Worldwide Church of God* but has been established with a mixture of truth and error.

No minister, regardless of their rank, has the authority to alter, water down, or introduce erroneous teachings that oppose the “original truths”. There are many nuances in the truth, changes in doctrine, and watering down of the original truth, that has occurred and is still occurring in the splinters today.

Therefore, any group that changes, waters down, introduces heresies, or introduces doctrines that oppose the truths that were delivered unto the saints by Jesus Christ during the Philadelphia era, has in essence created a new Church of God group which are commonly called a splinter, sliver or an offshoot.

This also includes groups who are led by ministers that left the Church or were removed from the Church for reasons other than the truth. All such groups should be considered new organizations and these groups cannot possibly qualify as the one true Church and should be avoided:

“Judaism was divided into many sects in Jesus' day. Each had its peculiar beliefs...

“Judaism was not one unified organization. Actually, there were many religious sects comprising it. And, even within some of these major sects there were many **‘splinter’ groups which had their own ideas and beliefs.**”

Good News Magazine, “Is Judaism the Religion of Moses? – Part 1”, December 1960

“And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.’ (Acts 2:1)

“You will notice that the church started out with those who were with ONE ACCORD. **Do you know why some have dropped off and split from this church? They were not in one accord with us.** Several that have gone out, that were our ministers, have tried to start little churches of their own, but they're not in one accord with one another or with us.

“**Now I've said to the one that probably has the largest of these little splinter-off churches,** I've said; ‘Show me where this church is not in accord with God and God's Word, and I will change and I'm sure the whole church will change with me.’”

Sermon, “Pentecost”, Herbert W Armstrong, June 10, 1984

“... Three to 3 1/2 years after the church began, Paul alludes to the difficulties there.

“**Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing,** and that there be no divisions among you... For it hath been declared unto me of you, my brethren, by them which are of the house of Chloe, that there are contentions among you.’

“Now this I say, that everyone of you saith, I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of Christ. Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? or were ye baptized in the name of Paul?’ (I Cor. 1:10-13).

“Paul's point was that the Church as one body cannot be splintered into various factions, divisions or sects.”

Good News Magazine, “The Sad Story of the Church at Corinth”, August 1979

False Apostles

A sobering detail that is recorded in the scriptures is that false apostles have appeared in the Church of God. And not only is this a sobering reality, it is a warning that the members of the Church must heed. This is because these men are very capable of deceiving large groups of God's people if one is not vigilant:

Fortunately, in this final era of the Church, we have been left with abundance of the material that was produced by the *Worldwide Church of God* when it was led by Mr. Armstrong. There are a vast number of sermons that have been preserved, many of which were given during the Philadelphia era of the Church.

In addition, the magazines, the booklets, the World Tomorrow programs, the Ambassador Bible Correspondence courses, and the Coworker letters that were written in the 6th era are also available. And since we know that Mr. Armstrong served the Church as a faithful apostle and that he fulfilled the role of the Elijah who restored the truth to the Church, this material can be used to confirm whether one is teaching the truth or whether an individual has deviated from doctrine:

“In the very beginning of the Church of God in the 1st century, there were false apostles and there were those who went out from the Church for selfish gain or for revenge even as today. The apostle Paul speaking to the elders, which means the ministers of the Church of Ephesus said quote, **‘Also of your own selves’ that is speaking of you ministers ‘shall men arise, speaking perverse things,** to draw away disciples after them’ Acts 20:30. That’s exactly what happened...

“To the Church at Corinth Paul wrote, this is quoted from the Bible ‘But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus’ which they do. They don’t preach the same Jesus. ‘whom we have not preached, or *if* ye receive another spirit’ **and they are of a different spirit** ‘which ye have not received, or another gospel **‘another doctrine’** which ye have not accepted’ II Corinthians 11:3-4.

“Now **who was trying to turn these members of God’s Church to some watered down doctrine or other teaching.** Paul says they were men serving Satan and therefore Satan’s ministers. Notice, the same chapter, just a few verses later he says ‘For such *are* false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into’ and that is professing themselves to be ‘apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore *it is* no great thing if his ministers’ now notice that, **it is actually Satan’s ministers, his ministers, perhaps even themselves deceived into believing they are serving Christ.** But if Satan’s ministers ‘also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness’, **these ministers will never admit they’re Satan’s ministers. They’ll tell you they’re ministers of Christ.**”

"Paul warned that 'the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine' (II Tim. 4:3) and **charged Timothy and other ministers that they teach no other doctrine than that Christ put into the Church through His apostles** (I Tim. 1:3).

"Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son' (II John 9).

"True Christians practice what God's Church teaches, and will be blessed by God for so doing. Notice Paul's compliment to the Romans: 'But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you'" (Rom. 6:17).

Good News Magazine, "See You Next Year", September 1981, Page 37

"Two can't walk together except they be AGREED! I now AGREED with Christ. I have NEVER DISAGREED. You yourself—every begotten child of God—does, through human weakness, commit sin even after the most deep conversion. None has lived perfectly but JESUS. But when I stumbled through human weakness, Jesus picked me back up on confessing to Him and repenting, and asking help never to repeat the sin. **At no point did I DISAGREE nor water down HIS TRUTH.** He used me in building the Philadelphia era of HIS CHURCH—and in proclaiming His Gospel IN ALL THE WORLD!"

Co-Worker Letter, Herbert W Armstrong, March 19, 1981

"God says: 'There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, **one faith** . . .' (Eph. 4:4-5).

"One faith - meaning one body of beliefs, one set of doctrines, one perfectly harmonious truth believed and practiced by the true Church of God. Unless a point of truth you may believe fits perfectly and harmoniously into the whole of the doctrine of Christ - unless each truth you have learned only further serves to elucidate, clarify and further explain the whole of the plan of God - then it may *not* be a 'truth,' but error."

Seven Proofs of God's Church, Booklet, Page 30

False Prophets

Another sobering fact is that false prophets have also appeared in this age, not only in the world, but among God's people. Some of these men are individuals who were ordained in the *Worldwide Church of God* and there are others who were not ordained but were just members of the Church.

Jesus Christ, the revelator of all prophecy, unsealed the book of Revelation and a vast amount of prophetic truth in the 6th era of the Church. These truths have been documented by Mr. Armstrong in the material that was written in the 20 century and in the "World Tomorrow" programs, Bible studies, and sermons that he gave.

The same litmus test that was mentioned regarding how to distinguish a false apostle from a true apostle, can be used to determine if an individual is a false prophet. One must compare the prophetic teachings revealed to the Church by Jesus Christ during the Philadelphia era of the Church to any new prophetic teachings. If the new teachings are not the same, or if they do not harmonize with or completely support the prophecies revealed during the 6th era, and if the prophecies did not originate through the office of an apostle, then they should be considered heresy and from a false prophet.

In addition, if an individual claims that an event is going to happen in the near future and that event does not occur, this is an indication that a person is acting presumptuously and extreme caution must be taken with such men:

“There are many false prophets in the world. Do you know the scriptural way to tell the difference between them and the true servants of God?”

“The apostle John wrote: ‘Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world’ (I John 4:1-3)...

“**Let us note that John is talking about ‘false prophets’** (verse 1). Such prophets do not receive their inspiration from God or the Holy Spirit. **They receive their ‘inspiration’ directly or indirectly from a different spirit** — from Satan the devil or his demons. Their teachings are sometimes completely false. Other times they may be very near the truth, but nevertheless still not correct.

“**This text is telling us how to distinguish the false from the true.** When we hear from a ‘prophet’ or ‘minister’ we may measure him by the principles given here and elsewhere in the Scriptures **to know if he is of God and inspired by His Spirit, or led by a contrary and false spirit.**”

Good News Magazine, “How to Try the Spirits”, September 1980

“Now the test is this. **If a man uses prophecy to reveal in advance what is going to happen in world conditions, then God says ‘If it comes to pass that man was speaking God's word faithfully and he was God's called minister’** (Jeremiah 28:8-9 paraphrased). **But if he uses prophecy to tell you what is going to happen and it doesn't happen, you know he spoke right out of his own mind**, and a human mind doesn't know what's going to happen. No one but God Almighty knows the future. But God Almighty does know the end from the beginning. He knows what's going to happen.”

World Tomorrow Broadcast, “Bible Understanding”, Herbert W Armstrong

“The fact of the matter is that much of what practically all people think they got from the Bible, read right from the Bible, and can ‘prove’ from the Bible, they actually got right from their own ideas, or from other people — parents, friends, church associates — or possibly even from a spiritual source, through the subtle planting of a thought in the mind by an evil spirit. Nowhere is this fact better illustrated than in people's understanding of prophecy.

“When human expectations don't come to pass as proclaimed, it isn't the Bible's fault. The problem is that human interpretations of what the Bible means are often in error.”

Good News Magazine, “Can Prophecy Fail?”, May 1975

“Besides false brethren, false ministers and teachers have come among God's people on many occasions. **Peter mentions that false prophets will try to set themselves up as teachers among God's people today (II Peter 2:1). Such people secretly bring in heresies,** denying Jesus Christ by their works (Titus 1:16) as well as their tongues...

“These people with feigned words, smooth speech, false pretenses and hypocrisy, make themselves appear as if they are religious and holy. **Some brethren look only on the outside, and are deceived!**”

Worldwide News, “Beware of False Brethren, Warns Evangelist”, August 27, 2984

“This Work is the direct and one and only fulfillment of the prophecy of Jesus in Matthew 24:14 for this very time: ‘This Gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations, and then shall the END [of this world] come.’ The Gospel of the Kingdom of God is the ONLY true Gospel of Jesus Christ. In the first 20 years of the founding of the true Church in A.D. 31, a fierce controversy arose as to whether the gospel to be preached was the Gospel OF Christ or a gospel ABOUT Christ. A false church rose up, teaching a gospel of false prophets, ABOUT Christ. See II Corinthians 11:3 and verses 13-15. **Also both Jude and John, writing in the 90s A.D., warned of false prophets already changing the truth of the Gospel, and warning brethren to turn back to the true faith once delivered to the saints.** Also, Paul wrote the churches in Galatia, about A.D. 53, that they already had turned to ANOTHER gospel.”

Co-worker Letter, Herbert W Armstrong, April 18, 1984

Disqualification of Ministers

It should be quite clear from the excerpts in this chapter that ministers who are engaging in altering or watering down the truth, or are introducing doctrines that oppose the original truths have disqualified themselves as ministers, especially after years of engaging in these actions. And this also includes the many other reasons for disqualifications that were listed in this chapters.

In addition, since the authority of a ministerial office is only valid if it is functioning within the true Church of God, all ministerial offices outside the one true Church of God are not backed with the power and authority of the living God and thus, are invalid ministerial offices.

Reinstatement of Ministers & Repentance

Because God is a loving and merciful God, any minister or for that matter, any member of the Church who has been disfellowshipped or who has left the Church, for any reason other than to hold fast to the truth, can be grafted back into the body of Christ. But before they are grafted back, these individuals must “bring forth fruits, meet for repentance”, Matthew 3:8:

“But sadly we remember that part of the responsibility is ours in not strictly heeding the admonition in Romans 16:17 to note those that cause division and avoid them. We love them all and pray for them. Some of them who have gone out from us were parents, children, brothers, sisters or close relatives to those who remain steadfast.

“Meanwhile, we pray also that God will keep those of us who remain loyal, constantly steadfast, growing in grace and spiritual character and the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, overcoming self, the world and Satan and enduring to the end. Pray that you, the loyal members of God's Church, remain dedicated to the Kingdom of God — which is the government of God.

“Now one final reminder to the Church and all loyal ministers. **If any who have gone out from this wonderful fellowship that we have in God's one and only true Church, profess repentance and wish to come back, they must now, as John the Baptist said, ‘Bring forth fruits meet for repentance’** or prove their repentance by performance over an adequate period of time. I personally do, and hope all of our loyal members will, pray for their repentance and ultimate return.”

The Worldwide News, “Recent History of the Worldwide Church of God”, Herbert W Armstrong, 1985

“We thought we had everything straightened out down in Australia. We had a lot of trouble back there in 1980. I had to send a couple of men, or even three men, down there to help get it straightened out. Let's see, about three or four ministers were brought to see the mistake they were making, and they got back on the track. There were two or three that had to be put out, that wouldn't get back on the track. We thought we had them all back on the track, and then, just recently, we found another one. He was a ‘rightist.’

“So, as you heard in the sermonette, you are not to turn to the right or the left. In other words, don't add or diminish to the commandments of God. That means just go right down that line. Stay on the track! Don't go to the right or to the left, and don't get derailed off the track!

“Here was a man that was a ‘rightist.’ He said that the other ministers were still ‘leftists’ and that they were not back on the track, that he was the only one that was back on the track! Well, we had to put him out of the Church. Our minister in charge of things in Australia had to fly back to headquarters. He had made a very exhaustive investigation. He brought me report from lay members and other ministers, not just his own idea at all, but absolute, complete evidence. **I had to decide to put him out.** So, he went back there and had a conference with him and told him what had happened.

“Once he realized he was on the outside, that really hit him. That brought him to repentance, I hope. I don't know whether it's a complete, full repentance or not. But, when he did, he's been accepted back into the Church, but, so far, not back into the ministry because one thing is all the evidence showed that he was a square peg in a round hole. He never should have been put in the ministry. Even when he was in Ambassador College, he was in another part of work. He could deal with things, but he couldn't seem to deal with people, and that was the main thing. He couldn't deal with people. So far, he's not back in the ministry, but his attitude is right.”

Sermon, “Grateful for God’s Blessings”, Herbert W Armstrong, May 4, 1982

“On another subject, we are still experiencing occasional problems regarding the reinstatement of disfellowshipped persons. In each of these cases, most problems could have been avoided if the minister who reinstated the individual had contacted the minister who put the person out PRIOR to his reinstatement!

“This should be a routine procedure before reinstating any disfellowshipped person. If the minister who disfellowshipped the individual is still in the ministry, always check with him before reinstating. (U.S. ministers can find out who disfellowshipped a person by calling Clelice Decker at the Mail Processing Center in Pasadena. International ministers should check with their Regional Office if the minister who did the disfellowshipping is not available.) Also, the other elders in your area may know the circumstances if the former pastor cannot be consulted.

“Sometimes there are factors involved you need to be aware of to make the proper decision. **As Mr. Armstrong continually stresses, there must be PERFORMANCE - real – repentance - on the part of the individual before he is reinstated!** How can we determine whether that is true if we have not taken the time to gather all the facts?

“Reinstatement should not be taken lightly. It is a serious responsibility to determine **whether there really are fruits of repentance**, and to be sure we are not doing the individual a gross disservice by reinstating him before he is ready.”

Pastor General’s Report, Ministerial Services, March 15, 1985

“And I tell you, I was so discouraged about it the other day, **it seems to me that we'd lost half or more, of all of the top ranking ministers in the Church that Satan had gotten in here and governed.** Satan is

attacking this Church. Satan is trying to destroy this Church. Satan hates this Church. Satan would try to destroy me if he could.

“I have to continue to pray to God, that he won’t let Satan do that, and that He would have me do what God wants me to do, and not what Satan wants me to do. **But Satan did get to others at the very top in the Church, right next to me.** How did he do it? I've just written a long article about that and it'll be in the next issue of *The Worldwide News*. Be sure that you read it. It's a fairly long article, not too long, but it's a full article.

“And I'm showing exactly how Satan got to these men, and why. And I am saying, I'm not blaming those men. I'm putting the main blame on Satan. **And those men, all we have to do is repent of it and turn back to Christ, and turn back to the way of God, and Christ will forgive it, and so will I. If Christ will forgive it, so will I. But Christ will not forgive it until they turn from it.** And repent means turning from it so you don't do it again.”

Bible Study, “II Corinthians 11”, Herbert W Armstrong, November 14, 1980

Chapter 7

Hold Fast & Conclusion

Hold Fast

Brethren of the one true God, my hope in life is to see all of God's people in the kingdom of God. A vast amount of time and research has gone into writing this document. As much information as I could possibly find regarding the all-important teaching of the government of God and the various ministerial offices and duties has been included here.

This article was written this way to prevent people from citing a single excerpt out of context or misapplying something that Mr. Armstrong taught and thus deceiving God's people. All of the doctrines that were restored to the Philadelphia era of the Church and everything that has happened in the recent history of the Church has to be reconciled in this era of confusion and it has to be understood in its proper context.

Mr. Armstrong was sent forth by Jesus Christ as an apostle to preach the gospel to all the world as a witness, but he was also commissioned by God to restore the truths to the Church and to adhere to these truths. The truth is after all, a vital component that makes the Church of God, God's one true Church:

“As soon as it was heard that I had said something about this thing of cosmetics, and some ministers' wives have been making big salary selling cosmetics to God's own people. And, because they were ministers' wives, the women felt they had to buy them off her. And sometimes it was not only cosmetics, but vitamins and a lot of other junk. They are not in the Church any longer. One of them is suing the Church.

“A former Evangelist-rank, who was over all of our ministers, suing the Church because he lost money, because his wife can't sell to the Church people any longer. Of all things, he never should have been even baptized in the first place.

“Now look, I am going to tell the truth. I don't care who it hits. I care, yes. I don't mean that, but I mean regardless. Let's put it that way. That's what I really mean. Regardless of who it hits, **I'm going to tell you God's truth. I'm going to have to give account to God. I want to do God's will. I want to see you do God's will, brethren.**

“To me God says, as quoted back here in Isaiah 58 in verse 1, ‘Cry aloud, spare not, lift up your voice.’ I lift it up! I got a microphone here. ‘Lift up your voice like a trumpet, and show my people their transgressions, and the house of Jacob their sins.’ Well, brethren, that's what, I'm sorry, I have to do. I wish I could say something that maybe you'd like better, but that's what God has commissioned me to do. I want to see this Church cleaned up!”

Sermon, “Back on Track”, Herbert W Armstrong, December 12, 1981

“Let’s get back on the track, brethren, and decide what God’s kind of life is, because all of us have been asleep. And we have been off the track. It’s about time we got back on, or you won’t ever get into the kingdom of God. I am trying to get this Church cleaned up to meet Christ in the air and you are not going to meet Him with paint all over your faces. If you women want that paint, you go have it, but get out of God’s Church!

“I don't know how to say it any stronger than that. **I am a minister of Jesus Christ. I am shouting aloud and sparing not, crying aloud. ‘Lift up your voice like a trumpet, and tell my people their sins.’ That’s what God says to me,** and I am telling you your sins. You don't like me, do you? I love you enough to tell you! But you want to go the way of the world, and you will inherit the way of the world, ashes under the feet of those that are the righteous in the Kingdom of God, burnt up in the Lake of Fire.

“God has called us to a wonderful calling, brethren, but it's not an easy way. He says come out from among them of the world ‘and be you separate.’ We're a holy nation. We're a different, a peculiar people. You don't want to be a peculiar people. You want to be like the world! You can’t be both! **I’d rather have one or two people in the Church that are going the way of God and living God’s way of life,** than all going after the devil that to have the whole Church full.

“**We've had ministers that say,** ‘Well, you know, we want to keep peace in the Church. **And a lot of people don't want to go God's way.** They want to go the way of the world. **We've got to compromise, Mr. Armstrong.** We've got to listen to the people. We've got to get the women's viewpoint. We've got to get the men's viewpoint. We've got to say the way that seems right to a man. We want to have peace, you see.’”

Sermon, “Back on Track”, Herbert W Armstrong, December 12, 1981

“And so we're in the process of being educated, to be teachers, to be preachers in the world tomorrow. And our descendants, our children are in the process, to be the teachers, the preachers, the executives in the world tomorrow in the physical sense. And then beyond that, of course, they become spirit beings. And all these little trials, and all these little experiences that we have in our family life, with our neighbors, in the schools, in the labor force, whatever it might be, all these lessons we need to realize are not of God.

“They are amplified by Satan, and this whole world has got to be changed, every facet has to be changed. And we begin with number one, that which is good, that which is right, that which God has given to us, hang on to desperately. **Let your fingers become the very claws, as you hang on to the truth.** But let your hands just be as slippery as Teflon, for something that is bad.”

Sermon, “Kings and Priests”, Robert Spence, October 18, 1981

Personal Experience

I have worked for over 10 years fire plan reviewer and as a fire code inspector. I have worked with a large number of building codes and fire codes. My career as a fireman somehow led me in the direction of

reviewing and enforcing these codes. My current position is a fire plan reviewer. During my tenure, I have conducted a vast amount of plan reviews of architectural drawings of buildings and drawings of fire protection systems to ensure the buildings and fire protection systems that are proposed on these plans are designed up to code.

There are numerous books and commentaries that govern the drawings that I review. And the information contained in these code books is not easy to understand. Not a day goes by, when during the course of conducting a plan review, that I don't have to research a specific code or its intent.

Oftentimes, there is more than one code that can govern a specific situation or design. And in the field that I work in, one must determine which codes apply to a certain condition, which ones take precedence and which ones do not apply.

In my tenure, I have interacted with numerous inspectors and plan reviews about the various codes we each enforce. These trades typically include electrical, mechanical, architectural, structural and the fire protection fields. My job also includes a lot of interaction with architects, engineers and designers of these buildings and systems.

The reason I mention this is to illustrate a few important points. Over the course of enforcing these codes, I have seen inspectors and plan reviewers over enforce and under enforce the codes that govern their field. I have seen the context of a specific code overlooked, and I have seen these codes misinterpreted and also improperly enforced.

And in the course of my career, I have also made mistakes myself and at times, I have misunderstood some of the codes that govern the plans that I review. But herein lies the important points that I want to make and the purpose for what I am building up to.

The first point is that when I have made a mistake or have misinterpreted or misunderstood a code or applied it incorrectly to a specific or to a general situation in the plans that I review, when I realize that a mistake has been made, I move as quickly as possible to correct this action.

And in much the same way, if I make a mistake or misinterpret or misunderstand a doctrine that came from God through a faithful apostle, I will move quickly to correct the error, as we all should when we realize a mistake has been made. But the goal is always to adhere to the truths that were restored/revealed to the Philadelphia era of the Church by Jesus Christ through Mr. Armstrong.

In addition, I have heard inspectors and plan reviewers use the phrase "well that is your interpretation of the code" and the phrase "that is my interpretation of this code and thus I will enforce it this way". These are both incorrect statements and a grievous error in the field that I work in. The correct way to interpret the code and

enforce the codes that are written by men is to understand there is only one interpretation of each code that is written, and that is, the interpretation or intent of the code writer which is the individual who wrote the code.

And so brethren, the second point is that we must seek the interpretation and the intent of the great code writer who gave us a code book and a manual called the Bible, which contain His truths and a way of life that He has revealed unto us. We must seek God's interpretation as opposed to our own private interpretation which comes from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, and this is exactly what Mr. Armstrong sought after.

In the 20th century, God through His son Jesus Christ, restored and revealed the true meaning of the many scriptures to the Philadelphia era of the Church through one man, Mr. Herbert W Armstrong. And we are assured that the correct doctrines were restored during this time because Mr. Armstrong served in the office of an apostle and because he fulfilled the role of the end-time Elijah who was prophesied to restore "all things" meaning the truth to the Church. This the interpretation, the intent, and the true meaning of the scriptures that we seek.

This is why you and I are here, because God called us and has blessed us with His spirit which opened our mind to the understanding of these truths. In addition, these are the only Biblical doctrines that make sense to me, that is, those that were restored in the 6th era of the Church.

And we are also guaranteed that the truths that were restored in the 20th century are the same truths Christ delivered unto the Church, Revelation 3:7-10. And furthermore, we are instructed by the Head of the Church in Revelation 3:11 to hold fast to these teachings. And if we do this, and if we also overcome and endure unto the end, we will have the privilege of serving God as pillars in His temple and we will have a crown of glory which does not fade, waiting for us upon the return of the King of Kings. And in this way, we are the most blessed people on the face of this earth:

"But Jesus said, flesh and blood cannot enter into the kingdom of God. You have to be born again, and when you are born of the spirit you'll be spirit. Flesh and blood cannot enter into the kingdom of God, cannot inherit the kingdom of God.

"Neither does corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I shew you a mystery', oh yes it's a mystery, but can you understand it? Only if God will open your eyes by His holy spirit can you understand it.

'We shall not all sleep', and Paul meant be dead."

World Tomorrow Broadcast, "The Rules of Success Part 5", Herbert W Armstrong

"But when you come to the Bible, my friends, they don't read it like any other book. Now, do you know why? There is a reason! Everyone has to try to change the Bible and try to pretend that it doesn't say

what it does but says what he wants to make it say, and that is his interpretation. That where we get interpretations.

“Now the Bible shouldn't be interpreted. Someone says, well Mr. Armstrong, what's your interpretation? I say, ‘Well, I don't have any.’ That's my reply. **I accept the interpretation of Jesus Christ. He's the author of the Bible. He's the divine architect of the Bible** and the plans and the blueprints of the life we ought to be living and that which we should be building.”

World Tomorrow Broadcast, “History of the True Church Part 1”, Herbert W Armstrong

My Responsibility and Duty

I can assure you brethren, I have not been called nor trained to be an apostle. Nor have I been chosen by God to proclaim the gospel to the world. In addition, there are only two end-time works that are mentioned in the Bible. The first one is the work that is found in Matt. 24:14. This work was accomplished by the *Worldwide Church of God* when it was led by Mr. Armstrong during the Philadelphia era, which had an open door to proclaim the gospel to the world, Rev. 3:7-8. This work ended shortly after the death of Mr. Armstrong's when heresy entered the *Worldwide Church of God* and when it apostatized from the truth.

The second end-time work that is mentioned in the scriptures is the short work that is found in Rom 9:28. This work was accomplished by the *Restored Church of God (RCG)* in the Laodicean era when it was on track and proclaiming the true gospel. This work was cut short after “another gospel”, after different and unusual teachings infiltrated the *Restored Church of God* which occurred with the introduction of the sermon series titled “The Greatest Untold Story”, TGUS.

When I found my way back to the truth in 2007, after having departed from it in the late 1980's, I shed tears when I returned back to the truth during the first service in RCG because I knew that I had found my way back home. My mind and heart were at peace that day because I knew that if I died, it would be in the house of God. And I made a promise to myself. I told myself that I would not depart from the house of God again, which is the pillar and the ground of truth (1 Tim. 3:15). And with every bit of strength that I am given from above, I intend to keep this promise.

There is only one thing that I know and that I understand which is also my obligation as an ordained minister, and that is to “hold fast” to the “original truths” that were restored to the Church by Jesus Christ through a faithful apostle, Mr. Armstrong and to “hold fast” to the prophetic truths that were revealed and unsealed by Jesus Christ to this same era. In addition, my responsibility as an ordained minister, and as a Local Church Elder, is to help as many of God's people as possible to achieve this goal.

I have not started a new Church. A new church is started when an individual alters or introduces teachings that oppose the truths that were once restored to the Church through a faithful apostle. These groups are

known as splinters, slivers or offshoots of the *Worldwide Church of God*. And since all truth comes from God, no member or minister who has a *Worldwide Church of God* background has the authority to modify or introduce teachings that oppose God's truths, those restored during the 6th era. What I have done is fulfilled my obligation which is to "hold fast" and to help as many of God's people to accomplish this same goal.

In addition, I have not established new congregations. New congregations are created as a result of proclaiming the gospel, which is the duty that is vested and entrusted only to an apostle, since this is the time when new people are called by God to become members of His Church.

No member or minister who has a *Worldwide Church of God* background has the authority to start a new church because no one has the authority to introduce new doctrines that oppose the "original truths" or to water down the truths that were once restored to the Church through a faithful apostle.

And I have not deviated from the "original truths" or exceed the limitations of the office I was ordained to. I have written these documents to help God's people return and adhere to the truth. These articles contain numerous excerpts from the material that was produced in the *Worldwide Church of God* when it was led by Mr. Armstrong so that God's people can confirm the validity of every point that is made in these articles.

And I started holding fast and helping brethren to "hold fast" because there is no organization that is holding fast and adhering to the faith that was once delivered unto the saints in the 20th century. And because there is no proverbial "knight in shining armor" in sight that is coming to assist God's people to "hold fast" to these doctrines.

All of the ministers in the splinters who were ordained in the *Worldwide Church of God* have long ago lost their ministerial offices for watering down, for altering, and for introducing doctrines that oppose the "original truths" that originated from God the Father. These men have had over 30 years to assert themselves and stand up for the truth.

In addition, the ministers in the *Restored Church of God* have been compromised with false doctrines for over 8 years now and it is highly unlikely that a minister in that organization is going to stand up for the truth, if they can even remember the original truths. And these men have also forfeited their ministerial offices for being compromised with false teachings for so long and for not protecting God's sheep, which is nothing less than a dereliction of their ordained duty.

The One True Church

A hallmark of the one true Church is the truth. And the truth are the teachings that were restored to the Church by Jesus Christ through His faithful apostle, Mr. Armstrong during the Philadelphia era. You have just

read through an article that contains the true teachings of the government of God and the duties and responsibilities of the ministry as they were restored to the Church in the 20th century.

Almost every point made in this article is supported by several excerpts from Mr. Armstrong or by the material that was produced in the *Worldwide Church of God*, most of which was produced during the time when he led the Church. This article was written this way so that everyone can prove that these were in fact the true teachings of the Church.

This article was also written to dispel all of the misunderstandings and deceptive teachings that are now prevalent in this era of the Church regarding this subject. This material is intended to help those who read it understand the truth of the government of God and the various ministerial offices and duties of each rank and to help everyone to discern who is adhering to the faith once delivered and who is not. And where you find the “original truths” including the prophetic truths, being held fast to and adhered to, that is where you will find the one and only, one true Church of God:

“Well, **the True Church are those who believe the faith once delivered**. That is the message by Jesus Christ. **The Faith once delivered was delivered by Jesus Christ. He taught it to His disciples. They became Apostles. They taught it to the Church and the faith once delivered is the faith that was believed by that Church** during the first thirty-eight years of its existence after the resurrection of Christ. **The True Church are those who have the doctrines and the teachings of Jesus.** They believe what He taught.”

World Tomorrow Broadcast, “History of the True Church Part 1”, Herbert W Armstrong

“As the first century wore on, the original apostles encourage the members to stay faithful. Jude, the brother of Jesus, urges the membership to strive for the faith that was once delivered. The apostle John warns the brethren to have nothing to do with those who are bringing in false doctrines. Many who call themselves Christian had not been truly converted.

“Throughout this period, all who called themselves Christian suffered greatly from the Roman authorities because they refused to worship the Emperor. The mad Nero in AD 64 blamed the burning of Rome on the Christian side and persecuted them savagely. Thousands suffered martyrdom.”

Behind the Work Film, “Transition from Sardis to Philadelphia”, Feast of Tabernacles 1983

“They got Lucifer, to convince them that they weren't happy. And he convinced them, and he said, no, you're in bad shape. I'm concerned about you, and I want to help you, and I just wanted to give you what is justly yours.

“And they fell for it, 1/3 of them fell for it. And they went along with his scheme and his idea to ascend, take over God's throne, as you read about in Isaiah 14. Of course, it didn't work. That didn't work. This

being that we're talking about is able to out reason any human being. He can out reason all of us put together. **That's why God is very specific when he says, look, when you understand the truth, you just stay with the truth, you don't reason with other ideas, and philosophies, and concepts. You just stick with the truth.** And we'll get into some scriptures, that are very plain, on how to handle other ideas, other reasonings that come along.”

Sermon, “How Satan Attacks”, Keith Walden, 1979

“The history of the Church would fall into seven distinct eras, each with its own strengths and weaknesses, and its own special trials and problems, just as a message could pass along the male route from Ephesus to Laodicea, so would the truth of God be passed from era to era. It was like a relay race in which the baton is passed from runner to runner, each one doing his part until the finish line is reached.

“It has not been an easy race. God's servants often had to run in the face of ridicule and persecution, as they strived to keep alive the truth that had been entrusted to them. Through the centuries, the Church pressed onward, and during the trials of the moment, always looking forward to the day when their faith and courage would be rewarded.”

Behind the Work Film 1983, “Transition from Sardis to Philadelphia”

Conclusion

Mr. Armstrong stated numerous times in some of the messages that he gave that after three and a half years of preaching the gospel and performing miracles, only 120 believed what Jesus Christ said (Acts 1:15), even though many believed on him. The one true Church of God has never been defined by numbers, but it has always been defined by and it is still defined by truth (I Tim. 3:15). Many also heard and read what a faithful apostle and the end-time Elijah said and taught in the 20th century. His sermons and articles are still available in this age. Will you believe the truths he that restored to the Church?

“Well, we haven't come to that place spiritually yet. **We are in the begettal stage and the Church above is the mother of us all, and we're all children to be fed spiritually by the Church, to be protected by the Church from false doctrine and false ways and to be developed by the Church by the spiritual food from the word of God, in the Church.**

“Now the Church is called to be prepared, in order to reap the first spiritual harvest. That harvest won't really be reaped until the second coming of Christ, and that's what we're observing today, is the second coming of Christ.

“The Church is the first body to receive the Holy Spirit. **Now the Holy Spirit came on that Day of Pentecost. There were 120. Jesus preached to thousands and thousands of people, but of all the**

thousands that He preached to, do you know how many really believed, and continued to believe and were loyal? Of all of the thousands, only 120.”

Sermon, “Trumpets and the Purpose of the Church”, Herbert W Armstrong, September 11, 1980

It is my hope that the truths contained herewith will help some return to the “original truths”. And it is out of love and concern for God’s people that prompted this article to be written. It is my sincere hope to see everyone that I have known and everyone who has been called by God, in the family of God and in the kingdom of living God. And I often pray that God will unite us together in this final era of the Church, that he will unite us together in the “original truths” that came from Him:

“But now, today, God has several churches in Australia. Satan is ON THE JOB! He wants to SPLIT you people there. He wants you to get your minds on ‘THE AUSTRALIAN WORK’ as if you are a SEPARATE work CUT OFF from the REST of God's Church. Satan wants you back into his way of carnal, selfish, worldly antagonistic and hostile thinking and prejudices where I was before Christ changed me, and you were before CHRIST reached over there into Australia and changed YOU. **Satan wants to change you back into CARNAL attitudes. He wants to cut us off from being ONE FAMILY. He wants to DIVIDE US. He wants to UNDO all that Christ has done in YOUR hearts and mine—to weld us TOGETHER IN CHRIST as ONE FAMILY bound by the LOVE OF GOD!**

“**Well, Brethren, as for me, I will not let Satan take out of my heart my LOVE FOR YOU. I want to stay in GOD'S FAMILY, and I want YOU to stay in GOD'S FAMILY, and I want all of you and all of us here and all of us in Black Africa and in Asia and Europe who are in GOD'S FAMILY to REMAIN TOGETHER IN CHRIST and in HIS LOVE AND PEACE!**”

Coworker Letter, Herbert W Armstrong, September 13, 1980

*With sincerity and love
And in Christ’s service,*



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12-24-2023