

## God's Government IN the Family – Pt. 2

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January 1, 2011

Today is *Part 2* of the sermons series entitled; *God's Government IN the Family*. Last Sabbath we focused on the structure of God's Government in the Church which begins with Jesus Christ as the head of the Church. There are those things that are very basic that we've always understood and then we looked at the structure of the government within the ministry that God has given, which again, are very basic things that we have always understood. And as we read various scriptures we also addressed some changes that are going to begin taking place, that are already starting to take place now and obviously that God is going to bring into being and continue on with what we're starting now in a new age, in the Millennial period and the Great White Throne.

Things are changing! In seventeen months from now the whole scene changes as far as what the world has been used to, accustomed to, for the way of humanity for 6,000 years and it's surreal in some respects. I can't imagine different things that have happened in history. I think of the time of Christ, when He walked on this earth and the disciples who were with Him and the awesome things that took place – primarily at the end of His ministry – that were awesome and powerful and mighty on the earth and things that continued on from that point on as far as the Church was concerned. The Church started on Pentecost in 31 A.D. and things have continued on – but we're in an age where we're going to experience things that the people in the past 6,000 years have looked forward to and it's almost hard to believe that we could be in that time-period, that we are the ones that have the opportunity to experience that. Someone in 7,100 years is going to experience this particular time, and I think we don't really grasp it a lot. It's hard when you live your own life in a physical world to grasp the things that God is doing. For us to be able to grasp where we are in time and the magnitude of what's taking place, of what's getting ready to change is beyond comprehension. We believe it, but to grasp it we won't fully grasp it until we've lived it. It won't be too long and we'll have lived it, we'll be looking back.

I look back 17 months from right now; if you look back in time thinking about different ones who have come along since that period of time it's gone by rather rapidly. And in 17 more months it's all going to be over with... Incredible!

And so we're addressing some of the changes right now as we did in scriptures last week where, because the world changes, because there's only one Government, people aren't going to any longer be called out of the world. At the beginning here they are being called out of the world because of what's taking place and it's going to take two, three, four generations – whatever it is – for some to become humbled, to be of a humble state, of a willingness to humble themselves to change their lives totally and completely to become a part of what has filled the earth by that time – God's way of life, God's Government, God's Church. It's hard to grasp, but we believe it with all of our being what's coming to pass.

And so because of that some of the kind of language that's used in the Bible about a calling, about being called out of the world – that's all going to change because *the whole world* will have that opportunity of being baptized, of being in the Church of God as they come to that point in age and maturity and choice in their life. And so some things, just in that regard, change as far as the process whereby we're called. It will be like some of you who experienced growing up in the church; you grew up in the world...but you still grew up within the environment of the Church of God, although you still lived in this particular age

where it wasn't God's Government on the earth. But all those in the future – a huge change is getting ready to take place, an exiting change is getting ready to take place.

Let's have a quick review here before we continue on today. God's Government is all about the administering of God's laws in life; the administering of His way of life in our lives. So we have to decide whether we're going to yield ourselves to that government in our own lives let alone that which God has established within the Family – the Church, primarily. And then as we enter into a new age it continues on in a greater way. Understanding that God's laws, God's way of life is about the administering, again, it's about government, it's about His Family, it's about the Family of God; it's about what we call the *Kingdom of God* which is about government. And that entails so much more sometimes than we really grasp, it truly does.

And so, as we ended last Sabbath's sermon I was reading the post of January 15, 2010 in the section entitled 'The Ordination of Women'. That changes a lot! That changes *a lot* in what we've been accustomed to for the past 2,000 years in the way God established it, in (not His world), in man's world where Satan is the God of this world – and in an age where mankind has not been seeking God's way of life. The knowledge of God hasn't been on the earth. But again, all those things are rapidly changing.

And so this is an exciting thing that's taking place and we need to understand it, we need to understand how God works in life and why some of these changes are taking place; and I go back to and think about what Mr. Armstrong had to say – that quote that I read early on talking about how that even then, he made the comment that the curse is going to be lifted when Jesus Christ comes back. And if you understand how that takes place, how the curse is lifted, that's exciting! God's truth will be *everywhere* on the earth! Man is able to be forgiven of sin *around the world*! Awesome! That's why a curse is removed, when man is able to be forgiven of sin. And when it's done around the world it puts everything in a different light – beautiful and inspiring what God is doing in the earth.

And so again, things are changing regarding what we've been accustomed to in the Church of God for the past 2,000 years; and it was *expedient* that it be organized in the way, in *exactly* the way God did it; and it's *expedient* now that the change take place. And it affects mightily the structure within the family because God's giving greater appreciation and understanding of insight into grasping and comprehending what He has desired for His Family in the Church all along anyway. It's just that we weren't quite there yet, able to really grasp and comprehend some of those things because it goes along with the removal of a curse and the establishing of *family* in a more beautiful way than it's ever been.

Because you see, when people have come into the Church over the past 2,000 years they've had the opportunity to begin to obey the truth, God's laws. And as they yield themselves to the administration, and the more they do, of God's law in their life the richer their life has become – the *happier* life has become. That's the way it's always been. And then when people begin to move away from that, begin to sin, begin to be cut off from the flow of God's spirit, curses come back and the ability to grow and change begins to wane and begins to be cut off. And we've lived through an incredible time in Laodicea and the things that we've seen at the end of Philadelphia, through the period of Laodicea in God's Church. Responsibility is on each and every one of us to yield ourselves to God's law and how it works. But there are things about that that God hasn't given full understanding of in the sense of the family, in the sense of the administration of His laws in our life until now. And there are so many reasons for that that we've been covering and it's an awesome thing when you begin to grasp and have that comprehension.

Let's go over here to 1 Corinthians 11 and begin here today because Paul talks about these things in different forms and different ways at different times here and this is a particular area that we have not yet looked at where Paul discusses some of the government within the family; and as we have covered some of the things he's mentioned of in other places already let's pick it up here. If you know what 1 Corinthians 10 and 11 is all about it really adds a lot to the story in a very powerful way because Paul is heading in a particular direction. Please understand; when he was writing there were no chapters, he was just writing; everything was working in a particular direction that God was leading him to address certain things concerning *the Church*, concerning *the Body of Christ*. And these things apply to us far more meaningfully now than they ever did before.

**1 Corinthians 11:1** – so Paul says, **Be followers of me even as I also am of Christ.** And so people have come and gone and there are people who say, "You don't follow a man." And they twist and distort various scriptures in the Bible – and yet, with this understanding you *do follow AS*, in the way that others have followed Christ. There's only been one time in history where this has been challenged in a most awesome way – only one time that God ever allowed. Now, He's allowed different ministers at different times to go off course and do various things, but those things have been addressed as a whole, within the Church of God by the government over them.

And so Paul, again, says, **Be followers of me even as I am of Christ.** There's only been one great time in history where from the top down, speaking of what Mr. Tkach did, what took place in the apostasy and so forth, that God's Government took a particular turn as it did and people refused God's Government and individuals had to make choices and decisions; even as, I read some verses earlier that we'll go back to at the end of this sermon here talking about how you have to judge and decide yourselves what you do, when you do it, and some of us (not a lot of us anymore), but some of us had to make certain decisions going back at a particular time of an apostasy of what was happening within the Church. We had that responsibility, each individual, before God to live God's way of life; and if somebody chooses something else, a different course, then you have to make choices. *And so should a people in families* in the Church of God – wives or husbands – particularly wives, or even children in many cases, when God's way of life is not being administered in family it isn't a matter of covering it up or anything of that nature – on the contrary, it's to bring it out in the open that this is wrong! But some people were squelched and put down that they shouldn't take it to the ministry.

I have counselled *so many people* over the years where the wives were told "Don't take it to the ministry. You're not to go to the minister with this. We're to keep it right here and work it out right here!" And that's *wrong*! If something is being done that's wrong that's God's Government, you see.

So again, I've counselled so many people where those things have not been handled rightly. That's in unity with, in what I'm describing here, the very same thing that happened in the ministry. We had the responsibility to address things; individuals did, even within the Body, obviously within the Church and local areas. If a minister's teaching something wrong you have a responsibility to do something about it – not just to sit there and listen and drink it in. But we've had to learn some hard lessons about that, about God's Government.

**Be followers of me even as I also am of Christ. Now I commend you, brethren, that you remember me in all things, and keep the traditions as I have delivered them to you.** 'Ordinances' it talks about, 'traditions'; those things that are passed down within the Church, of how things are to be done and so forth. Because somewhere along the line some things change in how things are done from area to area or time to time in God's Church and it's a matter of order – that everything be done in an orderly way.

And so there are those things at times, as he's going to address in a little bit, a particular subject – the *Passover*. There's a way to conduct yourself in taking the Passover and Paul's getting ready to address that. And even in the early Church, there were a lot of changes made as time went long, as they got farther and farther away from Judaism, as they got farther and farther away from some of those things that had happened in the past. There began to be *changes* that took place even within how things were done within the Church.

And even as Paul went on in some of his travels and so forth, some of the things he did from the beginning to the end changed as time went along; and as ministers were trained and went out to do various things. So again, there's always an order of things, of how things are done – just like we do today. We went through a transition in time where some had a difficult time with government because they didn't understand what was taking place and frankly at the time, neither did I. When we quit having what we used to call 'sermonettes' in the Church some people had a tough time with that because, like, "Who do you think you are taking up more of the time?" Well, I knew who I was – I was the pastor of the Church and so by all means I was the one deciding who would speak and who wouldn't speak. And that's a matter of government and tradition, or whatever is passed in the Church and things that are done in an orderly fashion. And so we've gone through changes. Who would of known when we started used telephone hook-ups in different areas, that in time we'd have the ability to be on the internet and for people all over the United States and Canada to hear it at the same time. And if somebody wants to get up early in the morning, like over in Australia and New Zealand, or listen in late, like in Europe, they can hear it at the same time. Incredible what God has given to us.

And so with time things change and we do things in a different fashion from time to time. In the Church, in the Body, we yield our self to that process.

And so he says, **I commend you, brethren, that you remember me in all things and keep the traditions as I have delivered them to you.** He was the one that taught them, he was the one that God gave to go out and teach the Gentiles how to do various things in their areas. And sometimes some of those were different than other areas because of what they were dealing with – like the Church at Corinth had to deal with things in a different way than they did in the area of Philippi, or wherever. You look at different areas – the area of Ephesus; there were some differences as far as some of the Gentile customs in those areas.

He says, **But I would have you know that the head of every man is Christ;** Government, the Church, the order that is there, the head of everyone, not just every man, but the head of every one as we understand it, but certainly as it talks about here very specifically it does mention it because of men. **...is Christ;** and within the Church we understand that Jesus Christ is the head of all of us; but it gets very specific and it says, **the head of the woman is the man;** and so he's saying it a little differently than he did in Ephesians. He's stating it just a little tad different, but again let's go on... **and the head of Christ is God.** So again, very clearly here just a way of expressing matters of order and government that should be very obvious to everyone; and he wanted to make it very obvious to the Church that was coming out of a Gentile background in Corinth – "This is the way it is in God's Church."

So this is the order of how things have been established spiritually in the Church and in the physical family within the Church in the midst of a carnal world, in a world that is not yet God's. That's about to change and that's why these things are being addressed in a different way now and why God is doing things in a different way now as well.

So that structure has been maintained within the Church for the past 2,000 years, but again, it's changing as a spiritual structure of the Church is undergoing change. Awesome to understand!

And then it goes on to explain the very physical matter in the midst of this subject. In **verse 4** it says, **Every man praying or prophesying, having his head covered, dishonours his head** – and so it goes into a thing that they were dealing with in Corinth – that's why it's addressed here in the matter of Corinth. And it brings into this a matter of government and how things function down to the physical things we do in life and why we do them. And in this particular case here it had to do with hair! It had to do with the length of hair, because in societies or through time things have gone back and forth regarding it and how it affects how you think.

How you do things in your life affects how you think in your mind. And so much of our life is about cleaning up our mind, getting it clean. And so many times, even within the Church you have to do that *physically*; you have to start cleaning up your mind in a very physical way by things that go on around you – and I'm not just talking about temptation and sin. I'm talking about *how you live your life! How you dress! How long your hair is! What customs you allow the world to bring into you and that have an affect on you* because that has to do with your mind and God's concerned with your mind, not your body! Your *mind*! That's what's precious because that's where God's spirit can work with the spirit that's there to mould and fashion and change us, the way we think. And so we begin to change the way we think.

I remember basic things, and I'm going to take some time doing this because sometimes this goes into marriage as well and we need to understand it. I think about Ambassador College and when I first came into God's Church and began attending, there were some very basic things about cleanliness that had to be taught. Someone comes into the bathroom... you have *all these guys* in there getting ready in the morning; all these showers, all these sinks, all these toilets...and if people aren't clean, you know what? It builds up! The cleanliness around a place. It's in how you think! Do you think about the other person behind you? I've mentioned these things before. I learned very early on, and very thankfully so, that it's *good* to clean up for the next person behind you. We were taught those things! It has to do with the mind and how you think and you learn bigger principles from it because you can multiply that many times over then in life and what you do in going through life. We learn it in something like as you are walking through the campus – if you see paper outside you pick it up because you want to keep it beautiful!

God said when He gave us this earth to dress it and to keep it! I've mentioned before about our home and about the things we do. God gives you things to dress them and to keep it and if we don't grasp that then we don't grasp certain things in our mind. It has to do with how you think in your mind – see? Your bedroom, what it looks like, has to do with your *mind*. Your kitchen has to do with your *mind*! You think it doesn't? *It does!* You think it doesn't lead to spiritual things? *It does!* And so we sometimes go through a process in life where we mature – sometimes it's slow; sometimes it's faster depending on what we experience.

Please never try to separate, while you're in a physical body, physical things from spiritual importance – because they are! And so Paul is addressing something here about how people in society lived, how they acted, what was truly masculine and what was not, what was truly appearing as feminine and what was not! And what was robbing people if their minds weren't right; and robbing them of a better relationship with God because this is the way *God* does it, this is the way *God* says it should be – so we should want to do it the way God says.

We're toward the end of an age – we're *in it* – we're in the last 3½ years, we're in the final countdown and we're still putting flowers out around our house – because of our neighbours and because of keeping up what God gave to us. We could just let it all go and say, "Hey, it's all going to go to pot anyway, let the weeds come up, let the weeds take over!" Do we understand that has to do with how we think? If you want to just throw everything away and say...oh that's... Why do it? Why work? Why plan and why go to school? Why do these things because it's all going to go to pot anyway? God's concerned with your mind and how you think *every moment that you're alive*. How do you think about yourself? How do you think about life? We don't just throw things away. We don't just quit taking care of what God gave to us as a *command* to dress it and keep it.

That's why very early on we tell people you don't have to have a suit and a tie to come to Sabbath services if you don't *own* one. What should you do? Mr. Armstrong always taught us what to do; wear the best you have, prepare it in the best way. If you don't have an iron try to do the best you can to make it look the best that it is. And if you have an iron, iron it! Make it look a little bit better! Make sure you're clean; hygiene. Sometimes people don't realize things like that are important about how you think and we dismiss them and think it's all about spiritual things and what does that mean?

Seen so much in God's Church; seen so many people hurt themselves and not understand that because of how they do various things that it's a reflection on how you think. And how you think can teach you so many things with God's spirit working with you. And sometimes we resist God's spirit working with us. We have to work with cleaning up the mind in everything. We're not just talking about sins we might have been involved in; we're talking about in everything, because some of the first things God told Adam and Eve to do. "I've given you possessions, I've given you things to have, to share in – *dress it and keep it*. And if you don't you mess with your own mind!" If you do it in a slovenly way, if you do it in a messy way, if you do it without care about the other person, or the next person behind you or your neighbour – what is that? What kind of selfishness is that that doesn't care about others around them, that doesn't care about keeping things clean or keeping things up or whatever it might be? Or doing the best with what you have because *God gave it to you*. Do we realize that what we have God gave to us and He lets us have it to use? And it's important how we use it!

That's why I always appreciated Mr. Armstrong talking about *quality*, because the world has lost sight of quality. You get what you pay for. And that's the way life is so often. And so if you're able to save up to get something a little bit better, if you're able to do that, then that's a *good* thing, not a bad thing – it's a *good thing* if you're able to do it, if you appreciate it and God's in the picture. It's not just about having that which is *physical*, it's.... this has so much to do with what we're discussing today about family and about husbands and wives – it truly does. Because you see, what happens in the family, if we can get the big picture, is what goes into the community, is what goes into the Church, is what is getting ready to go into the world around us, the community, the society around us - and it's going to become one that dresses and keeps what God has given. It's not going to be like what you see when you go down the freeways and you see trash thrown all over because people don't care about throwing things out the window. They don't care! I'm surprised they have enough sense to try to get it out of the car; some people don't, they let it build up on the floor boards and stink. And you think, "Don't you know this is your mind? This has to do with how you think about things around you and truly how you can even think about yourself."

They say, "Oh no, it doesn't!"

"Yes it does!"

So he talks about something as simple as physical hair because in the world at different generations it's been a problem, where all of a sudden there's this unisex look or it passes that and all of a sudden men have to look like women and women think they have to look like men. Take it off! And that's what Paul was dealing with, something that we're dealing with, we deal with in society today and not understanding God made us in a certain way that gives glory; and if you mess with that you mess with your mind and how you think about basic things in life. And we don't understand those things oftentimes; but they're so powerfully tied together because it has to do (especially when you come into God's Church), with an attitude toward God and how God says how things *are*; how they *should* be because there are laws that regulate peace of mind, soundness of mind.

We live in a society today where there's such unsoundness of mind, where people write about anything and everything and just because they've written about it people will gravitate to it and all of a sudden – "That's what's written, I read it..." and it's like this is it!, this must be true because it's in black and white. The world's filled with garbage.

In this series we're getting ready to go into after this – I am looking forward to going through certain things because I'll tell you what – just by going through some things this morning and a little bit yesterday...by going through and thinking about where we are in time and what condition this world is in... if you really have eyes to see the condition of this world your heart should be one like Lot's was – to ache and hurt for the filth and the garbage and the swill that's *everywhere*! ...throughout government, throughout societies, throughout nations – the hypocrisy, the lying! Awesome stuff! Things out there that just blows your mind! But we don't hear about it on the news as much.

It's like what happened to the Church when we got into an apostasy, people would rather stick their head in the sand and not really look at the truth because the truth isn't very pretty. We'd like to think it's something else. We'd like to think the stock market's coming back. We'd like to think that everything's getting peachy keen. We'd like to think that everything's going to come back and be so much better than it was before! We're going down the tubes so fast it's like going down the toilet when they have some of these super-toilets now where it just sucks everything out so fast and we're not just in a normal spin cycle anymore – we're going down quickly! It's *accelerating* and it doesn't scare people! It only scares some people – some are scared to death! Sick, sick world. I am so *sick* of this world! I am so sick of the selfishness and the evil that's everywhere in this world; but we've become almost numb to it, even within God's Church if we're not careful. We can almost become numb to the way of this world and not realize how hideous, how sick, how perverted, how ugly from top to bottom that it is!

**But I'd have you know every man prophesying**, in other words, it's speaking about God's way of life. We've talked about what this word means. It doesn't just mean people out here *prophesying* like a prophet or whatever and coming up with some new things... "Did you hear this..." It's about things we've been taught, it's by God's spirit where we're inspired to be able to talk about the plan of God and we understand it, we see it and so we're able to talk to others about it. It can even be a part in prayer, this can be something involved in prayer, your prayer-life to God Almighty; and when you're praying to God. That's what it says here, **praying or prophesying having his head covered**, long hair. Doesn't understand. God wants to see a change. "I want to see a change in you physically so I can work with your mind. Get your mind right and I can start working with it with My spirit. But if you keep resisting Me even in something in the most basic physical things how can I work with you?"

**But every woman who prays or prophecy's with her head uncovered dishonours her head,** speaking of government. Powerful what he's saying here. It's about government! It is in the Church if someone who has a responsibility of government, whatever that might be, whether it be a husband, a minister, whatever it is – if you don't do things the right way before God – dishonours God, dishonours our head Jesus Christ. Who wants to bring dishonour to Christ? ...to the Church of God? ...to the Body of Christ? And this makes comment then about part of that structure here of a woman, a wife in this particular case, and a husband – if she have her hair cut off and look like a man – it dishonours the family, dishonours her husband, dishonours herself because she doesn't get it!

Amazing how Paul is addressing something very physical here because it has to do with not only the way you think, it has to do with the order of things and whether to the degree (in one respect), that God's spirit can even work with you! Amazing!

And it goes on then and talks about some of those things; just like like here it says, **but every woman who prays or prophecy's with her head uncovered dishonours her head: for this is the same as if she were shaven.** It's just whatever height it is, if it's a half an inch, an inch, whatever that is that sometimes you see today... When I see it I just feel sorry for people. I think, "Don't you know what you're doing?" Do you see that there's something wrong in their mind? Do you see that when someone has long hair as a man and he doesn't take it off or if a woman has real short hair and she doesn't let it grow out that there's something in the mind going on? See, I know there is. I've counselled with many people over the years, just in these little physical areas alone, see. You think there's not something wrong in the mind if our dress isn't what it should be to honour God because we see ourselves as the Body of Christ, the Church of God and we want anyone we come in contact with, especially now more than ever before in life, to be able to have a good relationship with people around us in the job and community so that maybe one day, because they know certain things about you they may ask a question when the time is right – when their time is right, when God is beginning to open up people's minds and they will have enough respect to ask a question because they respect you for the things you have stood up for that are right and because of even your dress, how you dress, how you acted, how you treated them? Powerful!

And so Paul mentions some things. Isn't it clear if you just take a razor to a woman's head and just make it bald... Terry shaves his. How many of you want to see a woman in services have her hair like that? Now, for him it looks great! For a man it can look great! I tried it once, it didn't look so great on me, but I like this length for me. This is what's good for me, the way I like it, the way my wife (more importantly), likes it. And there we go. And so there are certain things it should teach us.

To understand this has so very, very much to do with whether or not God can work with you – because of physical things in your life and in your mind because they do affect the way you think. Any woman who would make her hair that short, in that respect... Now, there are different things in society, in life too that are different with different people's and so forth and different customs and the like. Those things have to be dealt with accordingly even there in understanding. But I'm talking about in generalities here of things we should be able to clearly see.

Things are changing, and now, as I mentioned, and on into the Millennium – this structure of government within the Church, within the physical family remains the same it has been for the past 2,000 years – except – *except* this changes when a wife, when a woman is ordained with a spiritual office within the family...because it's a matter of government.

In the past 2,000 years this has not been an issue in the Church since no woman was ordained until this final end-time. Many in the Church have not understood, or have not comprehended, in that respect, the original structure as outlined by Paul was a matter, again, of Church government that was to be exercised only when government was needed to be exercised. And God is giving us better understanding of when government needs to be exercised. What is government? The administration of God's law in your life. And if you're living what is right what more can be asked? It's when something goes astray in that, that what we generally think about when we think about government – when authority is needed – that government becomes an issue in the Church or in the Family. And we haven't understood those things very well within the family.

I could tell you some atrocious stories of things that have happened in families in the past where people have been advised by ministers to do various things that were *wrong*, that were *wrong decisions* and they were advised in it because if the husband says that then that's what you're to do; because of such misunderstanding even within the Church.

And so we're blessed to be able to grow and to better understand the spiritual principles that God is giving here; because government, with God, has never been intended to be a matter of 'lording' it over and yet that's how it's been used in the world and sadly much of that has been brought into the Church which God never intended. That's not what it's about. It's not about telling people everything they should do and everything that happens in your life or in your home. It's not about that at all.

Do you know what marriage is about? Do you know what family is about? Do you know what God's Family is about? Do you know why God wants to have a Family? It's about the sharing. It's about the sharing within a way of life that brings happiness and joy, that's rich to be shared. It's awesome! It's beautiful! It's powerful! It's inspiring!

Let's go on and read the context of all this of where it's leading. **1 Corinthians 11:27** – because you see, what Paul is leading up to here is about taking of the Passover and how we are to examine our lives, to look at our lives, to investigate how we're living our life, investigate ourselves, examine ourselves to see the unity and oneness with God, to see where it isn't in unity and oneness to ask God to correct us, to chasten us, to help us to be in greater unity and oneness with Him – to grasp the purpose of the Body of Christ, the Church of God, the Family of God, of what God is moulding and fashioning within the Church. Because this is where we're moulded and fashioned; it's within the environment of the Church.

In **verse 27** it says – **Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread and drink this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner**, because no one is worthy, it's the manner in which you do it. And so the correct use of this in English is **whosoever shall eat this bread and drink this cup**, in other words speaking of that little bit of wine and that little bit of unleavened bread you take on Passover. It says, in essence here, **if we do it in an unworthy manner shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord**. In other words you're not forgiven. You're still guilty of the death of Jesus Christ. That's what it says! Because you see, unrepented of sin – that's what put Jesus Christ to death – sin; that's what He died for. He died so that we could be forgiven of sin *so that* He and His Father could dwell in us and live in us.

And so it says if we don't take the Passover in a right way...so even here, even physical things are being addressed, even physical things about how you appear, how you look – even your hair! How deeply do we understand various things within the Church, family and so forth? And these are very physical things that Paul is actually addressing here because that's where it starts, doesn't it? Our spiritual life, our spiritual journey begins in a very physical way.

Then it goes on to say, **but let a man examine himself**, in other words, **let a person examine themselves and so let them eat of that bread and drink of that cup**, and so, this is what happens from the first Passover you take till you die or till your change comes. And so we go through life and we come up to the time of the Passover and always as we come up to this period of time, as we're doing this year in April coming up to Passover and Unleavened Bread, we often discuss and talk about the importance, the need to examine our lives, to see where we are spiritually, to make sure, indeed, that we're striving to draw closer to God, that we're conquering and overcoming things in our life. And so God says that each one of us should seek out the sin in our life as we're to come out of Egypt. And so we focus on this, these expressions, things like this more at this time of year (talking about Passover), than at other times of the year so that it becomes a part of us, so that we hopefully and prayerfully will take part of Passover period and Unleavened Bread with us and learn how to do that throughout the rest of the year on a regular basis, not just at that time of year; until it becomes a part of our nature, a part of our being.

That's why I can tell you, of an absolute surety, if we knew who they all were who are going to be changed and be made a part of the 144,000 there is that which *I know* about every one of them; and it is that when they come to understand and see sin, or when they sin, they repent of it! They don't allow it to continue on. They may slip again, but they *constantly repent* and ask God to forgive them – that is their nature because they've gone through this, they understand the importance of being at one with God, they understand the importance of not being cut off on on a continuing basis from God – but having a desire always, speedily, that when sin pops up its ugly head – to repent of it. And there will always be sin in your physical life – you can't help it. As long as you're a physical human being you will always have sin to deal with in your life. But to grow to the point in time where you will *always* fight the fight, where it's a part of your being; because people I've seen leave through time - they quit fighting, they gave up the battle! They got *tired* of the fight! That's what happens. And you can't! If you want God's way of life, if you want this way of life – things we go through in life until it becomes a part of our being.

**But let a man examine himself and so let him eat of that bread and drink of that cup**, until it becomes a part of our nature that this is what we do day by day, week by week, month by month. **For he that eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgement to himself**; that's what this word means here. It says in the King James here 'damnation' because it has to do with judgement. It has to do with that which you do to yourself which is a result of something. So in the sense of judgement it's a condemnation from God for not obeying God and for not repenting, for not doing things in the right way. ...**eats and drinks judgement to himself not discerning the Lords Body**, physical and spiritual. Understanding what I mentioned earlier on, that to be guilty of the body and the blood, as it talks about here of Jesus Christ in verse 27, 'shall be guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord'. That means unrepented of sin; that means there is no forgiveness because the sin hasn't been repented of. And so this has to do with being guilty of the death of Jesus Christ – because we all come to that point in time, just as they did in the book of Acts when there was that preaching on the Day of Pentecost and 3,000 people all of a sudden came to a point where it says they were pricked in the heart because they understood something they'd never understood before because it was told to them, "You killed the Messiah!" And they understood that! They didn't 'kill' Him physically, they came to understand something spiritually – that they were guilty of the death of Jesus Christ – their sins killed Him. And so everyone comes to that point in their life where they come to understand that.

But a greater maturity comes in time when you understand what that means when it talks about the Lord's Body – when you understand it's talking about the Church, the Body of Christ; not just a physical

thing. That's where it begins. But to understand the Body of Christ, the Church of God in this environment, to understand the relationships that God has given to us, to understand that the examining of your life becomes far more important when God tells you to examine yourself within the Church – What is your relationship like with others in the Body of Christ? What is your relationship like with your mate? ...your parents? ...your children? Whatever it is! That's your everyday life and that's what God wants us to grasp and understand – especially within the Church of God – to grasp and understand – Do we understand? Are we rightly judging, discerning within the Body, the Church, the Body, what it's all about, what God is doing in our lives?

And then when we're not doing what we should be doing, to tear other people down or whatever has happened in times past within the Church, within people's lives and people nip away at each other and things that have happened through time in relationships and friendships are hurt. People don't understand you can't do that in God's Family! ...in the Body of Christ! Do we rightly discern and judge within the Body of Christ? That's what this is about.

And in the context of things that Paul was talking about – now there's a change taking place where people will have to examine themselves with greater understanding now. We have the potential for greater understanding within the Church about Government.

I haven't understood where all this was going for a while. I asked God for help! Things are changing, but what does this mean? ...in all structures of family? ...in Church and everything else? I see it clearly now, beautifully. It's an awesome thing. And the motivation, just like we talked about, in the Millennium the motivation, the peer pressure then is to keep the Sabbath, the Holy Days. It's just going to be a way of thinking. Anything else would be foreign. It's hard to comprehend that! The whole world is going to think that way after a generation or so by the time you get down 10-15-20 years – everyone's keeping the Feast, everyone's keeping the Holy Days, it's just the way of life and the peer pressure is to live by moral standards which we don't have much of today in this world, do we? ...in how young people live and how they grow up in their homes. It's all going to change...what they're taught, what they listen to in music, what they watch on TV. It's all going to change. Some people are going to have withdrawals, withdrawals from perversion and sickness in this world – truly – as your mind is going to have a great opportunity to go into spin cycle and greater washing taking place after that.

So things are changing, dramatically, within the family and it puts a prod on all within the family and it gives us the ability to see something in a greater spiritual light than we ever have within the Church. It goes back to some verses we discussed earlier that I want to go back to now. Ephesians 5: because it's good to go back and review a little bit of what we've covered. This is a verse we covered in the previous sermon series entitled 'From Curses to Blessings' and this verse that I mentioned at that time is *far more spiritual* than what we've comprehended within the Church. It's one that many have just kind of glossed over, especially... and in the ministry as well, but in families as well because it just didn't quite... how does that fit in with the verses that follow... and it was like... ahhh.... Well, it's beautiful! It's a beautiful verse because it's how everyone in the Body should live toward every other member of the Body and its how families should be in the Body, husbands and wives should function. It's how the Church should function.

And so the admonition is here, speaking to the Church, **Ephesians 5:21 – Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.** It's a powerful verse, it truly is. **Submitting yourselves...** And the context of this? It is best explained when we back up a few verses and read.

**Verse 17 – Wherefore do not be unwise, but understanding what is the will of the Lord.** Again, I can't help but think about sermons we covered before the Feast, sermons we covered during the Feast and since that time and talking about God Almighty, talking about the Word, talking about Logos, talking about wisdom, talking about that which God desires to give to us that comes from Him. God's desire is that we receive from Him, from His being, from His mind through the power of His holy spirit in our minds so that we can become at one, be at unity with His way of life. It's what it's all about and so it tells us, **don't be unwise**; receive, in other words, what God has for you. Don't resist the wisdom that God has! Receive it! Embrace it! **...but understanding what the will of God is.** What is God's will? And He's getting ready to tell us what His will is! He's getting ready to reveal to us some very basic things within the family and how people should think toward each other; but He's given other opportunities to grasp it and see it through time in different levels of spiritual maturity. We're at a point now, because of where we are and where we're going, that God's offering us a lot more as far as wisdom, as far as spiritual maturity is concerned.

And it goes on to say then, **and do not be drunk with wine wherein is excess, but be filled with the spirit.** Isn't that your desire? The more of God's spirit you receive, the holy spirit, the more of His being – because that's what conveys His being, that's what conveys His mind, that's what conveys His Word (Logos) into your mind! And the more you receive of that and don't resist it, and the more you agree and acknowledge the more you become in unity and oneness with God more and more in your life. It's a beautiful process we go through, it truly is, from the time you're called to the time you are changed or to the time you die – whatever happens and however it takes place in your life.

And then it leads to **verse 21 – Submitting yourselves one to another**, an attitude of placing yourself, as I mentioned before, under or below in the sense of the desires, the wishes, the way of doing something, the interests of others. This is far broader than that! It has to do with selfishness – of whether we insist on *our* way or whether we're willing to listen to others and if we have love and desire to have unity and peace, to consider and to think about and to drink in and sometimes just to give in order to do something some other way that's within the realm of God's law and God's truth, but in order to give to someone else. It has to do with an attitude of mind; it has to do with the opposite of what is selfish.

We, by nature, are selfish! The more you grow spiritually in God's Church the more you come to see selfishness and how ugly it is; and the more you don't want it a part of your life. And the more you see it in the world around you. You have to watch that oftentimes then, how you treat others then because you see it. It's so clear to you because the more you've grown the more you see it everywhere around you and it's like this giant flashing light with giant sirens and you just wish it'd go away. And it's about ready to because we're entering a new age! We get to help change the world.

So all this is about family... how a family functions best. This verse here is about how *family functions best*. It's about how *God's Family functions best*. It's how the *Church of God functions best*... when people have this mind, when we're able to get rid of more and more of the selfishness in our own lives for the sake of others around us. If we insist on our own way, if we want our own way, if whatever it might be in life... it's going to cause you unhappiness if you insist on it, if you push for it. And what brings you greater happiness is the giving side of it, a desire, a willingness... even a *desire* to give in, to *give* to someone else – *their* way of doing something, *their* way of whatever it is.

And so this is one of the best ways of how a family functions best. If everyone, or anyone, in a family is selfish – you know what it does? It's unhappy. It's frustrating. That which God wants to give can't be given. If just one person is selfish it makes it harder on the family. If one in this Body is filled with

selfishness it hurts the Body. And we all have selfishness but we seek to conquer and overcome it, don't we? And so the more we can live verse 21 the better the family is in the sense of enjoyment, happiness, real joy because it's a matter of giving, it's not insisting on self or our own ways.

Today we're going to have a great meal after services. People have brought things in, they voluntarily have done it. There wasn't anybody telling them how to do it like we've experienced in times past. We had a situation here in Detroit I've got to tell you about, very early on, when someone wanted to be in charge of who brings the cookies. Who's going to bring the cookies to services? Who's going to be in charge of saying somebody can bring them and someone can't. Some of you remember that? Where does that come from? And some things were done within the Church where it was this level of authority and power and if I was just over this... and it didn't bring happiness.

Like at the Feast of Tabernacles when people had to be told how to park their cars as if they didn't know how, or when they were leaving they didn't know that they should give someone else the right of way at times to ease the flow of traffic... if they're living God's way of life they're going to automatically do that. You know what people do when they're leaving in a massive way, like the Lake of the Ozarks if any of you had that experience, where thousands of people were there? But they had to have people out there telling when you could go and when you couldn't go because... why couldn't people in God's Church with God's holy spirit, as people even in the world do – maybe not really well, but as you come up here and you see someone else needs to get out you stop and let them out. And amazing how it can flow and someone wouldn't really have to be out there flagging it and being organized to do it all.

If you have God's spirit you're going to give to others around you because you're seeking to be unselfish; you're seeking to give, to be courteous, to be kind in everything you do within the Church. Would have solved so many problems and so many things of supposed 'government' in people's lives where it turned into 'lordship' even within the realm of the Church. That's what we had – sheriffing that not only came through the ministry, it went through the administration of the Church, it went through various different things of organization within the Church and it went to the head and hurt people. Sad.

If we understand these things about verse 21, about giving, seeking to be unselfish, then it makes a relationship of a family stronger and more loving and caring toward one another – whether it be the Church or whether it be a physical family. And this should be especially true, obviously, in marriage between a husband and a wife. And so family is going to be given a great boost in the Millennium because this way is going to be taught more powerfully than it ever has been in the past 2,000 years in God's Church because the ability to understand it is going to be given on a greater plane in the sense of this verse 21 and what this means spiritually for your life.

*It's all about sharing life.* I think about those poor people who thought there was greater joy in being in charge and they missed the understanding of what it is to serve. Because with human nature and with selfishness and because of what happened, especially in the environment of the Church and Matthew 24 where it talks about the 'love of many waxed cold', that's what began to happen. That means God's spirit began to be cut off because people began to turn inward more and they began to become more selfish in life. That happened at the end of Philadelphia. It happened into Laodicea in the Church. And you have to be careful that it doesn't raise its ugly head in *your* life. You have to *fight* against it because it's a matter of human nature and you don't want it to be a part of your nature – especially as we enter a new age, because all of that's going to change, it truly is in a very powerful way.

And so again, it's all about sharing of life and that's what God wants to do with us. That's why we're given what we're given, because He wants to share everything. He wants to share the universe with us – things we don't comprehend! He wants to share knowledge, insight, wisdom with us, of things we don't even *begin* to grasp yet that are inspiring, that's exciting. We can't even begin to grasp the things God has before us, to give to us, to share with us in life; things that can't even be shared in a physical mind yet, in this mind; that you have to be spirit in order to receive it! You have to be a spirit being in order to receive it because you *can't* in your physical life no matter *how much you grow spiritually*. There are things of God of such magnitude and power that might that we can't even begin to comprehend that are exciting and inspiring. And God desires to share it. Give! It's about giving!

So why do we rob ourselves sometimes then in the Church? Why do we ever rob ourselves within a family of the beauty and the joy of what relationships are supposed to be about? Because it's all about the sharing of life together! And so what is shared? What is shared that draws you closer together? Well, we recognize a very powerful tool that we have, an opportunity we have and that is the truth and it is spiritual and we have a unique bond within the Body because of what God has been pouring out upon us in a very powerful way – but we still have our human nature and there are things we need to grow in and comprehend in a greater way than we ever have.

And so what do we share? What do people share in a family that makes it stronger? Day by day experiences in a physical family? Yes, day by day experiences. But it isn't primarily about the good times that are shared, that work to forge a good marriage. Do you realize that? The primary focus of what builds a marriage is not primarily about the 'good times' when everything is going really well. Those are all good and they can be great fruit, obviously, in your life – but that isn't what 'makes' a marriage, that isn't what 'makes' a family, that isn't what 'makes' *this* Family in the Church of God. If you understand what 'makes' us a Family and what really binds us close together in a greater way you'll have far greater understanding in your own physical lives and your own physical families that go into the Millennium regarding what this is all about and what's exciting and inspiring that the world has really never experienced except to certain degrees within the Church in times past having a taste of it.

When things are 'good' and 'good times' are had that's indeed very good and those are rewarding moments in life that add to the joy of sharing *the work* and *building* that has gone on before. The rewards of life that God gives us in life and within the Church of thing we experience, the enjoyment – it doesn't just happen. There are things you have to *work* at. You have to *work* to build what is being built here. God is working to build the Church by living in our lives. It's an awesome thing that we barely grasp! He works in our life – He sees changes.

One of the most rewarding things that my wife and I have is when we go from area to area and we see people who are not giving up in the fight, but people who are working and responding to God working in their life with the holy spirit in their lives – to submit and yield to that to where they're making changes in their life, to where you can see change in their life – growth in their life. And you know what? We get to share in that! But they don't get there easily! And I don't get there easily! And you don't get there easily! It's by the work you put into it – and *then* when you come together at times in your life and the good things, the meal afterwards and so forth – you share in that – and that's the rewarding part of it all.

Every time someone leaves, every time someone quits working, every time someone quits fighting the battle, quits trying to give and add to the Body of Christ, the Church of God – they quit sharing and I can't share with them anymore and you can't share with them anymore...and it hurts. I've had a lot of

hurt in my life. *I've had a lot of hurt* in my life from that one thing alone. That's why I think of that one song, 'walk to God's house side by side and counsel blended sweet', then all of a sudden something happens and people make a different choice of something different and they go in different directions, they go astray and they quit fighting the spiritual fight and no longer can we walk to God's house side by side, and candidly, what happens is they become an enemy again of Christ, an enemy to the Church. And sometimes... not maliciously so... but sometimes maliciously so because they fight then against the truth, they fight against the Church because it hurts their conscience, it hurts their mind. There are people out there to this day who *hate* (blows my mind), who were a part of Worldwide who *HATE*, whose guts/whose insides are *rotted out*, who are dead spiritually – because they hate Mr. Armstrong. They hate him with all their being, so much so the excitement they receive in their life, the fulfillment they receive in their life is to attack anything they can. They make it their mission. There are people who make it their mission to destroy anything to do with '*Armonstrongism*'; that's what they call it. They can't call it the truth because they have to deceive themselves into believing it's not the truth.

It's the same thing that the demonic world has done. It's the *same mind*. What a sad, sad thing to ever happen. What a sad thing that someone who could once walk to God's house side by side could turn against God, could turn against the Church, could turn against the truth...and yet it's happened by the thousands, by the tens of thousands. And I would say that I have known thousands that I can't walk to God's house side by side any longer with; and those things hurt. Because you see, the joy of life is in the sharing and the things we shared before, because of God living in our lives that you can't share anymore – it hurts.

And so it is all the way through the Church and into the family. And if you can't share the things together by the work you put into it, if someone quits working or won't work at it – what do you have? You have sometimes minds that can actually begin to fight against it because it can turn so inward. Astounds the mind how we can be as human beings sometimes. All we can work on is this though.

I should read a particular letter I received this week about how someone had told someone else about something I mentioned earlier. You have to work on self. And the reality is in any family it takes more than one to do what is right and you work on it together. You work on 1 Corinthians 11:27 and in through there when it talks about examining yourselves – you work on that! Only you can do that, examine yourself before God and cry out to God to guide you, to direct you, to correct you, to help you to see the truths so you know what to repent of so that you can make the changes, to help things come to the surface so you can see things in your mind that you otherwise can't see.

You see, I could tell people right and left, and sometimes tell certain things here and there, about what needs to change but that's not my job as a whole. God doesn't even do that to us all at once. He gives us time. And so we give each other time. Do we give each other time to make changes, to grow, to mature? We're in a Family and we have all different levels within the Family. As long as we're all striving to go in the same direction – *that's* what it's about! It's about the work you put into it and the more work you put into it, you know what? The richer the sharing is, the happier it is and you are building moments that you can then share later on. But you've got to go through some hard times at times; you've got to address some difficult things at times.

In marriage, some of the things that's asked...for better or for poorer – whatever happens in life, whatever struggles. But it's the struggles! Do we not grasp that? In my spiritual life I am today what I am today in the Family of God because of the *hardships*, because of the *work*, because of the *toil that's gone into fighting THIS and yielding to what God wills!* That's what our lives are like! And then the joy

and the sharing then of the good times is what makes it good and what makes it rich and fulfilling. And every one of us has to do the same thing in order to have a better family, don't we?

And that's what God is doing in our lives! And those things go all the way down into the most basic structure of life which is the physical family and it starts with a husband and a wife – and that's why it's so precious to God the things He has said over and over again about marriage and about husbands and wives – because that's the beginning, that's where you're trained, that's where you're able to learn things on a spiritual plane that can't be taught in other places of life many times in a far greater way.

And if you don't learn it yourself, you're able to see it in other's lives and you're able to learn it within the Church of God as well, whatever that is.

And so again, what is shared are day to day experiences; and the good times are great and they're rewarding, but you have to have difficult times and struggles to get there. It's what you build; it's what you work on. When there are good times they're good times and those are rewarding moments in life that add to the joy of sharing the work and building that goes before.

The analogy is like a building, literally construction. There's a difference between building and buying a house in life. There's a big difference. Now, both are good if you're able to go out and buy a house (of course I don't know about that in today's economy), if you're able to come to a point in life. My wife and I, when we first got married, truly believed that we'd never have a house in this age. That's what we believed! And when we got in the first one there in the Houston area in a third tithe year we were dumbfounded by what doors opened up and what I couldn't put on paper that worked out for us and job wise and everything else that came together and into place. It was a very rewarding experience. It was exciting being able to have our own place that we could do our own things with and not be in an apartment. There's a difference between that which is an apartment with other people who are around you and the noise level you sometimes have to put up with in life to get where you're going; and we lived in many apartments. And after a time we had a home.

And then finally we had the opportunity to have a home built, seeing it completed from scratch. And there was a big difference in something that I was able to learn and grasp and glean from much of that. It's very powerful. It's the joy. It's like anything you build and work on; I don't care if it's on your job or whatever it is, something that is lost a lot in today's world in society is the enjoyment of your work by building something. You know when you work at something hard and all of a sudden it's there and you're able to see it? Now, this can happen in many different ways with different kinds of jobs and so forth, but finally when it all comes together – the reward, the enjoyment; and if others are involved in the same thing – the shared enjoyment.

And so, like in a family, it's one thing to buy a house - we were able to enjoy that together in our marriage; but when we built it we shared more. We shared in some of the work that went into it and so when it was all done the reward of the work that went into it is very much what marriage is like. There are things you address sometimes that are difficult in life, whether they have to do with finances or whatever it is in the world around you, or things that happen in the Church and things that you share in life; and you share these struggles together and you form a bond together that is very powerful. And *then* the other things you share are the rewards, the blessings and the enjoyment of all. But you don't get there without hard work.

*There is nothing* in this life about getting from here to there, to becoming a part of God's Family, is going to happen without a lot of hard work! And it makes it really hard when you understand that you're fighting this (self), when you're fighting against your own being, when you're fighting against your own selfishness because that selfishness has to turn into unselfishness. That taking and getting and pulling in has to turn to become that which is spiritual to giving – because that's God's way of life! Giving! Because the true sharing comes in the giving, it truly does. The true sharing of life comes from that kind of a mind, the mind of Ephesians 5:21 when you understand it in our relationships with one another.

I can't give that to you. I can tell you about verse 21 today – you're going to understand it to varying degrees depending on how long you've been in God's Church, the power of God's spirit that's at work in your life and where you are...something you'll learn more of as time goes along and as you go into the Millennial period, you'll come to learn it and understand it in a deeper way, in a more exciting way as time goes forward.

I can't help but think of people who've left, who were in this region here in the Detroit/Toledo area, who can't share in this today. It's going to be enjoyable today to share in the excitement of all the new people that are here. Another person that I was able to meet today that I haven't met before – continues to happen from area to area. It's exciting, it's inspiring; and I think they can't share in the enjoyment of that today and all the hard work and all the battles we had to go through. And I think of Terry Wrozek and different ones; that we were able to spend some time with Anne and himself last night in talking to them and I think about the regions that we're in when these things happened and the struggles we had together. But we have a bond of something that is akin to marriage, if you understand it. We shared in some incredible battles together that's made us more at one, that's given us a bond of something that doesn't just happen normally in life because you're in the Church of God – it's gone through time.

My wife and I have gone through things together for a long period of time, before we said, "I do." ...of things we've shared together, of struggles and battles. And that's what life is about. It's about the work you put into it. It's about what you're building and your willingness to do those things and to give and to help and to serve: God's way.

So sometimes we get some wrong concepts about family and about government and I think of the Church. I can't help but when I speak in a sermon like this to think about the Church and people who recognized service as authority. It was never meant to be that. Deacons, deaconesses, elders, bands around the arm so you can *know* "I am a deacon, watch how you drive." Government is not about the rule over people, it's not about your power of *authority*! My service as a prophet, my service as an *apostle*, where God has brought me to today is not about *power of authority*! *And I hate it when I have to use it because that usually means there's something not good in the Body somewhere* that has to be dealt with that I *really don't want to have to deal with in the first place*! Like sometimes in families when they come home, they don't want to have to *deal with* certain things that happen at home. But you have to for the sake of the home. There are things sometimes where your nature just doesn't want to have to address because you've had a hard day already, it's been a *hard week*; and then you have to deal with something. Yes, you better deal with it, you better strive to deal with it God's way and not shirk your responsibility – because if you let it go it just gets worse and festers and then after a time... that's why it says a little leaven leavens the whole lump. It's like a cancer of things that can happen within the Church.

That's why I don't hesitate when things get to a certain point to address it quickly, speedily; because my spirit, my mind in receiving from God is if the Body isn't going to be *infected* to the point of taking people away and hurting people and destroying people; but it's also one of God that is merciful and patient and gives time and see's change and growth as people respond to God's spirit. But when they'll no longer respond there's only one place to go – it's out the door. Sayonara, auf wiedersehen, dos vedanya, and, "May I help you along?" because the Body shouldn't be hurt!

So how protective are you of your own family? ... of doing what's right before God in building a marriage and building a home and building relationships and giving and serving and getting away from some of this (I'd like to call it what I feel about it, but can't because it would offend some people; starts with a 'c' and ends in a 'p'), that I see in this 'macho' world of males and how women are treated.

I am *so glad we're almost past this!* I am *so thankful!* I think of societies and peoples in different parts of the world and I see the *oppression* that takes place and I'm *sickened* by it and I hope you're sickened by it! And the more you're *sickened* by it the more you'll fight against it in your own life and in your own mind. And that's why, men, whether you understand it or not, your mind has received, has been a part of this world and it hasn't been fully gotten rid of yet. And so we're at varying levels even within the Church of God. And *thank God* He's letting us get a big ole shovel to get some of that 'c' to 'p' stuff out of our lives! Truly! ...and clean it up! Clean up our minds, clean up your lives!

There should be *no prejudice* in *anybody's mind* about *anything* toward *anybody anywhere in the world!* You talk about prejudice and yet it's filled through this world and how people treat each other. The news I was reading this morning about different areas of the world, of some that are thinking about different hotspots in the world – prejudice, prejudice, prejudice of people in their own nations and how people think about each other. And different parties! I'm so sick and tired of hearing democrats and republicans tear each other down – *constantly!* You go to FOX – blabity, blah, blah, blah, blah, about the democrats. You go to a democrat station (which most of the rest are), and its blabity, blah, blah, blah about the republicans. *Give me a break!* Nobody has the answers! Nobody can solve our problems! And yet there's this bitter hatred that people have because of politics and what it does to people. It hurts people's lives!

I think of 'United [COG-AIA]' today. This is an organization that I was a part of for a time, and most of you who were a part with us were a part at one time – now they have another organization that split off, 'Church of God – a Worldwide Association', and people are hurting. People are hurting! Talk about a 50/50 split! And you think this just goes on and on and on – hurt in people's lives, prejudice in people's lives. Until God's way of life finally fills this earth that's the only answer to it all – even within the scattered churches of God. How much more this sick, fouled up, perverted world where *nothing* is of God? No government! *No government* is of God save God's Church.

So again, what kind of work goes into life that should be shared when it comes to building a good relationship in marriage? You have to look at that in your own life; what kind of work? I think about things like that; what kind of work? Think about it on the job – it's easy to see the kind of work that's there. What kind of work is there in a marriage? What kinds of things are there that you do together that you can share in? What kind of things... there's some basic, simple things sometimes in what is done and so forth? Life is just about sharing. It's about sharing, it's about *enjoying* one another, it's about growing with one another, it's about sharing with your family when you're able to add to that family then – teaching them God's way of life and sharing in those things and guiding and directing and helping people to understand. And so again, think about it in the context of a family.

When I think about things like this I couldn't help but think about some of the things in our life early on. We were talking about it today (I think it was today), we were talking about as we were driving up here going through Toledo. She has difficulty sometimes (speaking of my wife), with directions and some dyslexia and so forth; and that really hurts you when you're trying to go left or right or try to figure out directions and so forth. She was talking about the Toledo area and how that early on when she was doing various things with a particular company in that area there, when we didn't know where things were going within the Church and so forth and how she took on some part-time work around there and she had to drive around different areas of Toledo. She talked about how hard it was and now, she said, now it seems so clear to her. We've been away for quite a while, but now those areas are very clear because of what she had to go through.

I said, yeah, it reminds me of the time you were in Houston at age 20 and going out to find a job. Left me at work at my job; because so often in marriage what you have to do is both people have to work in this world to make ends meet and it's hard. And especially now in this age it's even harder because of the way the economy is and so forth and so we talked about the time that came up to the point where she was about to give birth to our daughter who was born in Houston, and she was still going to work and she didn't look very big at that point with where she was and her people at work there were really astounded when they found out how really far along she was because they tried to train different people to take her place and they would quit; and I guess it wasn't the kind of job anybody wanted. 😊 It was in accounting at a car dealership there.

Anyway, all these memories of things you share together. To this day I have fond feelings and memories about her willingness at that age to go out and drive in a huge city like that knowing the battle she has with driving and directions. I wasn't sure if I was going to see her that night. 😊 But we had to do it because I had to work, I had a job, I had to be there. We had to have money coming in to grow and to build a family. And so we shared this together.

I remember that day when she finally went to the hospital; because we shared certain things I had to go down and start doing the washing very early in the morning. She was having labour pains. We *knew* what they were, but we didn't know how close it really was. And I thought she was going to be making a lot more noise when it was time to go to the hospital and so I thought I had plenty of time to do the wash. And she remembers that, see, about a willingness to do the washing and the drying of the clothes and so forth when she really should have been in a hospital and which we did take her immediately after the washing was through. But it's all these little things in life that you do together, you work together – various things that husbands sometimes think they don't have to do and when they should do it to give to the marriage.

I have a German mind in how certain things have to be a certain way. I know it's mixed with Israelite too so I'm a real hodgepodge. And so I have all this mixture in my past and yet this German part is really strong...of how things have to be 'just so-so', so from the very beginning when we first got married, I've made the bed because I'm happier with the way it looks when I'm done and she's happier too. Little things you do together – no offense taken, no competition – it's just sharing of different things you do together.

And so every one of you in your marriages – it isn't about government in the sense of authority, it's about sharing and building and working together. And that means sharing your work and everything else you do together in life. What's wrong with equal proportions? You know, we live in a society, in a

world where I have known of in the Church of God, where when both husband and wife had been working you know what is expected when the wife gets home at night? To fix the meals and to clean the house on the weekend, or during the nights or whatever because the husband was too *lazy* to get off his you know what to help out. And those things have been appalling to me in God's Church, that a marriage should ever be like that. Have any of you ever known of people in the world around you where that happens, where because of society and because of the world that both the husband and wife work but all of a sudden (and they put in the same amount of time at work), but the wife is supposed to come home and do all the work and take care of the children and do the washing and do the drying and do the ironing and do the dishes and do the cooking? *Where is the SHARING in that kind of a mindset? I have no patience for that kind of a mind, personally, I think it's disgusting and totally repulsive...and horribly prejudice and unjust before God! That's changing! That's changing as we enter into a new age because that's oppression and it's perversion and it hurts the mind.*

So if any of that exists in the Church of God today now's your chance to start applying some *great changes* in your life and to *learn* where the real joy in life comes from – the hard work you put into sharing and those memories that are there, like I mentioned earlier, just in the beginning and start of our lives together as husband and wife. All those things have made us what we are, has made the team what it is. You are a *team!* You become a team *in life!* What is more rich and more enjoyable than that? That you get to share in everything.

And sometimes we talk about how we get to share to the very end and maybe not as excited about that; but we laugh about that too because we've shared everything together. That's what marriage is about and people *rob* themselves of that because they don't share, they don't share the work, they don't share what it takes to build it and to make it together. Those are the things that give you the fullness and the enjoyment of life – truly does. It's not the physical things you do together in life that make it; it's all these things that have made it what it is.

It's all the things that have made me what I am today and it's been work. God's had a lot of work to get me to where I am today. I'm amazed at His patience; I'm *in awe* of His patience; I'm in awe of His mercy! And that's helped me to learn to be patient and merciful to others where I otherwise wouldn't be able to be to the same level if I hadn't experienced those things from God. And that's how God works in your life, isn't it? Awesome what takes place in our lives!

So, government is changing even within the structure of the family, and that's been the purpose of this two part series here today, to drive the point home and to give family a bit of a prodding so in the Millennium people will understand. The wife may be ordained at any moment in time in life and when it comes to God's Government in the family – *she* will be the head. *That's God's Government* because it's spiritually in the structure of what God gives. God gave a certain structure for 2,000 years because of the way the world was and because of what would work expediently within the environment of the Church, in a scattered church, and people scattered as they were and so forth; but as time has gone along too, and because of God's desire to indeed have that curse removed and the prejudices to cease and for family to truly become so strong, *so much stronger* - this is where we are in time. And to me it's exciting, inspiring!

And so I think the best example...that one of the *best examples* I can give you of the way verse 21 works (Ephesians 5:21), you know what it is within the Church? It's when both a husband and a wife have been ordained to the same office – associate elder, an elder. You know why? Do you understand why? Maybe it'd be good to think about some of that. What's the purpose of government? Why is it there?

And by that time, for two to have grown spiritually to a point in time where God has chosen – and sometimes it isn't a matter of spiritual... in a situation like that in a family (don't misunderstand me), I guess this is a better way of saying it... it's not a matter of spiritual, where a person is spiritually in the relationship with God – it's just that God has a purpose in why He moulds and fashions us to the different positions of responsibility in life and they're not all within the structure of the ministry. That's why in a new age there are going to be other structures of things that are important to God in what He's building upon that have to do with matters of government or things being administered in the world and how they are administered; and within whatever it might be – a matter of business structures and so forth in the world. It's a matter of how God is going to work through everything in the world.

And so everybody is not going to be in the same place in what they do; but the point being is that the epitome of something that's to work spiritually – that if both people have yielded themselves to God and are yielding themselves to God it's not a matter of authority and they know it. It's not a matter of who's over whom. Government is never about that. We need to get rid of those kinds of concepts - out of our mind - that it's a matter of authority, of being over people, of exercising authority, of telling people how to do or what to do or... it's not about that! The only time government ever has to be used in the Church is when things aren't going according to God's law, as a whole, if you understand. Make sense?

And I hope you understand how beautiful all this is, it truly is; because it's a great freedom that's being given to us, the ability to no longer ever again in God's Church with what began to come into the end of Philadelphia and all the way into Laodicea as it did...this thing of authority, of somehow thinking that's what God's Government is about. You don't read that in the Bible. It's not about that! It's that which is understood...

God the Father is always going to be God the Father, He's always going to be over everything. I understand Jesus Christ is under Him – *always* going to be under Him. There's no jealousy, there's no competition! It's beautiful! And then whatever structure through the 144,000 that's there? We're going to see it, we're going to understand on the earth, it's going to be a beautiful thing because it's about a Family, how a Family functions! And it's not going to be about who has authority over someone else; it's just how we function, it's how we live...without prejudice, without jealousy, without envy, without competition. All those things are wrong! And in the spiritual Family that's not even in the equation.

That's why when two people have come to a point in time where God has a particular job for them and both of them are made (or whatever it is), in the same ordination – it's a beautiful thing, truly is, because it reflects something that should be spiritually in everybody's life – *everyone's* life – if you understand.

Don't think it can be said any clearer. The excitement about a change in everything from top to bottom and how God is doing things in our lives and where we are in time and what's getting ready to take place in a new age and getting rid of all the things that bring about suffering and pain and heartache. And it's always had to do with pride, authority, pride, competition, jealousy, envy...all those things that should never be in the home, in the family. It's a beautiful thing when you live God's way of life.

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