

Today we're continuing in a new series *Teachings – Topics* with this being *Part 2*.

It is about our teachings. We're used to it being on the site there as the *Topics* section, so I've kept both names in there. Also, I thought I'd mention if I get through all these today, that will be the end of this current two-part series because the latter part is still being edited. I'm still working on it, going through it, and streamlining some of the things in it, deciding what to put in, what not to put in.

Also, these are not fully complete because there will probably be some more that will be added in time here. But as far as the primary ones, these are the ones we're opening with or beginning with and felt that it'd be very good for all of us just to go through these together in the format of a sermon, a sermon series. And when the others are completed then I'll continue on probably with another title like *More Teachings and Topics*, something along those lines.

But this will be the one today. Hopefully, I'll make it through. And if not, I'll just save it for the next time when I do start the other series.

Today we're beginning... I don't really know which one we ended with but anyway, today we're in the "d's." This is "Dinosaurs." Of all the stupid things to have you'd think, maybe. Maybe you'd think that. But I'll take you back to a little bit of a story. First time we had a visit from a minister up in Nebraska, he came down to visit us.

At that particular time, my dad and I hadn't even communicated in the sense of he'd told me about when I came home (and I've given this story many times) about ten o'clock at night, sat down at a table and he started talking about God, started talking about the Sabbath, started talking about the *U.S. and B.C. in Prophecy* and the migrations of the people of Israel. And as I have mentioned those things in the past, I knew it was true. How can you explain things like that when you have something in your mind and God just lets you know it's true? It wasn't a matter of trying to study or research it on my own because you can't. If it's the truth and it comes from God, God has to give it.

And so, having had that experience there, that was incredible because I had never heard him speak about God except in a bad way in times past so he had my attention in that respect, and I listened intently, and especially as we got into it wanted to know more. So, started reading some of his literature. I started writing off for other questions. And at that time there you'd have to write off a question, what your questions were, and they would send you some booklet or some pamphlet or something to answer them. And you might wait a while to get them.

But we would look at each other's stuff and read it but never talked to each other about it at all from that point on. I came to a point where I wanted to be baptized. He had sent in a letter, we both had, and

so the minister called us and told us since both of us had written in (which we didn't know), that he was coming down, or they were coming down to visit us.

One of my last questions that I asked after hearing everything else [was,] "What about the dinosaurs?" Now, you might think that sounds a little crazy but grew up in an area where (I had mentioned in times past), we would go down into some lower areas where you could see where the shelf of the ocean was up higher and then where some of these areas were where water had swirled around and had certain formations, and we'd go out there, especially after a rain, and collect sharks teeth – in Kansas, the middle of the United States.

So anyway, started explaining and it was like, "That's it. No more questions." Because who knew of a ... No one else taught that, that Satan, there was a great rebellion and what he did to the earth, and everything was destroyed and all life on it and then much later than the six-day creation week... Well, the seven, because He rested.

But again here, "Dinosaurs." So, some people would have an interest in it. Because in my mind growing up I had always... I'd gotten to the point in high school and on thinking that if there is a God then He must have used evolution, the process of evolution to create everything. Because the human mind can only think of physical things. You have to have physical reasoning of some sort so it's like you can't grasp and comprehend God, so you try to bring something in that's physical as well. Anyway, glad that was put to rest.

Dinosaurs: God created the universe and the earth millions of years ago. Dinosaurs, along with other plant life, were also created on the earth at that time. God placed the earth and its care under the rule of a spirit being named Lucifer. When Lucifer rebelled against his Creator his name was changed to Satan, and he led a rebellion involving a third of the angelic realm.

Still incredible to understand those things and what God has given us to understand even more deeply now.

As a result, all physical life including the dinosaurs were destroyed. The bones of those dinosaurs have been found across the earth and are dated to be millions of years old.

Again, things we can't grasp. I can't grasp millions of years. I can barely get my mind around six thousand years of man being on earth. But going beyond that, farther away into millions of years, we can't grasp it. Our minds are limited, they really are. We can believe it. We can see there is something there and understand it to a point, but to really grasp it and see it, we're very limited.

So again here, this subject matter of what happened in the very beginning and as far as the earth was concerned and then God coming along and doing what He did in refashioning and remolding. To me, it's an inspiring thing too when you can read Genesis, because the world doesn't understand. But when you can read Genesis and see from the very beginning there, "Oh yeah, it's speaking in a context it was

already here. He did various things, separated... and the light to come through and so forth,” and it’s like, “Well, oh yeah, the sun was already there.” And it doesn’t talk about creating the sun and the universe or anything else, it’s just a matter of remolding the earth, refashioning the earth so life could be put on it again.

And to me, I find those things exciting. The more knowledge you have, the more understanding you have, the more exciting God’s truth and God’s way of life becomes. And of course, these things should happen to us very early on.

I also think of how the world is. Doesn’t even think. What do people think about this? How do people think about this in what is called traditional Christianity? I think of that ark that’s built that’s not too far from us. It’s a couple exits down I think from where we live there in Kentucky. And some of you have gone there to see that, that massive structure.

But they also have inside of it some dinosaurs. It’s like they saved some. Okay. I didn’t even want to know the rest of their story because it’s like, duh! But they can’t understand. They don’t know the process and what took place and why. Anyway, it’s like they had some baby dinosaurs on there to save them. What happened to them later on, like I said, I don’t even care to hear their story.

Another one here. “Dreams and Visions” Now, even in God’s Church it’s important to understand this. It’s important to understand what is said here because we’ve had, to me, far too many people who have had things happen in their life and they read something into it, begin to think that God is working with them in a special way of some sort. And that’s why something like this is written in the manner that it is.

God worked in different ways with people in different times. And in the Old Testament especially we should be able to comprehend that and understand that even more so. Because there wasn’t an established Church. For the past two thousand years there is no purpose of things like this as a whole. John was the last one in that respect that had to be worked with in a certain manner on the Isle of Patmos because God gave Him a vision, whatever that was or however that worked in His mind to be able to see the things he was to write about. But he didn’t understand what was written. But he wrote what was given to him to write, in that respect.

So, under this subject:

Dreams and Visions: The Bible reveals that in times past, servants of God were given visions and dreams for specific reasons and to convey special messages.

So, we can think of Jacob’s ladder, different things that have happened with dreams and so forth that God was working with. We can think... There are so many examples in the Old Testament especially.

Today, God speaks to His people through the Bible and His true ministry.

In other words through what has been preserved, and then that is taken, and God gives that then, the will, the purpose of what God wrote, the interpretation, if you will, because that's what it's about. That's what the word "prophet" has to do with in that respect, even in modern time. But it's about conveying or foretelling God's purpose, God's will, whatever, and it's a matter of showing then, as it says here, those things that are carried through the ministry.

Sometimes, Satan can cause dreams, visions, or emotional sensations in people.

It's a horrible thing but he's done that. Demons have done those things. We can read of some of those examples in the New Testament of demons and their perverted minds. But these kinds of things have happened in times past in the environment of the Church as well. And again here, Satan and/or demons if you will, can cause various things in the sense of the mind and people can have emotional sensations. I think of people who "speak in tongues," what they call "speaking in tongues," and sometimes just total gibberish, but they come under a kind of spell. It's horrible, the human mind, what can happen to it.

So, sometimes this can happen when people feel like they're being given something, and they can read something into it that is not true. Don't know where it's coming from. They don't grasp where it's coming from. God does not work in that fashion in the Church today. He hasn't during the time of Herbert Armstrong. Loma talked about a couple dreams she had at one time. Whether they were important or not or just dreams, most likely just dreams.

Because of the things we sometimes dream about, I don't know about you, but surely you have dreams. I think of some things. Sometimes I don't know what's going on in a dog's mind but sometimes you can see them all of a sudden it's like they're running but they're asleep. So, the mind is an amazing thing whether it be in the animal kingdom, whether it be human beings. But again, this matter of seeing things in the sense of dreams and actually visualizing them in our thinking, they happen.

But just because certain things happen in our lives...? You may have watched a movie, and there may be something comes into your mind that night that had to do with the movie you saw. Something else in your life, that's happening in your life, and it may spur certain things. We don't understand them. We really don't grasp what takes place or why. You can't decide what you're going to dream about, I hope, and so these things just happen.

But to start reading into them, especially if it has to do with the Church or has to do with something you've been thinking about as far as God's plan, there is incredible danger in that, and I've known of too many people who have gone astray because of those kinds of things. And anyway, because too much begins to be read into it and not understanding or accepting what is given in counsel, "No," or in a sermon like this, "No, if anything happens to you pray about it, ask God to rebuke it, get rid of it because it's not of God." God isn't working that way today. That's just a simple, absolute truth, okay?

So, going on:

Today, God speaks to His people through the Bible and His true ministry.

Sometimes Satan can cause dreams, visions, or emotional sensations in people. However, as one strives to live in a right relationship with God, neither Satan nor the demonic world can have harmful influence or control over their life.

They may still be able to broadcast at you and certain things may happen, but again, you can pray about those things when you know this isn't sound, this isn't good, this isn't right, the source cannot be God Almighty because it doesn't agree with the truth we've been given. And that's how you discern the difference in those things, and you can pray to God then about rebuking them.

I've known of experiences, especially in the beginning of my calling, that I cried out to God for help to rebuke what was taking place. And He does. It's amazing! God will take care of and protect and help you. And the more you learn, the more you understand, the more you grow spiritually the more that power has no power over you whatsoever anyway. But they still can broadcast to your mind.

There are times that you can have something so strong in your mind that is not right and you just pray to God, "This isn't right. I don't want it in my mind. I don't know whether it be something that's being broadcast to me or what, but I pray..." You pray for help for God to rebuke it, to get rid of it. You want to think right and be right in your mind. God will bless you in those things because you want to be right with God.

When someone has a dream, they should not try to read any special meaning into it, as dreams are a common part of sleep. God teaches His way and truths through His true ministry and reveals the truth to a person's mind by the power of the holy spirit as they hear or read what has been given through His true ministers. God does not work outside the organization and government of His Church to give visions or dreams to people. This even includes those who might be in God's Church but are not part of His government or ministry.

So again, wisdom, caution, and soundness of mind that God has given to His Church.

The next one here:

Easter Vs. Passover: The controversy of Easter vs. Passover came to a head in 325 AD at the Council of Nicaea.

Now, this boggles my mind. God has given so much truth in the end of this age. Just the fact that things are there that you can go to the internet and see for yourself, that people can prove for themselves and see for themselves. It's almost like a point here in time that God is pouring out so much knowledge for those who come across it that they're without excuse.

We're at that verge. In the Millennium, do you think people are going to be without excuse? Absolutely. But God is going to begin pouring out His spirit more on the earth, obviously, and more and more as time

goes along there. And as Herbert Armstrong used to say (which I love), it's going to take three to four generations for things to get mostly cleansed, if you will, in the sense of things that are false and truth being out there.

But there comes a time when we become more accountable for what we know up here. And we can see those things in the Old Testament where there were people who knew what God was doing. I think of the woman in Jericho. She believed that there was a God, that she feared, so much so that she was going to hide two spies. Because Israel was getting ready to come into the land and she believed what was going to take... She believed what they had to say.

And you think, what an incredible thing, out of the whole city that someone was there that believed that there was a God and God was doing this. Now, not that they understand like we do through the power of the holy spirit. But to begin to see certain things? It doesn't take a rocket scientist to understand that Christmas is a bunch of hooey, that Christ wasn't born anywhere near December. That's just knowledge. Those things are out there; people can find those things They can find the origin of Halloween, whatever it is. It's all out there!

But it's not important to people. It's like, "Oh, what's the harm in giving presents? And we honor Christ, don't we, by doing it, so what's the harm?" So, people have to justify in their minds.

But the point being is, I hope we grasp that there is knowledge out there. I think of one minister in the world—I don't even know if he's alive anymore—but after a time he began to acknowledge things about Christ and three days and three nights. Now, the rest of the world didn't. And he had a big name, people would know it. And yet, where did he get that? Well, he heard it a lot. People paid a lot of attention. They wrote books against it. They wrote pamphlets against it, some of these organizations did, against Herbert Armstrong and against the Church of God, and against the teachings of the Church.

And yet, he finally came to a point where he had to acknowledge because it's there. It's really not a hard thing to go in... Not that you "see" it on a spiritual plane, not that you're being called by God. But to be able to see what it says and to acknowledge that?

I think of that one Jewish Rabbi who was contacting us for a time, and he threw out some of his credentials, which were pretty impressive, his lineage and his father and so forth who was buried in Jerusalem in a certain place. And you don't get buried there unless you're... Anyway. He was talking about how he was, in essence (just streamlining this), somewhat conflicted and was wanting to talk about "*bane ha erebyim*," "between the two evenings." He was seeing some of it and he had to acknowledge certain parts of it.

But he dropped by the wayside after a time because he would have to make a choice and a decision what he was going to do with that knowledge. Amazing.

So, my point being is with all these things out there now, and more and more that continue to be given, that God has given, as people come across those things... And how much more for anyone who sits in Sabbath services week by week to be able to prove certain things by knowledge? Doesn't have to be a matter of God's spirit, I'm just talking about knowledge that's there. Here is one of them, Easter vs. Passover. It isn't hard to go back and begin to realize...

I mean, what happens in the mind that we choose not to honor what we have believed or do believe when we were called or when we were baptized about God? What do we believe? Even just on a physical plane what do we believe? It's hard for me sometimes, for people to come to a point where you see they don't know what they believe. "Well, what do you mean by that? Do you believe in God? Do you believe that there is a Creator? Do you believe the history of things that have happened in the world in traditional Christianity and what the Catholic Church did in 325 AD that's written out there? That's all over the internet if you start looking, these different kinds of things of knowledge just on a physical plane.

And if God exists, where is He? What does He...? What is He teaching to anyone in the world? It doesn't take long to cross off a whole bunch of people, a whole bunch of organizations. The Sabbath and Sunday, Passover and Easter? This isn't rocket science. It's a matter of whether we believe there is a God.

Now, to be called and have God's spirit and receive of God's spirit to be a part of His Church is another matter. We understand that. But just on a physical plane itself. So, in the Millennium, is there going to be excuse for people? Well, obviously, God is going to offer His spirit at that time but there are going to be people who still won't accept, won't believe what's right in front of them. It's choices.

Anyway, I don't want to get ahead of myself in some of this. Going through some of the sermons for the Feast, it's hard not to get into them. That's the bad thing about preparing them ahead of time. But they have to be because the notes need to be given so they can be translated in some cases so people can at least follow the notes in different languages and so the first sermons have to be prerecorded so they have them in Australia, New Zealand, and now Europe, because going to be over here this year.

So, here I hope you understand what I'm saying. What do we believe? And it comes back to whether we really believe there is a God. And from that, where do you take it? So, when I hear something like that, "I don't know what I believe. I don't know what to believe." I think, well, you have a responsibility. If there is a God, I don't care who you are, you've got to know certain things you really are convicted of and you believe. Do you believe whatever it might be, here, Passover, that Christ was our Passover, what God says about that? Anyway.

And then... Some of this stuff really bothers me sometimes. I just get so frustrated. Choices people make and knowing, because God has revealed it a long time ago, that all the way up to the time Christ returns there'll be people who turn away from the truth. Frustrating. In so many cases, without excuse.

The controversy of Easter vs. Passover came to a head in 325 AD at the Council of Nicaea. This council, called and presided over by the Roman Emperor, Constantine, outlawed the Passover observance [It's out there.] that is commanded by God in the Old Testament scriptures within the Roman Empire. Instead, Easter was established as the focal point of the new state religion, replacing Passover. Even the day of Christ's resurrection was set to this new holiday of Easter.

Sunday morning worship. That's why. It comes from the ideas of Easter and the sun rising and worshipping the sun and all the stupid, blind, backward, demonic things that mankind has embraced because they won't accept God as being our Creator.

Nowhere in scripture is the name Easter mentioned or given as a time to be observed by God's people.

I remember getting an email a long time ago in the very beginning when someone was listening and "Oh, yes it is! It's in the King James Bible. It says Easter in this verse." And they had no idea that the translators put that in there knowing full well it was the same word for Passover you find in other places in the Greek, in the Greek language. So, no, it's not in the Bible.

But Passover is. You may find the word "Easter" in your bible translation, however this is actually a false translation from the Greek. The correct translation is "Passover."

You think about some of these people who did some of these things early on, the things they changed, especially that church and the things they changed. Especially, when they started translating into Latin and other things, and they'd come up with their own beliefs and ideas and mixtures of things. And it was a powerful thing that Satan did, truly was. You talk about deception, the master of it. Going on:

For hundreds of years up to the time of Christ, the nation of Judah observed the annual commanded assembly of Passover in the springtime, on the 14th day of their first month known as Abib or Nissan. Christ and his disciples kept this observance on the last day of his physical life on earth, the very day he was put to death.

This observance began when the children of Israel were enslaved...

Just that alone. Just by knowledge alone, to understand the day, to understand what he did. That's why there is such condemnation to the Jewish people. Because they rejected that. So much so they changed certain things. They started focusing on the 15th because they didn't want to be aligned with what the Church began to teach early on. And so, their teachers began to change certain things as time went along, purposely so, to deceive, to keep people in the dark because, "We can't in any fashion or form acknowledge that he died on Passover, that he might be the one, that he was the Passover, that he fulfills certain things."

This observance began when the children of Israel were enslaved in Egypt, and God chose a specific time to free them from captivity. God fulfills prophetic events in a meticulous, exacting, and precise manner. The Bible states that God fulfilled this event in just such a manner.

Though we don't know it, God gave us some timing after the Apostasy to know specific periods of time. And all those things that have been written in the past that led up to 2012 are powerful, they truly are. They are very specific. What has happened since then, God hasn't revealed, don't know it. But when it's all said and done, and we come down to the end of all this, you're going to find that there was a specific pattern that followed as well, and it happened exactly when God determined it would. That's the way it's going to turn out, just as it did here.

The Bible states that God fulfilled this event in just such a manner. "Then it came to pass at the end of four hundred and thirty years—**even the selfsame day**..."

Now, I don't know fully what that four hundred and thirty is all about but there is importance in it because God is meticulous. Everything He designs, everything He did, everything He does is meticulous. Awesome! Exact, perfect in all His ways.

"... **even the selfsame day** it came to pass that all the hosts of the Eternal went out of the land of Egypt." (Exodus 12:41)

Christ and his disciples also kept the commanded observance of Passover when the lamb was killed, roasted, and eaten. The symbolism was about Christ himself, who would come into the world to fulfill the first great phase of God's plan for the salvation of mankind. Christ came as the Lamb of God to fulfill the role of Passover...

What beautiful examples! I mean, everything that God gives. The eating of unleavened bread for seven days. Everything, it's beautiful. Physical things that God has given to represent things we're to learn from. Awesome! Truly awesome, these things are. And just like this here, "the Lamb of God" and what they were told to do then year by year by year that was about Christ. Awesome!

— to have his blood spilled upon the earth as he was killed to fulfill His role as the true Passover for all mankind.

After the original disciples were chosen to be apostles and sent to the Israelites Christ later chose another apostle, Paul, whose primary work was to take God's truth to foreigners. Here is what Paul wrote. "Thoroughly clean out the old leaven [yeast] so that you may be a new lump of dough, even as you are already unleavened..." (1 Corinthians 5:7-8)

So, we understand what that means in the sense of the homes being unleavened on a physical plane, knowing that we're always going to have leaven in our life. As physical human beings, we always have to ask God for forgiveness of sin because of that which happens in the human mind. We are selfish by

nature. It has to be... We have to be in that fight to the very end striving to do what is right but still having sin in our life, but being able to go before God and receive forgiveness.

So, it says:

“...even as you are already unleavened [homes were unleavened—yeast and leavened products were removed]. For even Christ, our Passover, is killed for us.”

Very specific: “Christ our Passover was killed for us.”

“... Therefore, **let us keep the Feast...**”

Verses like this, I marvel at, because those who teach in the world of traditional Christianity, they see this, a verse like this, they don't like it. They don't even want to talk about it. Why? Because it's telling you should be doing something. “What do you mean ‘keep the Feast?’” The Feast of Easter? Doesn't fit. Talking about Passover. Talking about Unleavened Bread.

And the world is so far from God today. Traditional Christianity doesn't go into the Old Testament as a whole; they don't go in and study the things that took place as a whole. Now, some do. But most don't. They have no comprehension of what the Feast of Unleavened Bread is. The Feast of Weeks? The Feast of Tabernacles. The Feast of Booths. And on and on it goes.

But here it says, “Let us keep the Feast.” Long... So, they try to say the law was done away as soon as Christ died and resurrected. And yet all this time later when Corinthians was written, talking about in the 50s, and here he is telling them about Passover and what we're doing, speaking of the Church, and focusing on this period of time, and telling people, “Let us keep the Feast.” Seems pretty clear just on a physical plane without God's spirit. But they can't accept it.

Just like the individual, Jewish Rabbi, that couldn't accept *bane ha erebyim*. He might have accepted *bane ha erebyim*, but to teach what it really means, to teach what it's all about, he couldn't because theirs is the fifteenth. So, he had to make a choice just up here just on a physical plane to reject what was true. That's the way the world is.

“...**let us keep the Feast**. Not with old leaven...”

Because we... We're told this year after year. We learn very early on the Feast of Unleavened Bread and what it's all about. All the symbolism that's there, it's beautiful. It's so clear to see.

“...neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness...”

Again, beautiful, because it shows this is what... Leaven puffs up. The leaven of malice and wickedness, of evil.

“...but with the unleavened *bread* of sincerity and **truth**” (1 Corinthians 5:7-8).

What God desires in all of us, sincerity and truth. And that's a battle for human nature, to be sincere, to be truthful in all aspects of one's life.

Those in traditional Christianity have little grasp of what Paul is saying here because they have never been taught about it by their preachers and teachers. Instead, many teachers use these verses to support the false premise that God's law was done away with through Christ and the New Testament, and that obedience to the observance of the 7th day Sabbath (the day after the 6th day, Friday)...

Because in Europe and South America and different places you say the Sabbath, and because their calendar is different Sunday is the seventh day. So, you've got to be specific about it's the... We're talking about the day that follows Friday, so look on different calendars.

...the 7th day (the day after the 6th day, Friday) was no longer required after Christ's death and resurrection.

These verses, and those preceding and following them, were written over 20 years after the death of Christ. They clearly reveal that the Church still observed the commandment to observe the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread, which lasted for seven days after the Passover.

Paul emphasized the importance of keeping the annual Holy Days that immediately follow the Passover day. He not only spoke of the importance of their observance but also explained their spiritual intent and meaning. Again, he stated, "**Therefore let us keep the Feast.**"

So anyway. The next one, "Fellowship in God's Church." Now, again, I think because of some of the advertising and everything we have individuals that come along from time to time sending something into the Church wanting to know about "Do you have a church in this area or that area," and you realize, well, you haven't read too much yet, but we're very scattered and we're very small. But in time they learn some of those things.

And then a lot of it is about their ability then to come and be, or whatever, if it continues on. And so, this is, information like this is sent out to them, what it means to have fellowship in the Church, because people don't understand. The world isn't like God's Church. God is protective of His people. The church is protective of the Church.

Fellowship In God's Church: True fellowship is a spiritual matter. God's Church is not like other churches in the world. Most teach that you can "come just as you are..."

Which is a bald-faced lie. It's horrible. It's a horrible lie that's out there perpetuated, "Just come as you are." You think... So, they do with their flags of many colors and so forth, just come as you are. Not in God's Church. It doesn't work that way. You can't bring in different ideas. You can't bring in different teachings. You can't bring in whatever it might be, your lifestyle if it's not agreeing with God and obeying God. But the world, you can. You can go into pretty much any church building. "We want..." "We'd like..." "Oh, come on in. Sit up here!" I don't want to get into that. Sick world.

...but this is a false teaching. You cannot come into true fellowship “just as you are” based on what you “think” is right before God. If somebody already knows what is right, they do not need God’s Church.

Joshua the Christ paid the penalty for sin by being our Passover. One cannot fully receive that Passover sacrifice until baptism into God’s true Church. It is through baptism that sin can be forgiven. God begins drawing people to His truth, which can eventually lead to one true baptism in life. He offers those He calls the opportunity, through grace, to come into fellowship in His Church if they respond to Him in sincerity, truth, and obedience.

The world doesn’t like that as a whole. Obedience? “You’re going to tell us how we should live our lives?” If they begin to teach in all the protestant churches not to commit adultery and fornication, well, they don’t have as many people coming anymore anyway, but that would cut back drastically. If they started really preaching that very strong Sunday by Sunday as they do, after a while there are going to be some people say, “It’s not for me. Not here.” They might try someplace else.

But that would be a huge sweep, because it’s done a lot in traditional Christianity, in churches. People go there to meet each other a lot, too; that’s where they meet one another. They have these great, big fellowships. Giant churches now, that’s what so many of them, that’s their motivation. A lot of it is to meet others. Sick world.

There are requirements one must meet before coming into fellowship with others in God’s Church, with those in whom His spirit dwells. God reveals that one must “bring forth fruit” that reflects evidence of true repentance. The word “repent” in the New Testament literally means “to think differently.”

When called by God, each person must choose to begin thinking differently about the way of life they’ve been living.

It’s an awesome thing to be brought to that point in time. That’s why in the world, without God’s help, people don’t make that extra step. Because they can see that something is true, what’s being said, because it’s there in front of them, but the choice to embrace it, that can be a totally different matter.

By God’s design and purpose, from birth, mankind has human nature, which is inherently selfish.

That one there, even for God’s Church, is sometimes difficult to deal with, let alone the world.

When called by God, a person is confronted with a second way of life, which they can choose to live by changing from the way of human nature to seeking God’s one and only true way of life in His Family. This requires the transformation in the mind, which can only happen through the help of God’s spirit dwelling in them. (Romans 12:1).

So again, **Romans 12:1**. I'll go ahead and read that one where it says, **I beseech you, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice**. Even if we would constantly have this in the forefront of our minds, a living sacrifice. We are called to sacrifice, self first of all, our will, to embrace God's will. That's just our life, and it's a battle that one has to enter into.

...a living sacrifice, holy. Because God has to be in it. That's the only way this can take place.

...acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. That's what we've been called to.

And do not be conformed to this world. Even that we should take in a stronger way to be careful not to do as the world does in so many things. We have to be careful. We have to be on guard. Things that can enter the mind and affect the mind.

...but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. I love those verses. "Be you transformed." *Metamorphoo*. It's like the word metamorphosis of the butterfly and what comes out of a cocoon and the entire process of the caterpillar, and then all of a sudden you see this beautiful thing. It's a great word that was used in that respect without them even knowing it. *Metamorphoo*, complete change of the mind to create something beautiful.

To come into fellowship with God's Church, one must apply what God has given in the CONTACT section of the website.

So, it gives the Church site and so forth.

If people perceive God and His Church as "elitist," that is their choice, but God does place conditions upon those who truly desire His ways. Keeping the seventh day Sabbath (which follows Friday, the sixth day of the week) is a good example. If people are not willing to obey God in such basic ways, they cannot be invited into fellowship with His Church.

A person must be "called" by God to come into fellowship (communion)...

And look how the world has messed up that word, "communion." Because so many in traditional Christianity, they hear that word, and they don't realize what it is. They don't grasp it's the word for "fellowship." They see it as something else, taking this wafer and drinking whatever, especially the wafer on the tongue type of thing. And it's so messed up.

...come into fellowship (communion) with Him, His Son Joshua the Christ, and His Church. To be in true fellowship with God, a person must begin living in the light (truth), and seek to have God's spirit dwelling in them. If that is the case, then a person can have true fellowship with others whom God has called, those in whom God dwells because they share the same mind.

The next one, "Funeral or Wedding Attendance." Little bit different on the site. Put them together because it affects basically the same questions here. I think I put something else in there that's not on here, because I wrote this off before I got some of this edited again. I'll just read it as it is here. So later

on, some of these are going to have a little editing to them that I've already done myself, and then it's been sent out for more editing.

Funeral or Wedding Attendance: Choosing whether or not to attend an event such as a funeral or wedding performed by a false minister or in a church that is not God's is a personal decision.

This question often arises due to concerns about attending such services officiated over by a false minister or held in a church of a different faith.

I think we've grown a great deal in this to have more balance and soundness of mind in this than we used to have, obviously, because we didn't have this in that sense to go to and look at or be told this, and different ministers had different ideas so created confusion which created Laodicea, which created the Apostasy.

It can also be about whether it's permissible to attend such events on God's weekly Sabbath.

Ultimately, the decision is entirely up to the individual. It shouldn't be influenced by external pressures from family or others in God's Church who may have their own opinions.

It's everything we do should be that way. Everything we do should be based on our conviction, of what we know and believe to be true at any point in time – the present truth – and then that's on us. We're judged by God. We're in God's hands. That's the way it works.

Instead, the choice should be based on one's best judgment, seeking to align with sound principles and a true relationship with God.

That should be at the forefront.

The fact that a false minister is conducting the service shouldn't be a major concern. We understand that the world is full of deception, and we can distinguish between truth and falsehood. The key is not to participate in any part of the service that aligns with other religious beliefs. For example, during prayers, we do not bow our heads, kneel, or say "amen..."

And that includes the scattered Body out there. Just so everybody understands. Why? They're cut off. They're not sound spiritually, and it's not of God. When it's of God, they'll be in God's Church. And we have to be able to make those distinctions as well in our thinking and in our minds, our conduct, because it's a matter of honoring God and pleasing God first and foremost.

... we do not bow our heads, kneel, or say "amen," or participate in any way that can reflect agreement.

And that's the point. If anyone sees, that's not healthy for them. You reflect agreement. We are to stand out as being different. We are to stand out, indeed. We don't believe the same thing. We don't have to make, carry a big drum with us, and beat something, but just by what we live. We don't have to talk

about it. We don't have to broadcast it. "Oh, I don't agree with that." Sometimes people do things like that.

It's like going into a restaurant, "Okay, how is that fish...? What is it cooked in? I need to know! I need to know, what...? Is it lard? Is it vegetable-based?" Well, you might as well not go out and eat anywhere if you're going to get that that point, okay? You think, "Well, shouldn't we know?" Well, there is soundness and balance of mind in things we do in this world on a physical plane, and that's strictly physical. Does that mean we should put up with there is shrimp in your salad and they cut it up really small, and not only that, it's the little ones? So, you're going to pick through that? Throw it out with the dishwater, whatever. You have to make those choices and decisions yourself. I don't want even a little one, and I'm not even... Anyway.

But to make a scene that you're different? It dishonors the Church. It dishonors God. It's not a right example, it truly isn't. It'd be better if you don't go there if you've got to ask the question. If because of your thinking in your mind and where you are you think that you have to ask those questions about how something is cooked or what's in it, in that respect, then just don't go.

But to make a scene? To clang the bell and the drum? "I'M DIFFERENT! We in the Church of God don't do..." You might as well do that. "We in the Church..." You might as well stand up in front of the whole group and people there, "We in the Church of God don't eat shrimp! We don't eat pork! And we don't want anything cooked in pork!" ("I'm righteous.") See, that's just where that comes from.

Where does it come from? Why do people do that? Why do people want to make a scene? It's hard enough as it is when people know us, and we do what is true and right because it's right.

People know after a while wherever you work you don't keep Christmas. You stand out. And that's good. You don't have to go around banging a drum and saying, and telling everybody, "If you're going to do gifts this year don't send me anything. I don't keep Christmas." Do you see what I'm saying? It's the example we set. You can do it quietly.

That's why I was a little dumbfounded when I left one place I worked one time. Moved on to a different one. And people came up to me and talked to me about the example of not coming in on Saturday. They respected it. "Whoa, didn't even know you knew it." Well, the main thing was when we didn't show up for inventory. I didn't show up for inventory, which was generally on a Saturday. I was the only one that got out of it. And they didn't like that, some didn't. Others respected it.

So, you never know how people are going to react to what you do. Some people are going to hate what you do, they're going to dislike you because of what you do. Others, well, gotta hand it to them. Even on a physical plane, gotta hand it to people who have a chain of restaurants, and they won't open up on ~~Saturday~~ Sunday. Should be Saturday, but Sunday. And they sell lots of chicken. And anyone who owns one of those franchises they've got to do the same thing, or they can't have the franchise.

Now, on a physical plane, you've got to respect that, that somebody is willing to make a stand for what they actually believe. Because that's rare in the world, in many cases. People compromise, all kinds of things that you learn to hate in the world. And especially in God's Church that shouldn't exist, compromise, to where people see that.

I have no idea where I left off. What were the last words I spoke? I'm just going to back up a little bit and then go on. This is about funerals and weddings, I believe, is where we were. "The decision becomes more complex when it involves God's Sabbath. The most important consideration is to listen to the Sabbath sermon on that day." So, had I gotten to that point?

Then backing up a little bit more. "The fact that a false minister is conducting the service shouldn't be a major concern. We understand that the world is full of deception, and we can distinguish between truth and falsehood. The key is not to participate in any kind..." Okay, we talked about "amen," not to be a part of it, and not to show agreement.

During communion or other practices...

So again, we don't participate in communion, we don't participate in bowing our heads or kneeling down as in some churches they do and popping back up and down all the time. No, we just stay seated if that's the case, or if they're standing you stay standing. If they feel like they've got to get down and kneel or if somebody is going to come back around with wafers or have people come up for wafers, "I already ate." Anyway.

... The decision becomes more complex when it involves God's Sabbath. The most important consideration is to listen to the Sabbath sermon on that day. If live attendance isn't possible, listening to a previous sermon on the Sabbath may be an option.

Now, have to take into account here funerals, weddings, other kinds of things that might take place. But Funerals fit into this category of their own, too. I hope we understand that, of... that I'll get to in a moment. But I've lumped them together here because there are certain things that sometimes people are concerned about and worry about.

Attending a wedding on the Sabbath should be minimized to just the ceremony itself. One should avoid any parties or festivals that involve excessive drinking or boisterous type of activity. The closeness of the family relationship should also be considered.

Yet, also remembering that God is to be first in our lives, honoring God first above all others. And that should be the focal point, honoring God. God's first.

Attending a funeral can be more pressing, especially when it does involve family. Family relationships can be strained due to one's commitment to God and His Church. Some family members might reject you because of your beliefs. In such cases, not attending the funeral could add to the strain...

So again, soundness, balance. And a funeral is a good example of this.

...giving the impression that you don't care about the family.

So, you don't want to do that. It's difficult enough because so many kinds of activities have already been interrupted in life, and when it comes to something like this, need to think about it a little more carefully, the closeness or whatever it might be.

Showing genuine love and concern during such difficult times can be wise and might often help some family members' attitudes towards you and the Church.

So, if it helps to dampen some things (soften some things) then that can be a good thing. So, you have to take those things into consideration.

Also, within God's Church, funerals, memorials, or even weddings are not conducted on God's Sabbath. I did it once, and that's because of people coming in from such a long distance, had a very short thing just basically saying, "You're married." Not going to do it anymore because that was back then. But come to the point to realizing that no, nothing like that should be done as a focal point on God's Sabbath or God's Sabbath's.

The next one here:

God's Plan for Mankind: God's plan for humanity is best understood through the teachings of His Holy Days. These are explained in detail in Chapter 8...

You know where it is. They're all listed in there. But anyway, for the world, for people if they have any interest (which is very rare).

Next one here:

God's True Church: When did God's Church actually begin? The first mention of people being added to the Church was right after Pentecost in 31 AD, when God began pouring out His holy spirit upon His disciples, just as He had promised.

You know, that's the thing that should be somewhat simple to see as well. It's the name of the Church. It's what was there from the beginning, in that respect, the Church of God. It's kind of a no-brainer. So, it helps to weed through a whole lot of things and realizing in scripture it's called the Church of God. So, to be called anything else out there in the world should say something just by knowledge. What are our convictions? What do we believe? What does anyone believe? Says a lot about us.

...Pentecost in 31 AD, when God began pouring out His holy spirit upon His disciples, just as He had promised. At this time, God started adding to the Church those He was calling to receive salvation.

Later in the Book of Acts, after this account of the beginning of the Church, Paul made it clear whose Church this was.

“So now, look. I have known that all of you, among whom I have gone preaching the Kingdom of God, will not see my face again.”

It’s amazing what God gave to him to see, to know, to understand at very specific times, and what he was going through in his life. Yet God gave him that peace of mind of knowing some of these things at certain times so he could act upon them.

“... Therefore, I have called you to witness this day, that I am clear from the blood of any. For I have not held back from declaring unto you all the counsel of God. Therefore, take heed unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over which the holy spirit has made you overseers, to feed the **Church of God**...”

So again here, more in that respect to those who were teaching and so forth, a clear message to them.

“...which He has purchased with His own blood [the blood of His Son]” (Acts 20:25-28).

So, referred to as the Church of God. First mention of it in scripture and known as God’s Church always. It’s who it belongs to. Sad, the world can’t accept that just by physical knowledge.

Paul’s instruction to the ministry is the first clear identification that the Church belongs to God. The term “Church of God” is consistently used in subsequent scriptures. The Church is never described as belonging to anyone else, not even to Christ, although he is identified as its head.

Since 31 AD, the group calling themselves Christian all call themselves after whose Church it is, just as Christ said it should be – the **Church of God**. This group does not belong to any other name or system.

So again, talking about the Church in scripture from that point on.

There is a significant difference between two groups that call themselves Christian. One group, known as the Church of God since 31 AD, and another organization that began forming in 325 AD...

And that doesn’t mean there weren’t others out there. But the two that continued on was God’s true Church and the one in 325. So, there were other types of groups, and that’s why they were all brought together in the Roman Empire, to try to melt everything together so that it would be one and the state religion and so forth. But anyway, primarily this is what has gone on then since, through time. Then 325, when that one formed...

...which has grown into what is now best recognized as “traditional Christianity,” comprising tens of thousands of denominations and nondenominational churches.

You know, you think about that and think that’s kind of mind-boggling, that that even exists. But it’s what God allowed to transpire and take place. And then within the midst of that, He called out His Church, for the past two thousand years, people that He was going to work with, to mold and fashion and give the opportunity to see through all this and to know what was true. Awesome!

Additionally, it should be noted that some few organizations who call themselves the Church of God are actually part of “traditional Christianity” that has most of their beliefs founded upon the Roman Church that had its origin beginning in 325 AD.

The one group of Christianity that began in 325 AD believes Jesus is the Christ who was resurrected on a Sunday morning at sunrise—on Easter, after being in the tomb for only a day and a half.

I am so thankful that God gave us “Joshua” before he returned—Awesome!—to make this distinction and delineation more powerful than ever before.

The other group of Christianity believes Joshua is the Christ who was dead and in the tomb for exactly three days and three nights, just as he said would be the only sign that he is the Messiah. He was then resurrected to everlasting spirit life at the end of the weekly Sabbath day, just before the first day of the week...

I don’t even know how many people in times past really grasped that or thought about that in the Church. It had nothing to do with the sun coming up in the morning. It had nothing to do with going to the tomb in the morning, early hours of the morning. That’s not even in the question. The reality is to know the timing when he was put in the tomb and to believe what it says – three days and three nights later was exactly at the end of the weekly Sabbath that he was resurrected. Awesome!

He was then resurrected to everlasting spirit life at the end of the weekly Sabbath day, just before the first day of the week (Sunday)...

And we know that begins at sundown. And that’s where confusion comes in so often in people’s minds, in their thinking. Especially in the world, obviously, it’s there. That’s where they get... To them, it has to do with the morning.

He was then resurrected to everlasting spirit life at the end of the weekly Sabbath day, just before the first day of the week (Sunday) began at sundown on that seventh day of the week. This Church has remained small, as God intended, until it is to encompass the whole earth after Christ returns to establish the Kingdom of God during his Millennial reign.

The next one:

Hair Styles: See “Makeup, Clothing, and Hair Styles” in this *Topics* section.

We’ll get to it eventually.

Halloween – Origin:

It’s not that we haven’t been through all these things and know so many of these things. But again, it’s good just to refresh some of this. Pretty simple here.

All religious worship must be according to what God commands in His word. We are not to add to or take away from it. Mixing a little falsehood with a bit of the truth is not acceptable. Halloween is a man-made concept. As scripture says, “No lie is of the truth.”

Not only that, but it’s demonic. That’s the primary thing. Because this is not a matter of the worship that takes place like Christmas or Easter does in the traditional world of Christianity, but it has to do with some of the weirder stuff that goes on with it.

Another one here:

Heaven & Hell – Immortal Soul: Humans do not have immortal souls.

What an awesome thing we know. To know the truth. The world doesn’t grasp that. They think that after death someone has to go somewhere, up or down or wherever, not what God gives us is true. To understand there is nothing immortal in us. What an incredible lie that Satan loves – because it even involves him.

Humans do not have immortal souls. Instead, we are temporary mortal beings who return to the elements of the earth upon death. No one goes to heaven or hell upon death. Only God can grant immortality, and that is given when, and if, one is resurrected/changed to spirit life within His Family, Elohim.

Next one. Already mentioned this.

Joshua, not Jesus, is the True Name of Christ: In the newly organized official church of the Roman Empire under Emperor Constantine, the body of believers called Christ by the Greek name Iesous or the Latin name Iesus, which is translated as Jesus in English. But that was not the name the disciples and others of the Church that began in 31 AD called Christ. They called him by the Hebrew name of Yehoshua (translated as Joshua in English).

You think, you know, even when they translated, when they got into Hebrews and the one place where Joshua is mentioned they messed up a little bit because they used that name again. That’s why they put “Jesus” in there. And then, so the world of traditional Christianity reads some of that when it talks about Moses and so forth and they don’t even get it because of the translation that’s there. But some of them corrected it, obviously, and now they put Joshua there.

You think some of these things that people have done on purpose to deceive and keep people in deception, it’s incredible.

The name “Jesus: (Iesous in Greek, translated to Latin as Iesus) was adopted by the Catholic Church after 325 AD and then accepted by Protestant churches once they emerged hundreds of years later.

God instructed that the name given to His Son, born of Mary, should be Joshua.

What a beautiful thing to have us finally address it as a Church and to acknowledge that's what He told them to do.

This was the same name as Joshua from the Old Testament, who led the Israelites into the Promised Land. The name means "the Eternal's (Yahweh's) salvation." In his physical life, the Messiah first came as the Passover lamb—indeed "the Eternal's salvation" offered to mankind.

As I go through these topics and so forth, I can't help but be in awe how much God has given to us, truly, and so much of it of recent time. It's beautiful. And something we should treasure and be inspired by to know what we've been given and never to let it become boring or old or whatever. It should stimulate. It should inspire. It should encourage. It truly should.

Laying on of Hands: The laying on of hands is a symbolic act that demonstrates God's work through His ministry. Biblically, it is practiced by the ordained ministry of God's Church during the ordination of other ministers, in anointing the sick, and after someone has been newly baptized under water.

You know, what an incredible thing to understand it's all about government. It's all about God leaving things there for us to see "This is how I'm working with the Church. This way and no other way. It doesn't come from other ways. The truth doesn't come any other way. The teaching doesn't come... It comes this way." That's how God works. It's a beautiful thing.

When hands are laid upon a newly baptized individual, it signifies the moment that the impregnation (begettal) of God's spirit enters them, making them a member of the Body of Christ – the Church of God.

Okay, now we're to the one we finally got to here.

Makeup, Clothing, and Hair Styles:

Need to be there for the Church? Yes, because we still deal with it within the Church at times. It's so simple. God gives us in these things balance, soundness of mind. God gives soundness of mind, what is truly balanced, and how we are to live our lives so we can discern. It's about discernment and judgment, being at one with God.

The Church of God teaches the importance of balance and moderation in life. This can become an issue when discussing clothing styles, as well as questions concerning the wearing of makeup and hairstyles.

Some religious groups consider wearing makeup a sin and misinterpret scriptures to support their belief. Similarly, some religions claim that God forbids any consumption of alcohol. However, the Church of God teaches that scripture only forbids excessive alcohol use that can lead to drunkenness. Alcohol should be consumed in moderation and never to the extent that it impairs speech, thinking, alertness, or motor skills, which is particularly important when driving.

...or operating any kind of vehicle. So again here, very simple. But even in that people have to make judgments because some people can take a little bit and they can feel it. Our metabolisms are not all the same. We try to give certain guidelines within the Church just for example sake or whatever, and then we have some people sometimes that judge someone. "Well, I think that was three glasses of wine!" I'm not going to get into it all.

Anyway, we have to be careful. We are to look at ourselves, to know that we're right with God, and to have balance in whatever we do. You know yourself. You know your own metabolism and that's what you should be concerned with. Self. That's what you have to judge. That's what you're responsible for judging.

And yet, the reason I mention the other is because there are some who are to this day still critical and judgmental of some of those kinds of things where they think that maybe one is almost too much. Well, if it is for you, fine, but don't put that on the rest of the Church. If someone's at a meal and it lasts for an hour and a half, two hours they're sitting around, two drinks, that's something you have to judge. Does it impair you in any fashion or form? If it does, you know, don't do it. But as far as metabolism and time is concerned, as a whole that is a good balance for most people to have.

Alcohol should be consumed in moderation and never to the extent that it impairs speech, thinking, alertness, or motor skills, which is particularly important when driving.

The principle of moderation also applies to the use of makeup. It should be used sparingly, as a way to highlight or enhance one's natural appearance. Society often misuses makeup with a sexual or provocative intent, of which many are unaware. Excessive reliance on makeup indicates a need for more balanced thinking.

So again, there is balance. It's not a sin to wear it, as the Church went through those gyrations at one time and thousands left over this subject. Thousands left over this subject, something very physical. Incredible! And yet it's a matter of what is balance. It's a matter of where we are in time. We look at certain things that are done in the world, whether it's a matter of moderation, as an example, if it's okay.

There are some things the world does that can't be done at all, shouldn't be done at all. Other things... Like tattoos. It's like, "Well if I only get a couple on my arm, and maybe on my back, that's okay because that's in moderation." Because I've seen people that they have their whole history, or whatever they think their history is, all up and down their arms. And you think, that's a funny colored shirt. And then you get a little closer and you realize it's not a shirt. They're all up and down their body and all the money that went into it and all the ink that's in their body. We live in a strange world.

So again, there are some things that we shouldn't do at all and something like this, when we're talking about makeup, there's balance in it. To me, it's a no-brainer, but sometimes every ... people have

different interpretation of what moderation is, of what balance is, and that's why the Church strives to give some guidelines and examples in some of this.

"Some religious groups consider wearing makeup a sin and misinterpret scriptures to support their belief. Similarly, some religions claim that God forbids any consumption of alcohol." ... "The principle of moderation also applies to the use of makeup. It should be used sparingly, as a way to highlight or enhance..." I think I read that. I'm going really fast here.

Clothing styles should also reflect moderation which avoids some of the extremes of this world's standards, fads, and trends. Such choices should be more fully based on a desire to be a good representation of God's people. It is important to ask whether we are more concerned with how God sees us or how the world perceives us.

So again, moderation, balance. And how do you know what that is? Look to the Church. Look to the ministry.

Issues with clothing styles promoted by the world often affect women more, as they tend to be exploited in a distorted sexual manner.

You know, some things that come out in style sometimes, I just wish I had a little barf can with me. It's just sick. Some things are just absolutely sick, what they do. And then people don't realize... Because your mind, even with makeup or hair or whatever, your mind may not see what others see. You may not see the dangers in certain things or the lack of balance in it, but we should strive to see those things, to see what we do and how we're doing. Especially, here in clothing as well, because as it goes on some of the things today people don't understand.

I hate one fashion that's out there now. Little girls (and bigger girls) that everything is showing in the stomach. To me, that's a horrible fashion. Supposedly dressed up and you can go out and go anywhere and you look like you're going to the beach, you know, or should be going to the beach. And even that? I don't want to get into it.

But I hope if you've seen some of those things you think, why would anyone let their daughter wear such things knowing the minds of human beings that are out here, how sick and perverted this world is? So, we all have responsibility, and hopefully, everyone in the Church understands that responsibility in that regard and doesn't allow some of this kind of thing.

But that's one that I really hate because it's out there, it's rampant anymore it seems like. And you think, what a sick world that people allow their children to go out like that, or that even those who are adults act like that. And you think, don't you know? Don't you understand? Too many do know.

So, it could have to do with dresses, any kind of clothing, whatever it might be, see-through things, whatever it is. It's like, you've got to be kidding me. I don't want to get too descriptive here. Got to be careful. Some of this stuff?

My wife saw something the other day right here in the elevator. Somebody got into it, elegant looking in that respect as far as the person was concerned, the woman that got in there, but she had this cream-colored dress. My wife told me about it. I didn't see it. If I had, I probably would have wanted that barf container again. But the underwear—that I don't even know how to describe it—that comes up the back or whatever and it's like, you've got to be so uncomfortable. Isn't that...? Eww. I mean, I don't know how anybody could get used to that.

Men don't have to worry about that becoming a style. I don't think anyone would put up with it. But why? And you think, what does it broadcast? What is in the mind to want to have that? I don't... Anyway. I want to read it again.

Issues with clothing styles promoted by the world often affect women more, as they tend to be exploited in a distorted sexual manner.

Men are too, in one respect, because sometimes there are styles that come out that are perverted in a way because of that flag again. And so, there are some who wear certain fashions and they don't realize that really looks kind of weak, you know. Ugh. Anyway. Isn't that sad we have to worry about things, be concerned about such things in the world? It really is sick.

Modern technology and mass media have intensified this trend, pushing for shorter dresses, higher slits in skirts, lower and more revealing bust lines, tighter clothing, and generally less clothing. Women, whose thinking is influenced by different hormones, may not always fully grasp men's natural lustful tendencies. However, when they become aware of it, women can also misuse this knowledge by exploiting the carnal nature of men through provocative clothing.

This exploitation leads to a cycle where both women and men are negatively affected, fueling a deteriorating moral lifestyle.

It's the world. Something we read early that we're just not to be conformed to the world, to be like the world. There are certain things we're to stand out in being different.

Modern technology exacerbates this trend, making it impossible to stop. Only God's soon coming millennial reign can change this distorted course for mankind and its evil influence that is attacking and altering the mind of innocent youth at increasingly younger ages in life.

Because of the internet that's out there, it's amazing the morality or lack of it that's being pushed upon people, young people.

The subject of hair styles also falls within the principles already mentioned. God gives guidelines for both men and women in that hair should clearly reflect a difference between men and women, especially in style and length.

You know, you think even Paul had to address this, had to address the thing about length. There is that which a woman should look like a woman and a man should look like a man. Today, that's really screwed up. You know, it's like, I'm not sure, really. You think, where has this world gone? And now, if you don't like one you can try to change to the other and get government things passed so you can do it in the military, you know, make the military pay for it. Think... Let children do it. I mean, how sick can this world be?

Do you think we bypassed or passed by the days of Noah? I hope you understand we have because they couldn't do these things. They couldn't come close to the things that are being done today because of the use of media that's out there let alone other technology that's out there that allows mankind to go into more perverted things than ever before. Never even... couldn't even enter the mind in times past that are becoming a sick norm for many in the world today. I truly hope and pray it doesn't go much longer for that purpose alone, for what it's doing to people's minds, especially young people.

God gives guidelines for both men and women in that hair should clearly reflect a difference between men and women, especially in style and length. Hair should also have the appearance of what is natural, such as in color, whereas today the fad for many is to color hair in very unnatural ways such as being green, pink, and blue.

Think, what is going on? Why? What influences one to want to be like that? Well, I know, but anyway.

Whether it is makeup, clothing, or hairstyles, moderation is the best guide to being balanced.

Finally, the last one here on this section:

Marriage: A marital union is one of the most significant decisions a person will make in their lifetime. Therefore, marriage should not be entered into hastily but with careful planning and consideration. When contemplating marriage, one should consider factors relating to compatibility, tolerance, and differences such as in personality, intellect, cultural background, religious ideas and/or beliefs, upbringing, character, financial habits, and possibly views on child-rearing.

Now, the problem is that that generally can't even be done to its tallest extent until you say, "I do." And that's the kind of world we live in, the deception of human beings and so forth. But this is a guideline.

A wise marriage is one in which each partner complements...

And by the way, today is our 49th anniversary. So, just thought I'd throw that out there.

A wise marriage is one in which each partner complements, rather than competes with, the other and can openly share things with one another.

In light of some cultures and religions that hold racial biases, it is important to note that the Church of God does not view interracial marriage as a sin, as some do.

You know, the Church used to teach that, and then later on began to allowing a portion of some of that, even before Herbert Amrstrong died. He adjusted a little bit but not fully. And then later on it began to be. But some of the things that were used to foster some of this was total misunderstanding of things said in the Old Testament about why God told them not to mix with the people around them. It was because of their beliefs. It was because of their religions and what it did then when people became too close to them.

Solomon himself is a good example. You'd think after all that he did, after all that God even gave to him, and yet in the end what he did. It's a horrible thing, because he went after then, because of all his wives, began to go after the religions of the different ones that he sought to please. And you think, how can that happen? But it happened in a massive way.

But some never even considered the fact of what Moses did, that when he married... And was it an Ethiopian woman, it said? Is that how it's expressed? I can't think here right now but I think it was Ethiopian, and making it very clear who she was in that respect of a different race. But again, God never found fault with that in any fashion or form. If it had been it would have been addressed by God. Now, his brother and sister, a different matter. But as far as what God did, no.

The Church of God does teach what God instructs concerning marriage being between a man and a woman.

That's the last one. Can you imagine some getting a hold of that?

With that, I will stop with this series and have one or two more in between before we get the others done and then come back to it.