

Church of God, The Eternal

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Announcement Letter
May 1990

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Dear Brethren:

Warmest greetings to all. With Passover and Unleavened Bread in the past, we all look forward to Pentecost and the greater realization of God's Holy Spirit in our lives.

Spiritual Principle: "By this shall all men know . . ."

What one consideration could possibly have such far-reaching influence and significance that it would be totally revelatory of man's orientation? Further, *know* what?

At the outset, it is readily apparent that the one characteristic indicated is not natural to man. For if it were indigenously a part of the nature of man, it could not reveal a line of demarcation between groups of those human beings.

Christ said: "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another" (John 13:35). Contention, bickering, strife, anger, contempt, denigration of others, taking exception, talking negatively about anyone are not of the Spirit of God. When any of these traits are manifested, it becomes apparent that the very Spirit of God is not present. These are the manifestations of the flesh—the carnal mind.

Considering what human beings are—attitudes of mind and heart—it is both mysterious and inspiring that a God of unimpeachable character could love us (I John 4:10). In fact, the manifestation of *any* concern for us can only be the epitomé of love—the basis of love's definition.

Real love (that which is genuine) is the element which bonds the truly called into oneness—a state of mind and heart, not a physical condition (Col. 2:2). Knowing the value and meaning of genuine love, our arch-deceiver must create a counterfeit—feigned love. *Our* love must be unfeigned (I Pet. 1:22, I John 3:18). The manifestation of unfeigned love is life and peace (Rom. 8:6). It is the very manifestation of the nature and character of God (I John 4:7–8). As the very nature of God, it can be transferred to human beings through the gift of the Holy Spirit only (Gal. 5:22–23).

Since the nature of man is wrathful, seditious, hateful, belligerent, and vengeful (Eph. 2:1–3, Gal. 5:19–21), it is absolutely imperative that we resist the natural pulls of the flesh (Gal. 5:17). It is a struggle which must be endured at all cost (Heb. 12:4). Remember, those who retain the carnal orientation and outlook cannot please God (Rom. 8:8). Only the spiritually minded can please Him (Rom. 8:6). The proof of God's presence in our lives is love toward one another (I John 4:11–12). How can the true God who resides by the Holy Spirit in one called servant of His be contentious and hateful toward another called member in which lives the same God by the same Spirit? It is impossible. In such a situation, one, the other, or maybe both are outside of that special relationship

with God. He is love personified. The One who loved us with an everlasting love regardless of how undeserving we were/are.

To love one another is a command of God (II John 5). Since God has given us the power of His Spirit, it is our duty to keep ourselves in the love of God (II Tim. 1:7, Jude 21).

The following should effectively help us to obtain and keep the love of God.

1. Let your love begin with love to God—manifested in faithfulness to what was initially given—not individual interpretations.
2. Act on the Word—do not just hear; and keep faith and confidence in God.
3. In all correction and censure, keep the mind upon self only.
4. In giving preference, special consideration, favor, mercy, and kindness, remember only others.
5. Refuse to talk (negatively) about anyone.
6. Be a creator of peace and love—unfeigned love.
7. Be quick to forgive and forget.

How do you want to be remembered? By your carnal traits? Or by the fruits of the Holy Spirit manifested in your lives?

Articles

We hope you will find the enclosed Sabbath article beneficial. It covers the various arguments brought up against the Sabbath, as well as reiterates general principles regarding the Sabbath. Our next article will cover the subject of the Passover, due to some of the strange concepts which have recently generated confusion.

Prayer Requests

[Omitted for confidentiality]

Deaths

Mrs. Della Cox: Mrs. Cox was an old-time member who died recently in Tennessee. She will be missed.

Trips

May 12	Bryce Clark, Rochester, New York
May 19	Bryce Clark, Nashville, Tennessee
May 26	Raymond Cole, Lausanne, Switzerland
June 2	Raymond Cole, Grenoble, France
June 4	Raymond Cole, Grenoble, France

Note: The Sacramento trip of May 19 has been cancelled due to the pressing work-load on Mr. Cole at this time.

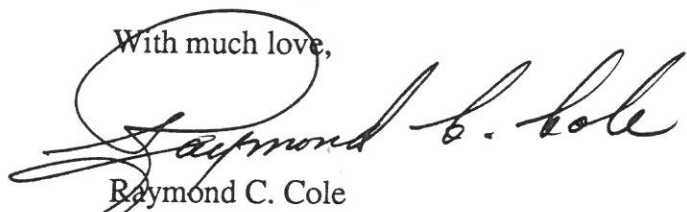
Tape Schedule

Tape series:	Mailed on:	For:	Title/tape #:
WSE-BC 122	4/18	5/5	Great men of the Old Testament #31
WSE-RC 39	5/2	5/12	Confrontations and responses of Christ #28
WSE-BC 122	5/2	5/19	Great men of the Old Testament #32
WSE-RC 39	5/16	5/26	Confrontations and responses of Christ #29
WSE-RS 4	5/16	6/2	The subtlety of temptation
	5/11	6/4	Pentecost tapes, A.M./P.M.
WSE-RC 39	5/30	6/9	Confrontations and responses of Christ #30
WSE-RC 39	5/30	6/16	Confrontations and responses of Christ #31

Comments

Should anyone need to call the office, please be informed that on May 14-18 and 21-23 it will be open only in the morning, and will be closed May 24-25.

With much love,



Raymond C. Cole



Bryce G. Clark