

Church of God, The Eternal

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Announcement Letter
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Dear Brethren:

Spiritual Principle: Only at Appointed Times and Places

Organization is fundamental to order. Anything less is anarchy manifested to some degree. Since God is not the author of confusion, He can be, then, only the Author of order. Order is the underlying concept of the entire Bible. Without order, a human body could not function. Without order, the entire universe would be the epitome of chaos. Recalling the story of Satan's fall, recorded in Genesis 1, we are reminded that chaos is the result of rebellion, not the result of a structured order.

God is an unchanging God. His way has never changed. It never will. Such understanding is essential for continuity of faith and obedience. Should we not expect such organization and order to continue even today? Indeed! Let us now note briefly God's organization and order as manifested from man's beginning.

In the beginning God created man. He was alone. No order was needed. But, existing alone was not what God had in mind for His created subject. He now creates a second party—a woman to become a helpmate for man. Suddenly there are two. Order and authority are essential. God provides it. He gives to the husband a little of the power He Himself possesses. The husband is held accountable for the decisions made in the family. But not autocratically.

Skipping through history rapidly, we next come to realize that God brought forth nations from that humble beginning of the man and his wife (Acts 17:26). Out of that grouping of nations, the ultimate Authority selected one to be dominant—bear authority—in the affairs of all mankind (Deut. 32:8, 7-9). Space and time do not allow us to concentrate upon responsibilities given to Moses and Aaron, the selection of the tribes of Judah and Levi for specific purposes, the selection of the two tribes which sprang from Joseph for differing responsibilities, the establishment of the judges, the establishment of the monarchies, the duties of prophets, and a host of other authoritative obligations. For the purpose of this explanation, let us come to the time of Christ.

Christ regularly attended the services which were held in the synagogues of His day (Luke 4:16). Why? Because of the fact that until certain events had transpired as ordained of the Father to be achieved during the time of Christ's physical existence, authority to control religious activities of that church which God had founded (Acts 7:37-38) through His servant Moses was borne by the Jews (Matt. 23:2-3). Christ did not assert His power and authority. He was obedient, setting an example for all mankind.

When the time as determined by God had come, Christ began to fulfill a major role which had been given to Him by the Father. He began to build a spiritual church (Matt. 16:18). Foundational to that church was the selection and commission of the twelve apostles (Eph. 2:19–21). Numerous texts reveal the power and authority which Christ had given to those apostles to rule and maintain order in that body. That body is characterized as the continuation of the body of Jesus Christ Himself (I Cor. 12). It was and is to continue to the time of His own Second Coming (Eph. 4:11–14, among many texts). Since no human body could possibly continue without inherent authority within, the body of Christ—the church—could not continue without inherent authority within it. What authority continues to exist in the body of Christ—the church? The ministry which will continue to the coming of Christ as we saw above (Eph. 4:11–14). That authority is not autocratic and personal. It was given for service (Matt. 23:11–12). It is the manifestation of the New Testament administration. Given to maintain order and peace (Heb. 13:7, 17, 24, I Tim. 3:5; 5:17).

Locations of Sabbath services, services for holy days, and any other activities of the church are appointments and convocations which must be determined by the ministry. It is a duty ordained of God. As God ordained the husband the head of the family, parents over the children, employer over employees, and other authoritative responsibilities over their charges, so has God ordained the ministerial responsibility. Peace can reign only when we honor God in faithful obedience, not when we pursue that which seems right to us (Prov. 16:2, 25).

Sixteen years ago, this ministry endeavored with determination to extricate ourselves from duties which rightfully belonged in other areas of responsibility. We do not want to meddle in the affairs of families. It is our intent to uphold the various authorities which God has given. But, it is our duty to preach powerfully that such authority was never given by God to anyone for self-seeking and/or cruel purposes. In all cases we must diligently and rightfully evaluate our usage of that authority and power which God has given. Are we creating peace, harmony—a beautiful relationship—or are confusion and anger the fruits borne?

May God's love and peace always abide with us. Such fruits exist only when organization and peace prevail.

Articles

The enclosed article on marriage and separation should answer many of the questions related to the subject. Remember, this article concerns itself with marriage and separation, not divorce and remarriage, which is a separate subject.

Prayer Requests

[Omitted for confidentiality]

Feasts: Holy Days

Passover will be observed on March 28, shortly after sundown, and the first high Sabbath will begin with the Night to Be Much Observed on Friday evening, March 29. March 30 is the first high Sabbath of the Days of Unleavened Bread. The last high Sabbath of the Days of Unleavened Bread will be on Friday, April 5. All lead men should make the necessary arrangements.

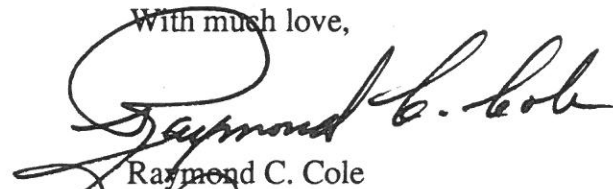
Trips

| | |
|------------------|-------------------------------|
| March 16 | Raymond Cole, Sacramento |
| March 28, 29, 30 | Raymond Cole, Allentown |
| March 28, 29, 30 | George Leeman, Baltimore |
| April 6 | Raymond Cole, Austin |
| April 6 | George Leeman, Nashville |
| April 20 | Raymond Cole, Vancouver, B.C. |

Tape Schedule

| Tape series: | Mailed on: | For: | Title/tape #: |
|--------------|------------|------|-----------------------------|
| WSE-RC 51 | 2/6 | 3/2 | How to keep the Sabbath, #3 |
| WSE-RS 7 | 2/6 | 3/9 | Prayerlessness is sin |
| WS-RC 51 | 2/20 | 3/16 | How to keep the Sabbath, #4 |
| WSE-RS 8 | 2/20 | 3/23 | How to know God's will |
| WSE-RC 51 | 3/6 | 3/30 | How to keep the Sabbath, #5 |
| WSE-RS 9 | 3/6 | 4/6 | Conscience |
| WSE-RC 51 | 3/20 | 4/13 | How to keep the Sabbath, #6 |
| WSE-BC 130 | 3/20 | 4/20 | The Beast is rising up |

With much love,



Raymond C. Cole



Bryce G. Clark