

# Church of God, The Eternal

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## Announcement Letter June 1992

Dear Brethren:

Another glorious opportunity to communicate with and to serve you presents itself. Each favorable circumstance carries priceless blessings. Our prayer and hope is that you avail yourselves of that which God makes available. So much time and effort have gone into prayers, study, and writing to make information available to you. As was the case with Christ, we try to give our all making the preparation of your lives fit for the inheritance of the Kingdom of God a major priority. It is a spiritual joy to serve and to give.

### **Spiritual Principle: "Synoptic Review of Divorce & Remarriage Factors"**

The commands of God are specific. However, the application of some commands demands an ability to read a heart or mind. Since the average man cannot comprehensively read his own heart, it is absolutely impossible for a minister to judge others short of a complete revelation from God—of all the facts involved. For at least two reasons God has not elected to grant this revelation. First, judgment has been assigned to Jesus Christ at His Second Coming. And, second, an acceptable realization on our part and an acceptance of the reason above require an understanding that the following specific criteria apply: A). Interpretative elements are involved in judgment. B). There are inherent unknown factors. C). The life and direction of one person is not dependent upon that of another. D). Judgment of others is not a responsibility of any man. E). And, finally, the only one capable of and responsible for judgment is Christ.

On the basis of the above some simple and applicable deductions can be made about divorce and remarriage cases. What is *known* is not a judgment. It is a fact. Judgment involves motives, intents, purposes—of both heart and mind. Only God can read these elements. Therefore, what cannot be known as fact, must not be assumed either by laity or ministry.

Most marriages are legitimate and absolutely binding in the sight of God. He alone can and does bind two into one—a family. What God has bound together man cannot separate. The only separations acceptable to God are those couples whom He did not bind in the first place. Though the word is not used in the Bible the principle of fraudulent intent is the sole reason for a justifiable separation. Fraud involves some form of deliberate

camouflage or hiding of facts which would have made a difference to the other party entering into the contract, covenant agreement.

The exception clause mentioned by Christ involves *porneia* (fornication). However, not just every act of fornication. There were acts of fornication under which the couples were forced to marry. That authority comes from the word of God. Logically then, deception—fraud—is involved in those cases who may separate because God, reading hearts and minds, never bound the marriage at the time of the ceremony.

Generally speaking, much material has been written and distributed regarding marriage and divorce cases. In complex and deceptive human relationships which prevail today, a host of specific areas of difficulties arise. One of the more sobering and troubling involves young sons and daughters of parents who have been in the church for years and according to imperative teaching have instructed their children on the sanctity and inviolability of marriage. Should the ministry stand by and give, by silence, presumed acceptance and approbation for anyone who was involved in a previous questionable marriage—prior to attending church—to date and marry any young son or daughter of church members who has not been involved previously? Based on many and varied Biblical principles and honesty toward such parents who had faithfully taught the truth to their children no such approval could be granted by the ministry. Such approval would be patently unfair to parents and grand-parents involved. With such an approval, the ministry, in a single moment, would undo all that faithful parents have done via their teaching from childhood to young adulthood. Any honest and legitimate parent can only fervently appreciate the following ministerial decision:

Decision: No young individual nurtured and brought up in the church or any person previously married who attempts to influence and subsequently marry a young person so taught in the church may remain in the church if they attempt courtship or marriage. This is the least the ministry can do to safeguard the teaching of parents who have with honesty and integrity instructed their children.

There are other areas of marriage and courtship which are not involved in the above decision. They are not herein addressed. Parents who have faithfully performed their duties must not be forced to accept any principle contrary to that which they have taught. No divorce and remarriage case can ever be, until the judgment of Christ, free of all inherent doubt. Faith is personalized. An individual involved in a divorce and/or remarriage may have absolute faith in his decision. He should. However, no other emotionally involved person can ever have such implicit and honest—unfeigned—faith. Any such statement of faith is nothing more than emotional, deceptive, expression. To live in doubt is anathema to Christ.

The future of a previously married and divorced person is not addressed in this Spiritual Principle. Such cases will be handled individually, by the ministry, as they arise.

One final point: The above decision in *no way* affects the ministerial decision to avoid all judgment processes—decision making, after the fact. The above teaching is specific and straightforward. Cases brought before us involving doubt will not be decided by the ministry. The parties involved must make their own decisions based on careful and purposeful Biblical study—after the matter has been discussed with the ministry.

### Articles

We have just completed revising and expanding the article entitled *Passover and Pentecost—What are the Facts?* This article will be made available upon request.

### General Requests

[Omitted for confidentiality]

### Blessings of Brethren

[Omitted for confidentiality]

### Trips

June 6–29	B.G. Clark	Switzerland
July 4	Raymond Cole	Baltimore
July 11	Raymond Cole	Knoxville
July 18	B.G. Clark	Sacramento

### Office

Song of Moses albums are available to the brethren free of charge. There is an ample supply remaining for anyone who would like to request one. We will make them

available at the Feast of Tabernacles. Please notify us prior to the Feast if you would like one.

A new series of complete music tapes for sabbath services will be available soon to the scattered brethren. These music tapes follow the format of the standard weekly service of the Church of God, the Eternal. The format consists of: three hymns, an opening prayer, a time for local announcements, recorded special music, sermon, closing hymn, and closing prayer. There will be a program available for every week of the year, the entire series consisting of approximately 13 tapes with four weekly programs per tape.

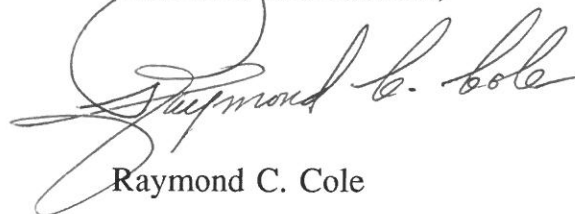
It is hoped this series of tapes will provide a much needed service to the scattered brethren, enabling them to have well-organized services complete with hymns and special music on a weekly basis.

### Tape Schedule

Tape Series	Mailed	For	Title/tape #
Pentecost	5/18	6/8	A.M. & P.M. (two tapes)
CL 2-143*	4/29	6/13	Humility #6
WSE-BC 138-13	5/13	6/20	Paul's Epistles #13
CL 2-144*	5/13	6/27	Humility #7
WSE-BC 138-14	5/27	7/4	Paul's Epistles #14
CL 2-145*	5/27	7/11	Humility #8
WSE-BC 138-15	6/10	7/18	Paul's Epistles #15
CL 2-146*	6/10	7/25	Humility #9

\*Principles of Christian Living series currently being given at Eugene Sabbath Services.

With love and concern,



Raymond C. Cole



Bryce G. Clark