

Church of God, The Eternal

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Announcement Letter November 1996

Dear Brethren:

Troubling events continue to plague the world. Conditions will grow worse and worse. Are we mentally preparing ourselves? Spiritually? Remember, God requires that we become seasoned and hardened soldiers—soldiers of dedication and purpose. The emotional impact of an occasion is greatly increased by inadequate and even improper mental preparation. Let us prepare ourselves to endure these final days and to meet our soon-coming Savior. Your help is in God, the Father, and His Son, Jesus Christ. In them alone is confidence and assurance.

Spiritual Principle: Children and Their Education

For millennia great concern has been manifested for our children and their future. Why? If you are conceptually aware of the orientation of many religious bodies, great emphasis is placed upon the training and control of children. Frequently in the course of human history, the concept of children and their future is raised governmentally. There is no community which does not emphasize children—who they are, and their future. Most normal parents become deeply concerned with children and grandchildren. And strangely, even their peers manifest some bizarre concern which seems to imply the need of self-perpetuation. What they perceive themselves to be. Their culture. Ways. All that encompasses their empirical domain.

Why this great interest in children and their future at every level of society? Why are there times when unusual pressure is placed upon youth? Would not all this activity imply that some strange and unseen effort is exerted to control and perhaps employ them for either beneficent good or the perpetuation of evil? If not, then, we must deem the expenditure of millions, yea, more like billions, of dollars for their education and training as a waste of valuable assets.

Who are children? Why do they exist in the first place? Have parents, governments, organizations, always understood their history, background, purpose? Is it possible to give acceptable orientation to that which is not properly comprehended? Hardly! Understanding is imperative. Let us commence at the beginning.

God is the beginning of all things. After restoring (Psa. 104:30) those things which had become chaotic and confused (Gen. 1:2), He said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness . . . So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them" (Gen. 1:26–27). This act of God was the fulfillment of a primary objective (Isa. 45:18). The earth was made habitable for human beings, and for a very significant reason.

Why did God create them male and female? To bear children, in marriage (compare: Gen. 2:18–25; 3:16). Note what He said in Genesis 1:28, "And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it. . . ."

They were physically designed in the form and fashion of God himself. But with what substance were they made? In chapter 2, verse 7, we plainly read, ". . . the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul." He is called flesh (Gen. 2:24; 6:3). And what does being flesh mean? The essence of sin and weakness (Gen. 4:7; 6:5, 12–13, Rom. 7:17–18, 25, Psa. 78:39).

Adam and Eve were created flesh. Their children were born of flesh (John 3:6). They were born with all the intrinsic weaknesses inherent in flesh. Yet, by virtue of their physical parentage, creation, they are called the children of God (Psa. 82:6; 127:3). Culpable. Easily deceived. But by will, purpose, and self-discipline they could remain physically faithful to instructions of their Creator (Gen. 4:7).

Due to inherent weaknesses and the presence of a vicious enemy, men could be easily influenced into error. By turning from their original parent, they could become the children of another father (I John 3:12). More about that later. For the present we need to comprehensively understand God's purpose for the creation of man and woman, marriage, the birth of children, and the fabric out of which the present-day turmoil comes.

God commanded Adam and Eve to replenish the earth. That means there would be many, many children born over the years which followed creation. What was God's purpose for this growth of humanity? The creation of nations (Acts 17:26). And in this creation of nations one overriding purpose as determined by God was to prevail (Deut. 32:8). As Creator, God can make selection as it pleases Him. From the foundation of the world Abraham was chosen as the one through whom would come that nation which God would use to fulfill His purpose for man. Interestingly, as a result of that choice, the stage was now set for ultimate anger and every deception possible. The first major break from God's will

occurred rather early in the history of man. A significant perversion of the Almighty's purpose for marriage and procreation (Gen. 6:1–4). A destruction of flesh looms large (Gen. 6:5–7, 11–13).

A flood decimated humanity. Yet, the will and purpose of God was not to be altered. To Noah, this commission was given. "And God blessed Noah and his sons and said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth" (Gen. 9:1). So, from these four men and their wives came all of humanity which, after the flood, repopulated the earth. And as God willed they were divided, according to distinct purposes of His, into nations (Gen. 10:1, 5, 21, 32).

Tragically, despite the experience of a decimating flood, men were again evilly inspired to rebellion—doing that which seemed right to them (Gen. 11:1–6). Their children were taught in a way which was not pleasing to their Creator. They did that which seemed right to themselves. Children were exploited. They were not taught that which was and continues to be right in the sight of God. They were used to achieve the evil and nefarious schemes and plans of diabolically inspired fathers. Or, principally, by renowned men who were inspired and asserted themselves, insinuating their concepts, aspirations, and hopes into the society in which they lived. Again God intervened. This time not by a flood, but by confusion of languages and the scattering of the people upon the face of the earth (Gen. 11:1–9).

The first intervention of God depicts that which will occur in these last days (Matt. 24:36–39). The second sets the stage for a society which would prevail from that day down to our own time. It was the beginning of a Babylonian system—a system which prevails to this very day and in which we are ensconced far more than any man realizes.

And what do children have to do with all these rebellions and schemes? They have always been the means of continuity. By them comes the capability of accomplishing what one wrongly inspired generation could not achieve. Though diabolically evil, men deeply desire to perpetuate their concepts, ideals, and plans. Through children these plots, plans, and schemes can be given a life of their own. Is it any wonder that organizations, governments, churches, have fought so bitterly and energetically to seize control of those fertile and tremendously receptive minds?

For hundreds of years men have increased in numbers. They have become divided into nations—exactly as God willed. Now, at this time in human history, God once again intervenes in a way not dramatically comprehended by men. At the time of Noah and his sons, God commanded the repopulation of the earth. He created nations. Now, from the midst of these genetically created nations, God has promised to bring another nation—ultimately many nations—into existence. To Abraham he made this promise, ". . . Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land

that I will shew thee; and I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing (Gen. 12:1–2). Further, God promises, ". . . I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect. And I will make my covenant between me and thee, and will multiply thee exceedingly . . . Neither shall thy name any more be called Abram, but they name shall be Abraham; for a father of many nations have I made thee" (Gen. 17:1–2, 5). On the basis of what is this great promise made? Shortly after the initial promises, God said this to Abraham: ". . . Shall I hide from Abraham that thing which I do: Seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him? For I know him, that *he will command his children and his household after him*, and they shall keep the way of the Lord, to do justice and judgment; that the Lord may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him" (Gen. 18:17–19).

The children of the flesh, although physical Israelites, are not the spiritual children of Abraham (Rom. 9:7–8). Who, then, are the intended children of Abraham? (Gal. 3:7).

The children of flesh inspired of Satan are violently opposed to the purpose of God. In this life are two classes of children—the children of God and the children of Satan (I John 3:8–12). Those who are of the flesh will invariably persecute those who are of the Spirit (Gal. 4:29).

To Satan the perpetuation of his kingdom is imperative. He deems it necessary to control the minds and hearts of children. Yet, God put man here on this earth to achieve His ultimate objective, the creation of a marvelous, godly kingdom. As prophesied there will be a conflict of interests—persecution against any and all who will to obey God. What we are seeing today, that which will grow worse and worse, is the conflict between these two objectives. God is allowing these conditions and circumstances for reason. It is by them that the children of God are refined and made worthy.

Next time we will come to understand the depth and growth of that diabolical plan by which he hopes to control the minds of children and perpetuate his evil and nefarious scheme.

Blessings of Brethren

[Omitted for confidentiality]

Prayer Requests

[Omitted for confidentiality]

[Omitted for confidentiality]

Deaths

Mr. Melvin Stringfellow, Sr.: We were saddened to hear of the death of Melvin Stringfellow, Sr. of Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania. He expired on September 24, and was in his late 80's. We express our condolences to his family.

Miss Elizabeth Star Sayers: We were also saddened by the death on October 24 of Elizabeth Star Sayers, great-grandaughter of Mrs. Hazel Meadows. She was born with a congenital heart defect and was operated on against the will of her parents. She died thirty-six hours following surgery and at the time weighed only twenty-six pounds. She would have been age five on November 1. We extend our condolences to her parents and all family members.

Mr. Bill Cooper: Shortly after returning from the Feast of Tabernacles, Bill Cooper took ill. He had been in poor health for some time. He expired on October 27 from dehydration and high blood pressure after his lungs filled up with fluid. Mr. Cooper was 58 years of age. We wish to offer our sympathy to his children at this time of sorrow.

Mr-s. Encardio Benitez: A grandson—who lived in Phoenix, Arizona—was recently electrocuted. He was nineteen years of age. Please pray for the Benitez family. Let us all help them bear this heavy burden.

Office

Please be reminded that Mr. Cole is generally not available for phone calls before 1:00 P.M. PST. Mornings are used for writing and sermon preparation. He will be able to more effectively serve the brethren if these time constraints are respected. As always, any emergency is an exception.

Trip Schedule

November 9	Baltimore	R.C.C.
November 16	C. California	R.C.C.
December 14, 21	Philippines	R.C.C.

Tape Schedule

<u>Tape Series</u>	<u>Mailed</u>	<u>For</u>	<u>Title/tape #</u>
WSE-BC 149-10	08/14	11/02	The Teachings of Christ #10
WSE-RC 59-49	08/28	11/09	Despair or Glory, Which? #49
WSE-BC 147-30	08/28	11/16	Mighty Acts & Miracles of God #30
WSE-RC 59-50	09/11	11/23	Despair or Glory, Which? #50
WSE-BC 149-11	09/11	11/30	The Teachings of Christ #11
WSE-RC 59-51	10/16	12/07	Despair or Glory, Which? #51
WSE-BC 147-31	10/16	12/14	Mighty Acts & Miracles of God #31
WSE-RC 59-52	10/30	12/21	Despair or Glory, Which? #52
WSE-BC 149-12	10/30	12/28	The Teachings of Christ #12

In Christ's service,



Raymond C. Cole

Bryce G. Clark