

**INTERDEPENDENT-INTERACTIVE, CHURCH OF GOD, SABBATH SERVICES,
BIBLE STUDIES, AND OPEN FELLOWSHIP, PLUS THIS NEWSLETTER
MAY/JUNE 2004---Issue No. 21**

WHO ARE WE?

Group Name: We have no official name--nor do we want one--however we provide the following: INTERDEPENDENT-INTERACTIVE, CHURCH OF GOD, SABBATH SERVICES, BIBLE STUDIES, AND OPEN FELLOWSHIP.

Address: 320 N. Griffin St. City: Bismarck State: ND Zip Code: 58501

Country: USA Phone: (701) 258-7172 FAX: (919) 640-1806

E-Mail: Darwin-Laura@Juno.com

Website: <http://darwinlauralee.150m.com>

Leadership Body: Christ the Head of God's Church, Colossians 1:18, Ephesians 5:23, and I Corinthians 11:3. Local contact persons are Darwin or Laura Lee.

Purpose: To provide Interdependent-Interactive, Church of God, Sabbath Services and Bible Studies to all of God's People, including those who are not welcome to visit or attend other groups due to having been suspended or disfellowshipped, as well as those who want a place to attend weekly, those who are just visiting our area, and anyone else who is interested in God's way of living. We also have open fellowship here, meaning that you are welcome to come visit with us during our open fellowship times even if you are not interested in attending our Sabbath Services or Bible Studies.

History: We held our first Bible Study here on June 30, 2000 and our first Sabbath Service was held on December 16, 2000.

Affiliation/Membership: Our Affiliation is with God our Father and His Son Jesus the Christ. Our membership includes *all* of God's people, no matter where they are.

Distinctive Doctrines: John 13:34-35

Use Sacred Names?: Since salvation is between God and each individual (Philippians 2:12), so the use of sacred names would be between each individual person and God.

Observe Holy Days?: We believe that God commands us to keep the Weekly Sabbath as well as Passover/Days of Unleavened Bread, Pentecost, Feast of Trumpets, Atonement, Feast of Tabernacles, and the Last Great Day, however, we also believe there is much controversy out there in understanding if certain ones should or shouldn't be kept, how to keep them and when to keep them. So with this in mind, we will try to the best of our ability to accommodate these differences, believing and having faith that someday through God's Holy Spirit, we will all be brought into the same understanding on this subject. Until then let's follow John 13:34-35.

Evangelistic Efforts: We provide a service to God's People no matter where they are to the best of our ability. This service includes Interdependent-Interactive, Church of God, Sabbath Services, Bible Studies and Open Fellowship. We also welcome live speakers for interactive, and special music, on a volunteer only basis.

Periodicals: We have a newsletter, which we publish every 2 months.

Literature: We distribute tapes and literature for others and ourselves to the best of our ability.

Parent Group: The greater Church of God--The Ekklesia. Language: English

Other Language: None Country: USA

Name: Contact Persons are Darwin & Laura Lee Address: 320 N. Griffin St.

City: Bismarck State: North Dakota Zip Code: 58501

Phone: (701) 258-7172 E-Mail: Darwin-Laura@Juno.com

Directions To Meeting: 320 N. Griffin St., Bismarck, North Dakota, located at the corner of Rosser Avenue and Griffin Street, with plenty of side street parking.

Time of Meeting: Usually 1:00 PM, but may vary.

SABBATH SERVICES--Every Saturday unless stated other wise on page 3. We generally do a phone hookup, video tape, or cassette tape, service with various speakers. If you have a video or audio tape you think we should hear, please send it.

We also welcome live speakers, and special music, by others on a volunteer basis. Please ask us about hosting.

Sabbath Schedule is as follows:

12:00 Noon--Open Fellowship
(Door Open, Come In)
1:00 PM---Sabbath Services
3:00 PM---Open Fellowship

BIBLE STUDIES--We have Bible Studies approximately every 6 weeks. We have a Pot Luck Meal before we start our Bible Studies, so please bring food if you would like to participate in the fellowship, which goes with a meal.

Bible Study Schedule is as follows:

6:30 PM---Open Fellowship
(Door Open, Come In)
7:00 PM---Pot Luck Meal
(Bring Food)
8:00 PM---Bible Study
9:00 PM---Open Fellowship

Bible Study Dates are as follows:

Friday, May 28, 2004
Friday, July 9, 2004
Friday, August 20, 2004

GUEST ROOM--If you are from out of town and are here to attend Sabbath Services or one of our Bible Studies, we do have a guest room. Please call ahead so we know when you will be arriving. (701) 258-7172 (Please Leave a message.)

LOCATION--Sabbath Services and Bible Studies are held at the home of Darwin & Laura Lee, located at 320 N. Griffin St., Bismarck, North Dakota. Please use the upper back door by the garage. Phone Number (701) 258-7172 (Please Leave a message.)

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE--The deadline for submitting articles and letters for possible inclusion in our July/August 2004 Newsletter is June 15, 2004. Thank You. Laura Lee (Editor)

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FINANCIAL DISCLOSER:

We do not charge for the services that we provide to the brethren. We also do not take any wages from the gift donations we are sent. The services we provide do however cost us money. From 2001 to 2003 our total balance left owing for expenses for services provided was **-\$5434.36**.

Donations for 2004 total **+\$630.00**. Expenses for 2004 are as follows: Postage **-\$310.36**, Telephone **-\$53.99**, Internet Services **-\$52.00**, Printing Charges **-\$187.92**, Local Services **-\$87.18** and Research Materials **-\$126.47**. Total balance for 2004 is: **-\$187.92**.

If you need a year end receipt, please request one. We truly appreciate the help we receive in helping others. Please make all checks out to Darwin or Laura Lee. Thank you Darwin & Laura Lee.

E-MAIL & SNAIL MAIL:

Prayer-Requests-Darwin-Laura@juno.com Send your prayer requests here. They will go out via email.

Newsletter-Only-Darwin-Laura@juno.com The deadline for Issue #21--May/June 2004 is April 15, 2004.

Answer-Me-Darwin-Laura@juno.com If you want us to answer your email, send it here.

Darwin-Laura@juno.com If you want us to read it, and delete it, send it here.

FAX--Our Fax number is: (919) 640-1806

SNAIL MAIL--Our snail mail address is Darwin & Laura Lee, PO Box 2333, Bismarck, ND 58502.

WEB SITE ADDRESS--<http://darwinlauralee.150m.com>

AD SECTION--If you have an ad that you would like to have us print, please write it up and send it to: **Newsletter-Only-Darwin-Laura@Juno.com** We may not print all ads, but we will read them for consideration of inclusion in this newsletter and then we will let you know one way or the other. Some ads will also be posted on our Web Site. We print ads and post them on our web site as a courtesy to others and not because we agree with everything said in them.

PENTECOST--We will observe Pentecost here at 320 N. Griffin St., Bismarck, North Dakota on Wednesday May 26, 2004, with services at 1:00PM (door open for fellowship at 12:00 noon). At 5:00PM for anyone who would like to join us, we will meet for a meal and fellowship at the "North American Steak Buffet Restaurant" in Bismarck. We realize that not all people will be observing Pentecost on the same day, so with this in mind, if you need a place to observe this day differently than we do, please contact us and if we can help you in anyway, we certainly will try.

Congregation meeting announcement

Pasadena, California – The brethren of the Church of God Southern California meet at 10:30 each Sabbath, with services also available by telephone hookup. Exceptions, directions and call-in instructions are available on our website – <http://cogsc.info> Children's bible studies are held the first and third Sabbaths of each month. On behalf of our pastor, Dr. David Antion, we cordially welcome any and all to join us in fellowship and worship. Email: cogscpas@aol.com

**SPECIAL SPEAKING TOUR BY THE CHAIRMAN,
GERSHON SALOMON, TO THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA IN SUMMER 2004**

Exciting News and Messages from Jerusalem About the Soon Complete Redemption of Israel and the Rebuilding of the Temple and Its Significance to the Nations at This Critical Time

Mr. Salomon is already scheduled for many meetings on this tour but his schedule is open to other invitations. He will be more than glad to speak in your congregation, with your group or in your area.

This is the time to have Gershon speak in a meeting in your congregation or area. For this please contact Laura O'Bryant in the United States on telephone: (407) 678-1653, fax: (407) 699-6399, or e-mail: TMount99@aol.com as soon as possible so that the schedule can be arranged.

SABBATH SCHEDULE--BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA

- April 17, 2004----Open for Hosting--Please sign up
April 24, 2004----Teaching the Law--Lesson #23--Genesis 7:1-2 Clean & Unclean Food Doctrine of Heaven & Hell.
Teaching the Law--Lesson #24--Genesis 7:3 End of Chapter, Doctrine of Heaven & Hell, Righteousness, Sin and Consequences.
May 1, 2004----Open for Hosting--Please sign up
May 8, 2004----Teaching the Law--Lesson #25--Genesis 8:1-19 The Flood - Noah's Righteousness
Teaching the Law--Lesson #26--Genesis 8:20 - 10:19 End of Flood/Rainbow Covenant, Canaan's Curse
May 15, 2004----Open for Hosting--Please sign up
May 22, 2004----Teaching the Law--Lesson #27--The Identity of the True Church (Part 1) Abraham's first calling; overview of history of "church of God" and counterfeit church - Babylon.
Teaching the Law--Lesson #28--The Identity of the True Church (Part 2) Separation of true/counterfeit church; Israel in Egypt/deliverance/idolatry; mystery religion in Israel.
May 26, 2004----PENTECOST (See ad on page #2.)
May 29, 2004----Open for Hosting--Please sign up
June 5, 2004----Teaching the Law--Lesson #29--The Identity of the True Church (Part 3) Samaritans' link with mystery religion and its influence today. Original name of "church" of God.
Teaching the Law--Lesson #30--The Identity of the True Church (Part 4) Meaning of "church" of God; Promises/Covenant with Abraham and his descendants forever.
June 12, 2004----Arlan Weight will be hosting. We will be seeing two David Barton videos as follows: "The Foundations of American Government" and "America's Godly Heritage"
June 19, 2004----Teaching the Law--Lesson #31--The Identity of the True Church (Part 5) "Kosher" laws; Casting away Hagar; Prophecy of Christ's sacrifice; Covenant with Issac/Jacob.
Teaching the Law--Lesson #32--The Identity of the True Church (Part 6) Jacob changed to Israel-wrestled with God; Jacob's household "pre-Sinai" covenant; Birthright to Joseph in Egypt.
June 26, 2004----Open for Hosting--Please sign up
July 3, 2004----Teaching the Law--Lesson #33--The Identity of the True Church (Part 7) National name of "Israel"-whom does it belong?; Northern Kingdom's attitude toward Judah.
Teaching the Law--Lesson #34--The Identity of the True Church (Part 8) End time blessings; Israel in slavery due to iniquities; Burning bush and Moses; The "name" of God; 7 stages of redemption; Israel-royal priesthood forever.
July 10, 2004----Open for Hosting--Please sign up
July 17, 2004----Teaching the Law--Lesson #35--The Identity of the True Church (Part 9) Physical/Spiritual concept of covenant; The ten words-Israel interrupts God's sermon on mount; Blessings, cursings, final redemption of Israel; Blessing of Israel through Babylonia prophet.
Teaching the Law--Lesson #36--The Identity of the True Church (Part 10) Spiritual marriage; circumcision before entering land; Obedience to Torah to enter Kingdom; God's restoration of Israel after tribulation.
July 24, 2004----Open for Hosting--Please sign up
July 31, 2004----Teaching the Law--Lesson #37--The Identity of the True Church (Part 11) Second covenant; Israel--God's inheritance; Israel provokes God to jealousy, God provokes them with grafted individual Gentiles.
Teaching the Law--Lesson #38--The Identity of the True Church (Part 12) End time blessing of "church" of God; Torah-heritage of Israel; God's holy city; Israel the true "church".

If you want to host Sabbath Services and need 2 Sabbaths in a row for your presentation and/or would like to have your presentation listed on our Sabbath Schedule in our newsletter which is sent out to the public, the next deadline for that would be: June 15, 2004. On those Sabbaths of Open Hosting where no one signs up, we will just play a cassette tape by any of various speakers. All Sabbath Services are Hosted by Darwin & Laura Lee unless otherwise stated.

Churches of God (7th Day) Presents:

Catch The Vision Youth Conference June 30 - July 4, 2004

If you are tired of doing the same old thing every summer, pack your bags and join us in sunny Florida for the biggest spiritual event of 2004.

The door is wide open and no man can shut it. You will not want to miss this ground-breaking event that will transform our youth.

Come and join us for this exciting and unique event. You'll be glad you did.

Call 1-866-284-9466 or visit www.mtzioncog7.org // www.cog7day.org Phone: (718) 287-2152 Email: info@mtzioncog7.org

"THE DOCTRINE OF THE PHARISEES"

The Doctrine of the Pharisees is a brand new, 36-page [8½ x 11] booklet that lays bare the modern day Pharisees and their doctrines. This informative booklet identifies, from the Bible, that the Pharisee's doctrines of JESUS CHRIST'S time are alive and well today. This is a must read for every believer who feels bombarded by the flurry of doctrinal divergences that are upon all of us. Your free copy can be obtained by contacting A Church of GOD, 7411 WCR 24H, Loveland, CO. 80538, or call 970-6676616 or 9203, or E-mail: drkenders@myexcel.com

BIBLE COURSE

We are offering a free Bible course via the internet to the public. If you are interested, just e-mail us at biblicalfellowship@cox.net. Plus, since the Biblical Fellowship Group is an information source with articles and other items, we are planning to do a weekly posting of various articles to anyone interested. Again, if interested, just e-mail us.

FEAST OF TABERNACLES 2004

We are a small fellowship of believers, in the northwest most of whom came into the move of the Spirit from the old World Wide Church of God, and many have joined themselves to the congregation seeking the gifts of the Spirit which have been being manifest among us.

We feel as though the Father is directing us to establish a Feast of Tabernacles site dedicated to worshipping the Father in Spirit and Truth, somewhere in the North West, and offering an open invitation to those who wish to take part in the "move of the Spirit", during the Feast of Tabernacles.

If you could mention that we are in the beginning stages of planning such a site, and give my email for anyone who would be interested, I would appreciate it.

Al Green
grnpstr@juno.com

ISRAEL'S LOST EMPIRES----BY STEVEN M. COLLINS

Was ancient Israel a land-locked nation or a seacoast trading empire? In this fascinating study, historian Steven M. Collins details the little-known story of Israel's ancient empires. Not only did King David's land empire stretch clear across the Mid-East to Mesopotamia, but Israel boasted a navy rivaling the famed Phoenicians, and in fact dominated them. Hebrew ships plied the Mediterranean, establishing colonies along the European and North African coasts. Israel's influence in the ancient city-state of Carthage has never before been so thoroughly documented, nor her definite presence in early Britain. New evidence is presented also suggesting that her ships visited the North American continent, as well. This study plows much new ground in ancient history. Mr. Collins' knack for patient research and logical deduction is only exceeded by a lively and riveting writing style that will surely hold the reader's attention to the last page. Over 100 maps and illustrations complement this unique study!

Ordering Information: Price: US\$20 each, plus postage & handling of \$4 economy or \$7 priority for up to two books. (Contact us for freight quote on quantity orders.) Website address: www.bibleblessings.net; Email: staff@bibleblessings.net; Bible Blessings, Box 1778, Royal Oak, MI 48068-1778 USA

FAMILY OF GOD FELLOWSHIP WEEKEND

August 20-22, 2004

IN BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA

INFORMATION SECTION -- This section is meant for various items which should be of interest to the general public. If you have an item to be considered for inclusion in this section, please send it to: Newsletter-Only-Darwin-Laura@Juno.com We are not always in total agreement with all things we print.

**INTERNET FAST REPLACING TV,
RADIO AND PRINT**

by Alan Ruth
Farmington Hills, Michigan

My upcoming 41st birthday on January 15th jogged thoughts about church of God history I have pondered since attending Garner Ted Armstrong's funeral four months ago.

January, 2004 is thought to be the 70th anniversary of when Herbert Armstrong began to utilize mass-media to preach the gospel. While it is true this month began his first use of a dedicated half-hour time slot on radio to preach the gospel, it was not the actual beginning of using mass-media evangelistic techniques. The truth may have far more profound implications than folks may realize.

In HWA's biography, Volume 1, pages 529-530, in the chapter titled "*The World Tomorrow Broadcast Begins*", the section HWA himself entitled "The First Broadcast", he writes:

"In September -- very soon after rejecting a salary and being controlled and muzzled by MEN, the living Christ began opening doors for the MASS-proclaiming of His Gospel."

The year he is talking about is 1933. According to HWA, the "real" beginning, the first TRUE open door to preach the gospel occurred in **September, 1933**.

It is interesting to note that HWA was not actively seeking to use such mass-evangelism media up to this time. It was some unnamed person who told him about a radio opportunity at station KORE in Eugene, Oregon, which HWA quickly took advantage of (pg. 530).

I find it fascinating that it is EXACTLY 70 years, to the month, from the time of the FIRST opportunity unexpectedly presented to the church for mass evangelism to the death of the very

LAST man (GTA) in the church to still somewhat effectively use what arguably was THE most powerful evangelistic tool of his generation: Television.

Now, I am not saying others have had NO fruit from such tools. The fact remains, however, that the heyday of TV/radio/magazine evangelism is past---period. Church cheerleaders notwithstanding, most groups today using these "Big Three" techniques far more promote station numbers and bulked-up public access TV listings than responses and effective use of money God has given them. In spite of foibles, flaws and sometimes foolishness, I have no doubt HWA and GTA were specially gifted of God to take full advantage of the most powerful mass evangelism tools of their generation. While there are many talented brethren in the church, I have yet to find a 300+ church of God group with a person like-gifted as they were that is effectively reaching the world with the gospel with the same tools they used.

On an interesting note, Bullinger's "*Number in Scripture*" book states that the number 70 in scripture means:

". . . signifies perfect spiritual order carried out with all spiritual power and significance. Both spirit and order are greatly emphasized."

This certainly is food for thought given the current state of the greater church of God.

Of course, now and for the foreseeable future the NEW growing and most powerful mass-evangelism tool of THIS generation (and which is utilized more and more by the **church of God: The Next Generation**) is the Internet.

What we are seeing may be a true "shifting of gears" in the church, not the END of the church's powerful preaching of the gospel. This may be the line that defines the end of God's evangelism plan using mostly the previous generation's tools and his quickening pace to more powerfully utilize the awesome new "next generation" mass-evangelism techniques and tools within his church. The next several years in the church should prove most interesting.

NEED BIBLES & LITERATURE

by Aden Johnson
Nigeria

Joy and peace to you from our faithful and unchangeable God, who is definitely calling for total obedience, in this great hour of the harvest of souls, before Jesus comes. We trust all is well with you and that your zeal to fulfill the great commission given to every believer is undimmed. Nevertheless, it is our privilege to always be of service to God's children, and make bibles available to all that have a growing desire, to learn more about our lord Jesus and His gospel of salvation for His expansion of the kingdom. May we in this juncture request you to bless us with good Holy bibles and gospel books for free distribution to the new believers we converted to the glorious gospel of our lord Jesus Christ, concerning the word of God for their moral and spiritual edification, thereby having a strong base in Christianity. For the bible is the greatest book ever read by mankind, it changes lives and brings a message of faith, comfort and meaning in an apparently meaningless world. There is no other book of any religion, that has specific prophecies spoken years ahead of time and fulfilled to the letter like the bible. It is so edifying for every one to have this perfect revelation of God's thought to believe and be strong as a Christian. We'll therefore be very grateful to you, if you'll be able to buy these bibles at your convenient time. If you do not have in stock, all geared to His glory for in you we remain our absolute trust that you'll comply and would not fail nor disappoint us, just as God has given you the grace and the ability to do so. We rejoice to see God's word freely go around the world and transform lives into the kingdom of God. We leave you in God's hands and wishing you his guidance and blessings in your life. Yours in Jesus. Life Changing Ministry, PO Box 145, Owo, Ondo State, Nigeria.

**NEED 5 NEW OR USED GIANT
PRINT BIBLES**

**by Rosemary Adebas
Nigeria**

Loving greetings to you and your blessed family from Gods loved. I have a great joy consolation in your love and concern for the lost to be saved and established in Godly life. I am so glad to share this wonderful testimony with you on how I and my parents were delivered from the satanic bondage.

I and my parents worshiped an idol, known as Nana, [meaning chief] that made our lives so miserable. I was giving birth by the source of demonic power under the seas that make me to possess and belong to their society. I was in agreement with them to kill and destroy people that do not have Christ in their life, and I have killed about fifty-two souls through a motor accident and sickness. I was elevated in the group as a leader.

On my way going on a mission, I met a pastor on the way, he stopped me and continued to preach the doctrine of Christ to me, I began to listen, it was sounding like a hammer in my heart, and I felt a great touch to realize that I was a sinner and failed to embrace Christ, but my heart was hardened to confess my sins before Him, because of the demons that were in me. I was with seven demons.

After his preaching, he said if I do not repent of my sins that I will die before two months, that is what the Lord said to Him, but I could not believe in him. He left and gave me his home address, when it was two days, I was sent to kill the pastor. As I get to his house at night, I was transformed to an invisible spirit, and as I was about to kill him with a knife, I felt a great heat all over my body. I tried to run away but I could not, suddenly the pastor woke up and continued to pray and I became as a normal human being. I was on the floor and the heat was still tormenting me, and he began to pray for me and I confessed my sins and he prayed and delivered me from the demonic power. I accept Him as my Lord and personal savior and He change and transformed my life through the blood of the lamb.

When it was a week the demonic forces came to seduce me to come back to them, but they could not succeed and I refused to continue with them and they tried to hurt me but they failed through the

power of Christ, that was protecting me. I went to preach to my parents about His good news and how He delivered me from the demonic possession and I explained that the idol has ears, eyes, legs, a mouths and hands, but it cannot work for their good. After this statement they became very angry with me and they ask me to leave their house.

I continue to pray for God to touch their hearts to realize the truth I was telling them. One day a great miracle happened, I saw the statue of the idols in my parents house, it had been taken out side to be cleaned and dried. At that time one of my brother's had been cursed by black powers and was very ill, and my father bowed down in front of the idol, begging for it to save his son from death. For about one hour he was bowed down in a great grief, but the idol could not heal my brother and he died.

After the cremation, I told my father you have seen that the idol was unable to save your son, and the same thing applies to you. Immediately he burnt the idols totally. After that he believed and accepted Christ into his life, both my mum and sisters. We are all saved, delivered and set free through Christ the healer.

Beloved, there is something we are thirsty of that will help us to live a faithful and victorious life for Christ, it is the bible that brings faith and comfort. So I greatly plead with you to send us five used or new giant print bibles because of our bad sight that generate from birth to birth, to share with my family that live in another area that will help us easily to understand His word for our life. It will help keep us from sins, and falling from the faith and also help us to have a strong base in Christianity. We only believe through the help of the scripture we can live the faithful life He wants us to live.

Please do not let failure be the result, we absolutely believe that you will help us in this need to grow in the faith. He is kind enough to help us in this need and will reward you accordingly. I leave you in Gods hands and wishing you His guidance and blessing in your life. We look forward to receive the bibles through Airmail as soon as this letter reach you. Good bye, till I hear from you soon. God Bless You All Amen, Yours for Jesus. Rosemary Adebas, PO Box 10583, Bein City, Edo State, Nigeria

RAY GEORGE KURR DIED

**by Doyle Carter
Tulsa, Oklahoma**

Ray George Kurr, 73, was born in Bronx, NY on July 14, 1930 and passed away on February 29, 2004. He served our country as a marine in the Korean War and was awarded the Purple Heart. He was a master mechanic, owning his own shop and working for several companies, including Saab Motor Company where he was the top salesman. After retiring, Ray took a more focused interest in studying the Bible which led to an extended stay in Jerusalem, Israel a city he dearly loved. He moved to Tulsa in 1996 to be closer to his family. He loved sharing his Christian faith with others and along with his wife, hosting Bible studies in his home. He had ties to several congregations in the Tulsa area and his fellowship will be missed by many in the area. Ray was buried in Gibson National Cemetery.

PAGE #6

**June 12, 2004
Arlan Weight will
be hosting Sabbath
Services in
Bismarck, North
Dakota.**

**We will be seeing
two David Barton
videos as follows:
“The Foundations
of American
Government” and
“America’s Godly
Heritage”**

Questions Section--Send your Biblical Questions to us anonymously. We do not need to know your name for this section, no name's will be printed in this section, only the question and the answer. Questions submitted should be 50 words or less. Please send your questions to us snail mail at: Darwin & Laura Lee, PO Box 2333, Bismarck, ND 58502 (Make sure you identify your correspondence by writing "Questions Section" on your letter someplace where we will see it.) or email your questions to:
Questions-Section-Darwin-Laura@Juno.com

QUESTION #6

Is there any punishment for people who do evil?

Yes there is punishment.

5. And God saw that **the wickedness of man was great in the earth**, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.
6. And it repented the Lord that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart.
7. And the Lord said, **I will destroy man** whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them. (Genesis 6:5-7)
32. And **they brought up an evil report** of the land which they had searched unto the children of Israel, saying, The land, through which we have gone to search it, is a land that eateth up the inhabitants thereof; and all the people that we saw in it are men of a great stature. (Numbers 13:32)
37. Even **those men that did bring up the evil report upon the land, died by the plague** before the Lord. (Numbers 14:37)
35. I the Lord have said, I will surely do it unto all this **evil congregation**, that are gathered together against me: in this wilderness **they shall be**

consumed, and there they shall die. (Numbers 14:35)

13. And the Lord's anger was kindled against Israel, and **he made them wander in the wilderness forty years**, until all the generation, that had done evil in the sight of the Lord, was consumed. (Numbers 32:13)
5. And **that prophet**, or that dreamer of dreams, **shall be put to death**; because **he hath spoken to turn you away from the Lord your God**, which brought you out of the land of Egypt, and redeemed you out of the house of bondage, to thrust thee out of the way which the Lord thy God commanded thee to walk in. So shalt thou put the evil away from the midst of thee. (Deuteronomy 13:5)

1. And the **children of Israel did evil** again in the sight of the Lord; and **the Lord delivered them into the hand of the Philistines forty years.** (Judges 13:1)
4. For if God **spared not the angels that sinned**, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment;
5. And **spared not the old world**, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly;
6. And **turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha into ashes** condemned them with an overthrow, making them an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly; (2 Peter 2:4-6)
12. But these, as natural brute beasts, made to be taken and destroyed, speak evil of the things that they understand not; and **shall utterly perish in their own corruption**; (2 Peter 2:12)

As you can see from the above scriptures. No one gets away unpunished for doing evil. Scriptures like the above can be found from Genesis to Revelation.

The Bible also shows that certain individuals (rather than whole groups of people) who do evil are punished and there are also several examples of this from Genesis to Revelation.

3. Now the name of the man was **Nabal**; and the name of his wife Abigail: and she was a woman of good understanding, and of a beautiful

countenance: **but the man was churlish and evil in his doings**; and he was of the house of Caleb. (1 Samuel 25:3)

38. **And it came to pass about ten days after, that the Lord smote Nabal, that he died.**
39. And when David heard that Nabal was dead, he said, Blessed be the Lord, that hath pleaded the cause of my reproach from the hand of Nabal, and hath kept his servant from evil: for **the Lord hath returned the wickedness of Nabal upon his own head.** And David sent and communed with Abigail, to take her to him to wife. (1 Samuel 25:38-39)
14. **Alexander the coppersmith did me much evil: the Lord reward him according to his works:** (2 Timothy 4:14)
20. Of whom is Hymenaeus and **Alexander; whom I have delivered unto Satan**, that they may learn not to blaspheme. (1 Timothy 1:20)

No one goes unpunished for the evil they do.

Answered by:
Laura Lee
Bismarck, North Dakota

QUESTION #7

Is it just "live it up and be evil now cause a second chance is coming?"

This is the pivotal point which many do not understand. No one gets a second chance, however many mistake when a person is given a chance. Many people believe that today is the only day of salvation. The problem is that most who are leading lifestyles of sin do not know or understand that there is a different path in life. Only a few people are being called by God and judged at this point in time, some will be judged during the Millennium when Christ is ruling here on earth and the rest will be judged after the thousand years are up and they are resurrected.

29. And shall come forth; they that have done good, **unto the resurrection of life**; and they that have done evil, unto the **resurrection of** damnation [**"Judgment"** would be a better translation here than "damnation"]. (John 5:29)

15. And have hope toward God, which they themselves also allow, that there shall be a **resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust.** (Acts 24:15)

4. And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

5. But **the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished.** This is the first resurrection.

6. Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years. (Revelation 20:4-6)

The following scriptures show that Sodom and Gomorrah have not yet been judged. The people who lived in those cities will get their one and only chance to choose to follow God after they are resurrected. God did punish their evil ways by destroying them. God also destroyed these two cities to show all those who lived afterward that God was not going to put up with this sort of evil forever. When God destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah it was to be an example for all people that they will be destroyed if they do not turn away from their evil ways. Do many even validate this example today, probably not, however it does not stop the consequence of doing evil, from being the penalty of death.

13. But the men of Sodom were wicked and sinners before the Lord exceedingly. (Genesis 13:13)

24. Then the Lord rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the Lord out of heaven; (Genesis 19:24)

9. The shew of their countenance doth witness against them; and they declare their sin as Sodom, they hide it not.

Woe unto their soul! for they have rewarded evil unto themselves. (Isaiah 3:9)

14. I have seen also in the prophets of Jerusalem an horrible thing: they commit adultery, and walk in lies: they strengthen also the hands of evildoers, that none doth return from his wickedness; they are all of them unto me as Sodom, and the inhabitants thereof as Gomorrah. (Jeremiah 23:14)

15. Verily I say unto you, **It shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment,** than for that city. (Matthew 10:15)

24. But I say unto you, That **it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment,** than for thee. (Matthew 11:24)

11. And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear you, when ye depart thence, shake off the dust under your feet for a testimony against them. Verily I say unto you, **It shall be more tolerable for Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment,** than for that city. (Mark 6:11)

12. But I say unto you, that **it shall be more tolerable in that day for Sodom,** than for that city. (Luke 10:12)

6. And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly; (2 Peter 2:6)

7. Even as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire. (Jude 1:7)

Each one of us right now, today is responsible for what we know and we will be judged for it now. Here is what God says about those who do evil. He says they do not know Him. Each of us need to judge ourselves and God will reward the Evil doers for their evil and He will reward his elect for their good. **3 John 1:11 "Beloved, follow not that which is evil, but that which is good. He that doeth good is of God: but he that doeth evil hath not seen God."**

In other words, for the most part those who are doing evil now have never seen or never known God. They have never even had their first chance to know or to follow God yet. Remember what Christ said before he died? **"Father forgive them, for they know not what they have done."**

Those who are evil will be punished as God sees fit. As for us we shouldn't worry about whether others get punished or not, but we should dwell on what we ourselves are doing and understand that most people do not know God at all, but someday they will get their chance to know God as God's elect know God now.

**Answered by:
Laura Lee
Bismarck, North Dakota**

QUESTION #8

Is it proper to not take a breathalyzer on religious grounds of its uncleanness and unholiness? I don't eat pork and the breathalyzers composition might have pork product makeup.

No, My first thought of this question was: Why would a religious person be asked to take a breathalyzer test any way? If you don't eat pork, maybe you shouldn't over drink and then drive on religious grounds as well. Titus 3:1 "Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work", As long as any civil law of man does not conflict with God's law and principles, a Christian will want to and strive to obey authorities, including God's authority over him or her. Matt. 15:18 "But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man. (v19) "For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies": This is not to say that it is ok to eat pork products. Our concerns ought to be on what we do, including over drinking. Drinking is not wrong, drinking in excess is. Eating is not wrong. However, over eating is wrong as is eating unclean foods. If you don't want to take a breathalyzer test, then don't drink and drive and chances are you won't be asked to take such a test, other wise submit to the authority as God expects you to and take the test.

**Answered by:
Darwin Lee
Bismarck, North Dakota
PAGE #8**

LETTERS SECTION--This section can contain letters to the editor, to the brethren, or from the editor. Please keep in mind while reading these letters, that just because we print them does not mean that we agree with everything people say in these letters. Letters many times are filled with opinion and emotion and sometimes factual and un-factual information. This section is interactive. If you agree or disagree with a letter or an article in this newsletter and want others to know, this is the section for you. Send your letters to: Newsletter-Only-Darwin-Laura@Juno.com
We do not print all letters that we receive.

Letter Received:
January 16, 2004

Subject: THANK YOU FOR YOUR NEWSLETTER

by Michael Royal
Huntsville, Texas

Dear Darwin & Laura,

Thank you so much for your newsletter you send. Issue #19 is the second one received and I find all the articles and features so informative and such a blessing. After I received my first issue I was looking forward to the next. I was so happy when the officer came by last night and brought me this issue.

I am enclosing the request form in here. I don't know how many I can order, but I want to read all your publications listed in order to try and catch up. You are truly a God send.

I just wish that I wasn't an indigent inmate so that I could send donations. I feel so blessed by having come in contact with your church.

Thank you for all that you do in remembering those of us locked away by prison bars.

Yours In Christ, Michael

Editor's Note: When requesting from pages 23 and 24 of our newsletter, please be advised, we found that when we had computer problems back in October and November of 2003, some of our files became corrupted. We are

able to restore the files to readable format, however it is causing major delays in filling orders at this point. All orders will be filled, we just don't know when at this point. Laura Lee

Letter Received:
November 30, 2003

Subject: 1 CORINTHIANS 10

by Darwin Lee
Bismarck, North Dakota

The following letter was printed in "The Journal" Issue December 31, 2003 on page #4, last column under the heading "Stay in Context". Dixon Cartwright Editor of "The Journal" somehow got the name on the letter wrong and it was printed in "The Journal" giving credit to a gentleman named Henk Jens of Australia. Henk Jens is not in agreement with the letter printed above his name in "The Journal" and was quite upset about it. Dixon has apologized for his mistake and a correction was printed in the January 2004 Issue of "The Journal".

The letter was written by Darwin Lee and it is as follows:

I only have one thing to say about Anthony Buzzard's gross distortion of scripture in his letter to the editor, (Journal) Oct. 2003. By his own words in his rebuttal to Archie Faul, he said, "It is a basic rule of Bible study that scripture be read in their immediate context...".

Mr. Buzzard should apply that rule to himself when he refers to 1 Corinthians 10:4. He says, "The 'rock which followed them' was not Jesus preexisting but an OT type of the coming of Christ. Paul said that not I."

The scripture is plain. Here is what it really says, "And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ."

Nowhere in this verse do we see any hint of a "type" of OT "coming of Christ". He uses verse 11 to try and prove that. He says, "In 1 Corinthians 10:11 he said that he has been talking 'typically', 'in types'. Paul provides his own commentary."

What gobbledygook! This is what verse 11 really says, "Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples; and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come."

In verse 9 we read, "Neither let us tempt Christ as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed of serpents."

Who did they tempt? They tempted Christ who was preexistent before being born of a human mother (Mary).

With a careful examination of verse 11, one can only conclude that the "type" (examples) refers only to the things that God was not well pleased with starting in verse 5. The word "type" is not even used in this chapter. Paul uses the word "examples" v6, "ensamples" v11. Those were actual things God was not well pleased with, not "types" of things.

Every one of those things listed that God was not well pleased with of what they did can be found in the OT.

The Greek meanings for ensamples are varied. [Strong's Ref. #5179 Romanized tupos, Pronounced too'-pos, from GSN5180; a die (as struck), i.e. (by implication) a stamp or scar; by analogy, a shape, i.e. a statue, (figuratively) style or resemblance; specifically, a sampler ("type"), i.e. a model (for imitation) or instance (for warning): KJV--en-(ex-) ample, fashion, figure, form, manner, pattern, print.]

Then in context of what is being said in verses 5 to 11 (having first listed those things that God was not well pleased) can only be referring to actual things they did for our warning and example of things we should not do as they did, verses 6 and 7, and warning and example of the end result of doing those things, verses 5,8,9 and 10.

Yes, those things listed can certainly be "types" in comparison with other things of similar nature as well that would have the same end result if one would engage oneself in. When some one has a false doctrine, it seems they will do anything to defend it.

I think it's time for every one to stop quoting scripture out of context including Mr. Buzzard and all so-called scholars and all want-a-be scholars.

**Letter Received:
January 11, 2004**

Subject: ACCOUNTABILITY

**by Larry Graff
House Springs, Missouri**

To "The Journal"

The October 31st Yellow Journal printed a severally edited letter, which I wrote, that reminded me of a taped program of Herbert W. Armstrong in 1979, played by Mike Wallace, that contained selected spliced segments of the talk where HWA was addressing the attacks from the state of California. In similar fashion, it appears to me that Dixon Cartwright is (Removed by Editor) attacking church doctrine and anyone who would send in their thoughts and comments contrary to those of the Journal; yet this same paper printed an article from Anthony Buzzard on Unitarianism when he is neither a Sabbath keeper nor a Church of God member. Are not the articles supposed to be around 300 words and mine was chopped to 140! All the scripture references taken out where to prove that monotheists and those denying Christ come in the flesh are Anti-Christ [1 Jn. 4:2-3; & 2:22-23]. The main purpose of the letter was to prove that HWA taught God is a family and not a binatarian polytheistic god; polytheism teaches there are many gods mostly independent of each other. F. Paul Haney may disagree with polygamy and what HWA referred to as a family from Strong's #430 Elohiym meaning a family group. It is a uni-plural word. The resurrected saints will be in this "family" interdependent on each other and having the same desire to do His will yet within their own personalities. HWA taught we will be part of this family group, not a bunch of independent gods; our Father is not the author of polytheism.

The Holy Spirit of the most high [Lk. 1:35] will unite this family. His spirit will unite this family. He will unite this family; not a three person godhead as Trinitarians teach i.e. 1+1+1=1 where this Holy Spirit is a separate personage. The family is a Father and His Son. The Son in the flesh which has been sent to die in the express image of His Father; (Heb.1:2-3). On the other hand, monotheism is the first step into Judaism which has claimed many who once knew

the true family. As we read in Hebrews, The Father made the world through His Son who is the brightness of His glory. Verse 3 says the Son upholds all things by the word or commandment of the Father through the power of the Holy Spirit; Christ came to purge us of our sins. He was born of the Father and yet the scriptures say [Mt. 1:18] she was found with child of the Holy Spirit; if the Holy Spirit were a separate person then the Father would not be the father but the Holy Spirit if it is not of the Father. The Son had to be created in the image of His Father and that without sin so the son could die for the sinner. The Father had to raise him up, the sinless Christ, who was with the Father at creation and is sitting at the Father's right hand. The Father's power is His spirit. Hebrews 2:6-11, as well as Gen. 1:26-27, say that we are created in the image of God; not the human kind as the cattle kind is an animal kind. Both man and Jesus are made a little lower than the angels and both were crowned with glory and honor. All things were put in subjection to the authority of man lost through sin; Jesus will be bringing many sons to glory as his brethren saved from their sin. Matthew 1:23 & Isaiah 7:14 tell us Jesus is Emmanuel [God with us] and no one less than God can be counted on not to sin. The blood of bulls and goats could not forgive sin and all the blood of every human born in sin is not the worth of God's own son whom He raised because He is sinless.

If Dixon didn't like this letter any better, then he either prints this one or reprints my last one [in its entirety], which he did not [column 3; page 2, Oct. 31, 2003]. (Name Removed by Editor) said she did not like the way articles were made and (Name Removed by Editor) says he has a copy of the journal in his office to keep up with church news but won't keep it at home. I almost did not renew myself. I am sending copies of this letter to several church leaders within the Churches of God for accountability as to whether or not you'll print this article or reprint my first letter. I feel I was discredited and wish to see that article reprinted without the scriptures being edited out.

Editor's Note: We recently received word that Dixon Cartwright was never sent the above letter. Accountability cannot happen unless one lets the people involved know the problem. Laura Lee*****

**Letter Received:
February 6, 2004**

Subject: Need 2 Bibles

**by Peter Kibicho
Kenya**

Dear Editor Laura Lee,

I have the pressure to send warmest greetings to you.

I have been receiving your newsletter in good condition. It has opened my eyes to know more about the Kingdom of God. So I like them for Bible Study.

However I don't have the whole Bible only the New Testament Version.

Therefore please I am appealing to you for a help of a NKJV Bible. One for my wife and the other for me.

Thanks for your service, yours in love.

Peter

**Letter Received:
April 2, 2004**

Subject: Received 2 Bibles

**by Peter Kibicho
Kenya**

Dear Darwin Lee,

I feel much enjoyment to send much greetings to you.

I just want to thank you so much in God's name for the two Bibles (NKJV), which I have received this week.

My wife and I appreciated them very much. The two Bibles are very beautiful especially the speeches of Jesus which are colored. So we are now having Bible Study together with our children and our near friend who also enjoyed the Bibles. We gather in my house for study.

So please you can add us with more learning materials...

End of my letter with much thanks.

Yours in Christ Jesus, Peter

Editor's Note: To order other learning materials, please use page 23-24 of our current newsletter. Orders will take awhile as we are very behind in this area. Laura Lee*****
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Letter Received:
January 11, 2004

Subject: PASSOVER &
PENTECOST

by Carol Bennes
St. Joseph, Minnesota

This letter is continued from Issue
#20, pages 11 and 12.

Carol writes:

God says: Ex. 12:6, 8 "Now you shall keep it until the 14th day... Israel shall kill it at twilight." "Then they shall eat the flesh on that night..." The context is speaking of the 14th. God here is defining to us when HE considers it to be twilight -- notice first, God speaks of keeping the lambs until (the beginning of) the 14th, then at twilight (before night darkness) they were to kill the lambs, then eat them on that night.

Laura writes:

6. And ye shall keep it up **until the fourteenth day of the same month: and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in the evening (ben ha arbayim).** (Exodus 12:6)
8. And they shall eat the flesh **in that night**, roast with fire, and unleavened bread; and with bitter herbs they shall eat it. (Exodus 12:8)

Carol's premise here is that the use of the word until proves that the Bible is speaking about the very beginning of the 14th which would be where the 13th turns into the 14th. The problem with that thought however is, the second part of verse 6 says: "and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in the **evening**." The word evening in this verse is in Hebrew "ben ha arbayim", which denotes a specific time period on the 14th, that being between noon and sunset or approximately 3:00PM.

The New King James Bible says "on that night" and the Old King James says "in that night". Whether you want to say in or on, it doesn't much matter, because either way it is referring to the night that falls after the killing of the lambs. Since the lambs were killed on the latter part of the 14th between noon and sunset, you would then be eating the lambs in/on the night of the 15th.

In actuality the Bible does define the word twilight, however the Bible does not define it in the manner that Carol wants to define it. Again Carol's definition of twilight is a period of time which starts at sunset and ends when it is dark, a period of approximately 45 minutes or so. The Bible actually defines twilight as between sunset and sunrise.

See Strong's #5399, "nesheph" dusk, dawn (of morning); twilight (of evening): and has been translated as **twilight** 6 times (1 Sa. 30:17, 2 Ki. 7:5, 2 Ki. 7:7, Job 3:9, Job 24:15 and Pr. 7:9), night three times (Isa. 5:11, Isa. 21:4, and Isa. 59:10), dark one time (Jer. 13:16), dawning of the day one time (Job 7:4), and dawning of the morning one time (Ps. 119:147).

See also Strong's #5939, "alatah" thick darkness: and has been translated as **twilight** 3 times (Ez. 12:6, Ez. 12:7 and Ez. 12:12), and dark one time (Gen. 15:17). Young's Concordance also gives us the same information.

To save space, all of the scriptures in regard to twilight are listed above, however, I will only print the ones which are clear scriptures showing what time period is being spoken of in regard to twilight as the Bible defines it.

- Genesis 15:17 And it came to pass, that, **when the sun went down**, and it was **dark** (a`laTah), behold a smoking furnace, and a burning lamp that passed between those pieces. (It is clearly a period of time after sunset.)
- Job 3:9 Let the stars of the **twilight** (nishpow) thereof be dark; let it look for light, but have none; neither let it see the dawning of the day: (It is a period of time when the stars can be seen and before the sun rises in the morning.)
- Proverbs 7:9 In the **twilight** (neshep), in the evening, in the black and dark night: (Twilight is the black of night.)
- Isaiah 5:11 Woe unto them that rise up early in the morning, that they may follow strong drink; that continue until **night** (neshep), till wine inflame them! (Twilight is night.)
- Isaiah 59:10 Like the blind we feel our way along walls, we grope our way like people without eyes. We stumble as though noon were **twilight** (neshep), among the robust we are like the dead. (From this, we can see that twilight is not the day light part of any day.)

As we can see from the above scriptures, the Bible itself clearly shows that twilight is the whole period of time from sunset to sunrise and this period of

time only occurs once in every twenty-four hour period. Twilight is not defined by the Bible as a period of time between sunset and night darkness as Carol is trying to say.

Carol writes:

Remember, you acknowledge that days begin and end at sunset - therefore, the 14th begins just after sunset of the 13th=until.

Laura writes:

Yes, I acknowledge that days begin and end at sunset. However if you read Exodus 12:6 very carefully, you will see that the 1st part of the verse tells us to keep the lambs **until the fourteenth**, but the second part of the verse is very clear in telling us **exactly what time of day on the fourteenth** the lambs are to be killed. Again the word evening in this verse is **ben ha arbayim** and in Hebrew it literally means between the evenings. The first evening is noon and the 2nd evening is sunset, meaning the lambs were to be killed at approximately 3:00PM.

In context of what this verse says the word **until** does not mean the beginning of the fourteenth is when the lambs were to be killed. It clearly says "Israel shall kill it between the evenings". Again, I suggest that you check other Bible Translations and their footnotes and also check a Hebrew translation of this verse. It will help you with a better understanding.

Exodus 12:6 And ye shall keep it up **until the fourteenth day of the same month: and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in the evening (ben ha arbayim).**

Carol writes:

Your Hebrew definition of "even" in Lev. 23:5, Ex. 12:18 and elsewhere, is not what I find in the Strong's Concordance: **God uses #6153=`ereb=dusk, even, night. Comes from the prime root of #6150 `Arab=to grow dusky at sundown - be darkened toward evening.**

Laura writes:

If you look in a Young's Concordance they have some of the scriptures clearly marked which have even/evening as "ben ha arbayim", between the evenings. If you run a search engine over the Hebrew text of the Old Testament, you will easily find all of the scriptures which use the term
PAGE #11

"ben ha arbayim". Strong's is a word by word concordance and mostly misses phrases. Strong's and other works also sometimes miss the Bible meaning of words in context. In using a Strong's concordance one should not just take for granted that the men who wrote Strong's have the definitions correct in all cases.

Since Strong's is written by men, it does have errors in it. When using any concordance, one should look up all the scriptures under any given definition number and see if the Bible supports their definition. If it does not then always use the Bible definition for the word. God's word the Bible is a higher authority when it comes to word definitions, than is the definition that men sometimes lead people to believe is correct. Exodus 12:18 was not used in our past correspondence that I can find.

In Hebrew "ereb"/"Arab" means "to go west". Again go to Mordakhai Joseph's, Lesson 221 at the following Web Site address:

<http://www.teachingthelaw.org/audio/mp3/disc2/index.htm>

Mordakhai explains what "ereb"/"Arab" means in Hebrew.

Also in Issue #20 on page #12 in the second column, it was explained that if you use ereb to show the end of the day for the "Day of Atonement" then it would also be the same for "Passover" making that also at the end of the day rather than at the beginning of the day.

Carol writes:

Twilight is right after a sunset when there is still some light for several minutes, before darkness of the night. Webster's definition: between sunset and full night produced by diffusion of sunlight through the atmosphere and its dust.

Laura writes:

Again, the Bible definition of twilight has authority over and above what Webster's dictionary defines as twilight. However one of the definitions found in Webster's dictionary does back up the Bible definition, it is as follows: "any faint light". (Webster's New World Dictionary of the American Language--College Edition 1968) The night sky is generally not in total darkness, there is the illumination of the moon and many stars, thus twilight.

Carol writes:

Inconsistency #2: You say: you see no place in Ex. 12 where the lambs were burned by fire all night.

God says: Ex. 12:10 "you shall let none of it remain until morning, and what remains of it until morning you shall burn with fire." I was referring you to a typology that Christ suffered during this same time of ancient roasting of the lambs with the entrails, because you seemed so determined that the lambs had to die the same time as Christ; it seemed you had to have exact similarities of the experiences of the Lamb of God vs. physical lambs. Remember, that God chooses the events of the day, for His own reasons.

Laura writes:

- Exodus 12:8 And they shall eat the flesh in that night, roast with fire, and unleavened bread; and with bitter herbs they shall eat it.
- Exodus 12:9 Eat not of it raw, nor sodden at all with water, but roast with fire; his head with his legs, and with the purtenance thereof.
- Exodus 12:10 And ye shall let nothing of it remain until the morning; and that which remaineth of it until the morning ye shall burn with fire.

There is nothing in Exodus 12:10 that even remotely states that the lambs were burned by fire all night. If one looks at verse 8, it very clearly shows that they were to eat the lamb that night, roast with fire and unleavened bread and bitter herbs. Verse 9 tells us the lamb was not to be eaten raw, but roast with fire, entrails and all.

What is being talked about in verses 8 and 9 is a meal. They made a meal, a special meal called the Passover, and once it was cooked and ready to eat, they took it off the fire and ate it. Now go back to verse 10 and look again. It clearly shows that none of the lamb was to be left until morning. The second half of the verse says that whatever is left of the lamb needs to be burned with fire (so nothing is left).

Carol you are a woman and I would assume that you cook meals for your family, so when you cook a meal, and it is done cooking and ready to eat, do you leave the burner on and let it continue to cook or do you put the food temporarily on the table so your family can eat it? If you are like me, I shut the burner off when the meal is cooked. After the meal is eaten, sometimes there are leftovers, which generally go to the refrigerator to be warmed and served later.

In Exodus 12:10, God gave the instructions that the leftovers were to be

disposed of by burning them with fire, so they are all burned up and gone. Look at the verse carefully, it says: "**that which remaineth** of it until the morning ye shall burn with fire." The verse is talking about the leftovers being burned with fire and says absolutely nothing about burning the lamb all night long.

The Passover in Exodus 12 was to be a forerunner to the sacrifice of Christ, so the similarities between the lamb/Passover as stated in Exodus 12 should be exact.

The lamb was to be cooked with the entrails, why? Because Christ was not to be gutted at His crucifixion.

Exodus 12:46 tells us that none of the bones of the Passover lamb were to be broken, why? Because none of Christ's bones would be broken.

Generally when a person is crucified they come through and break the leg bones, however in Christ's case, he bled to death, so they never broke any of his bones. The Passover lambs were bled out and so was Christ.

The Passover lambs died on the latter part of the 14th and so did Christ die on the latter part of the 14th.

The blood of the Passover lambs was daubed on the doorposts, why? To protect the Israelites, why? The blood of Christ was spilled so that we could live. If Christ had not bled to death for our sins, we would not be protected from eternal death on repentance.

If you want typing then look at the typing between the Passover lambs and Christ. The Passover in Exodus 12 totally mirrors the Crucifixion and death of Christ right down to the last detail. You seem to want typing, but are unwilling to look at the typing in detail.

TO BE CONTINUED IN ISSUE #22

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**WE HAVE LIMITED
SPACE FOR PRINT,
SO IF WHAT YOU
SUBMITTED DID NOT
MAKE THIS ISSUE,
PLEASE LOOK FOR
IT IN ISSUE #22 AND
BEYOND.**

ARTICLES SECTION--We are always looking for good articles written by ordinary people, to consider for inclusion in this newsletter. Darwin and I do not always agree with every single thing that we print. Darwin and I also do not know everything. Like most people reading this newsletter, we are still learning. We do strive to bring to you Biblically Based Articles--The problem is that opinion and interpretation of scripture varies from person to person. So with that in mind let's let "iron sharpen iron" Proverbs 27:17--Let's learn from each other. Send articles to: Newsletter-Only-Darwin-Laura@Juno.com

BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS

by Arlan Weight
Bismarck, North Dakota

Everyday we hear of wars and fighting. Terrorism has now taken center stage. Where are the peacemakers. Why can't we find the way to peace? How do we break this cycle of violence? Just what does it take to be a peacemaker?

In today's news the U.S. President has offered to the Israelis and Palestinians a plan, which has been dubbed "Road Map to Peace." Will it work? Can it work? Just what does it take to be successful? And will it last? We hope so. We yearn for it to be so.

But this has not been the first time a U.S. president has offered help in bringing about a peace settlement in this region of the world. Every president from Clinton all the way back to Truman has been involved, at least to some degree, in brokering peace talks in the Mideast.

This is only within my lifetime, but one can read of the turmoil this region has had in books and encyclopedias, that extend all the way back to ancient times. The Bible, for instance, is filled with episodes of conflict between Israel and it's neighbors. And all through that time, peace has not come. Except for brief periods like the reign of king Solomon, peace has never lasted. Why? What's the missing ingredient?

Is there a way of peace... as opposed

to a way of war? What is that secret ingredient that is so elusive needed to bring peace. All these presidents, along with many other prime ministers, ambassadors and senior officials have not found it. Is it that mysterious that it cannot be known or are we searching for the clue in all the wrong places?

Notice what it says in Isaiah 59:7-8

7. "Their feet run to evil, and they make haste to shed innocent blood: their thoughts are thoughts of iniquity: wasting and destruction are in their paths.

8. **The way of peace they know not;** and there is no judgment in their goings: they have made them **crooked paths:** whosoever goes therein **shall not know peace."**

Here it indicates there is a definite way to peace, but the world in general does not know it. It indicates that they make the process complicated... '**crooked paths**'. But is it? Is it so complicated that we simply can't achieve it, or could it be that we have not tried a way that was given long ago.

That principle, that formula to achieve peace, was laid out and written down for us, but was basically rejected at the time it was given. Why? One reason could be because of the person who gave it. Another could be because the way to peace that was laid out sounds utterly absurd to our human way of reasoning. It simply does not fit into our human psyche to do things this way.

So what is that principle that was written down so long ago. It's not that it isn't known. In Matthew 5:43-44 Jesus says this:

43."You have heard that it has been said, you shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.

44.But I say unto you, Love your enemy, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you..."

There you have it. In just two sentences you have the principle given, that if practiced, would guarantee peace. Mankind has basically scoffed at this. Again it just doesn't fit. What... Love your enemy? Bless them that curse you? Do good to them that hate you? Pray for them that despitefully use you and persecute you? What... are you crazy? That's illogical if not downright suicidal! Where's the justice in all of that?

Well, it's true... all of these ways of handling conflict do fly in the face of

human reasoning and yet... and yet, think about it. How do you break the cycle of violence? Just how do you get someone to stop hitting on you? Hitting back only seems to escalate the anger, violence and hatred.

A Good Example

At this point of discussion one must also admit that there may be times when we must do all we can to flee from the environment of hostility for our own physical safety. Notice the example of Jesus when the unruly crowd of 'Jews' were about to do him in. (John 8:59)

59."Then took they up stones to cast at him: but Jesus **hid himself**, and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them and so passed by."

Notice even Jesus sensed the situation to be quite serious. If he just hung around, there were enough of them so that they, unless God intervened, would have got the job done. But he didn't. His example was that he hid himself, and when the time was right and emotions had cooled down, he was able to get away by "**going through the midst of them...**"

On various occasions Jesus was able to get away from those that were about to take him. Notice another example in John 10:31.

31."Then the Jews took up stones to stone him.

32.Jesus answered them, Many good works have I showed you from my Father; for which of those works do you stone me?"

Here again the people were so incensed by some of the things Jesus said, they couldn't hold back, but picked up rocks and were about to hurl them. In this case he answered them first and reminded them by saying, "Hey look fellows... (John 10:32) don't you remember the healing and miracle works I did? Don't you remember the blind that can now see? (Luke 7:21) The lepers that were cleansed? (Mat. 8:2-3, Luke 17:12-19) The little girl I raised from the dead (Mark 5:22-43) Don't you remember these?"

In this instance he brought it to their attention that he was a peaceful citizen and did not have any intentions of harming anyone. His mission was one of peace. But they did not see it this way. Their religious fervor, and misguided understanding led them to want to get rid of him. Once again Jesus could see they

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would not listen to reason. Here it doesn't say how he did it. It just says he escaped. (John 10:39)

39."Therefore they sought again to take him: but **he escaped** out of their hand."

By these examples it's clear that there may be times when no amount of reasoning or any amount of good works will change the persons mind to be at peace with us. And when the situation is that serious where your life, or the lives of others with you are in danger, you need to get away.

This often can be the situation, even in some marriages. Some marriages become places where violence rules. Where there is shouting, intimidation and even physical abuse and violence. These cases, as well as others, may be those when the person who is constantly abused and misused, may need to get away. When no amount of pleading and doing good deeds makes an impact, the person targeted needs to seek refuge, for their own physical safety. This appears to be the example of Jesus.

Further Details to Peace

Again, how do you break the cycle of violence? Jesus could have knocked them all dead, but his example was not to use his super power but rather a gentler approach, and in some cases he simply used his own wits to get away. Jesus was no coward, he was courageous. On many occasions he stood up to them and spoke words of correction directly to them. But when it came to the matter of inflicting harm, or fighting back, he chose a different path. In Matthew 5:38-42 he gives more detailed ways of handling conflict.

38."You have heard that it has been said, an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth

39.But I say unto you, that you resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite you on your right cheek, turn to him the other also.

40.And if any man will sue you at the law and take away your coat, let him have your cloak also.

41.And whosoever shall compel you to go a mile, go with him twain.

42.Give to him that asks you and from him that would borrow of you turn not you away"

How many of us simply take it when we're hit on? How many of us would turn the other cheek? How many of us would be willing to let our goods be taken from

us if we are sued? How many of us are really willing to go that extra mile as Jesus admonishes us? If we're honest with ourselves, we might all have to admit, that most often we do just the opposite.

But think about it again. What does it take to break the cycle of violence. Not only in warfare, but mini-skirmishes or just plain conflict, in our homes, in our jobs away from home, in social settings, on the basketball court or wherever we're with people, situations arise that demand our attention. How do we deal with them? The natural way, the way the world in general has been doing it, is the way that '**seems right**' to us. Notice Proverbs 14:12

12."There is a way which seems right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death"

It seems right to do things the way we've always been taught; the way to fight back, the way to 'get even', the way of retaliation. But why? Where are we learning this way? Contrary to that, isn't there a government, or an institution we can point to that is leading the way to peace as Jesus laid out? Isn't there some place where people are practicing the way of peace, and can prove or demonstrate it by the fruits, that it works. Where on earth is there such a place?

Early Education

Our education begins the moment we're born. We begin to absorb everything around us. At that beginning time in our lives, we are like sponges, we soak up everything. In today's world television becomes one of the very first tools to learning. How many of our kids are brought up from infancy to the time they enter school on what is promoted on the TV set?

Think about the very first cartoons you can remember. What were they like? There were the 'Tom and Jerry' cartoons and others. Oh sure, they're funny and entertaining, but what does a child see? What principles are being formulated in that little mind? Adults see these cartoons as harmless and they could not remotely be at the root of any problem. But let's think about it for a moment.

How do children learn to interact with other children? How do children learn to be selfish unwilling to share...? It comes naturally we say, but often times the television becomes the teacher, the tool children learn from and emulate. What kind of things do they learn? As children

grow older what kinds of programs are they able to watch. And which of the programs do they enjoy the most?

In our technological age of creating animation and all sorts of movie enhancements, we are able to make images and violent action on the screen real. By the time a child reaches the age of kindergarten or school, he's been able to absorb tremendous amounts of violence and murders on the screen.

But think about it, where in all the violent movies children watch are they being taught to make friends? How are children taught to react to various fights at school? When they come home, what do parents tell them. Do they teach them ways to tone down the scene and get away from that environment or do they teach them methods of retaliation?

With video games depicting gunfights, aerial displays of rocketry and explosions, glamorizing war and make it 'fun' for the kids, we can begin to see the connection for our insatiable desire for this kind of thing? It is tantalizing and it really becomes exciting, especially when we can interact with it pulling the trigger and dodging the bullets. And even when you're killed there's no pain and you get up to go at it another time. After all it's make believe... But is it...? Is it only make believe? Is war make believe? Where does the military get it's ideas for inventing and building such awesome weapons of 'mass destruction'? Where does it all start?

Sure it's fun when you're a kid and no one gets hurt. But ask any young soldier in Iraq today. Is it fun to be in danger of being shot at... for real? Is it fun to pull guard duty when it means you could be the target of an assassin's bullet or bomb? Is it fun for parents, wives, husbands, or children back home to spend sleepless nights worrying about their loved ones? Is it fun when the news of your son or grandson stepped on a land mine and gets ripped apart and killed? Is it fun... really?

This is reality. This is the end result of our innocent endeavors to glamorize and dress up war and make it look like fun. It's not fun. It's anything but fun. It's stressful, it's painful, it's misery, sorrow and death. (Prov. 14:12)

In our natural way of looking at things, we think it's cowardice to give in or do anything other than standing our ground or fighting back. Why? The answer is quite clear as we analyze all

things and stimuli from birth on. We're being taught violence and retaliation and are unaware that it's happening. Is it any wonder then that we have such a difficult time settling disputes. Is it any wonder then that we use violence to fight violence. We're simply doing what we've been taught.

Who's in charge?

Why can't Hollywood make movies with gentler and nobler themes? Why must there be so much violence? Well, we say, violence sells. It's a matter of economics and that may be true.

And again it's a matter of what we enjoy doing and watching. But why then do we enjoy that kind of thing so much? How does it happen? Are we born that way?

Think about the last movie you watched wherein there was the good guy and the bad guy. How is the plot developed? The ground work is laid when the usual bad guy murders, rapes or does some other evil and vicious thing and innocent victims are brutalized. It's at this point, you the audience, take sides. Unknowingly, you are being led down a path to hate that person. When the bad guy in the movie has committed enough murder, mayhem and vicious acts, the stage is set. Set for what? Retaliation. Justice must happen and there must be such a one to be able to make it happen.

That's when the good guy appears on the scene. Throughout the course of the next 1 to 1½ hours your mind is led down a path of emotions building the hate case against the bad guy, and stirring the retaliation desires to take him out. In the end... the end of the movie, the bad guy is killed in a most violent and sensational way. This salves your emotions and you feel relieved, even though it's just a movie.

This may be an over-simplification of the film, but it's to make the point of how we learn? Just how do we learn to hate. Do we really learn to hate evil? Or rather do we learn to hate the bad guy. How is our anger stirred? Do we really ask the question of how the bad guy becomes the bad guy in the first place? What evil forces caused him to be that way in the first place? Why does injustice exist? Who orchestrates the way and the manner violence and injustice take place?

We often hear the statement, if there is a God, surely he would intervene and stop the injustice, which leads to another question. Could there be another force

behind it. Could there be an evil force creating the havoc we see in the world today?

The bible says there is such a being who is able and quite likely the one behind it all. Could it be that the Bible really is true when it says there exists such a great being able to orchestrate and deceive the world, not just a portion but the whole world. In Revelation 12:7-9 it says:

7. "And there was **war in heaven**: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon and the dragon fought and his angels, and prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven.
8. And the great dragon was cast out, and that old serpent, called the Devil and Satan, which deceives the **whole world**: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him."

Think about it for a moment. Where does Hollywood get the ideas for movies? How do they come up with "Star Wars" and a host of other inter-galactic spectacular skirmishes? Take a look at the various arcades and games children play. How about the computer games? Is it just by chance we see the kinds of things displayed the way we do? Or could it be there really was a 'Star War' at one time? Could it be there really is a great dragon? Verse 7 says there was war in heaven. What kind of war was this? It says this great dragon was cast out but he was not destroyed, but was banned from **his place in heaven** and sent into exile. That place of exile is this earth. All of those with him are here as well. Could this really be true?

The world has basically scoffed at this idea of a devil. Just as it basically has scoffed at the existence of a Creator God. Rather our schools dogmatically teach 7th and 8th grade 'Earth Science' from the vantage point that evolution is something the enlightened community accepts as proven fact. But the bible is quite plain when it talks of this arch enemy, the Devil. Notice Revelation 9:11. John is describing what he sees in a vision concerning warfare going on and the armies engaged in battle and he says this:

11. "And they had a **king** over them, which is the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in the Hebrew tongue is Abaddon, but in the Greek tongue hath his name Apollyon"

Apollyon means "destroyer". Abaddon means 'destruction'. (Young's

Concordance)

Throughout the world there have been those who desire and work for peace. Some even have striven to achieve it by the manner given by Jesus and his example. But can there be any peace as long as this enemy, this dragon and unseen diabolical forces exist and are exiled on this earth?

Many times leaders on both sides engaged in disputes, such as the Israeli and Palestinian issue, seek to appease the other and seek rational approaches to violence. Many times, it seems, Israeli leaders have offered land for peace and for the Palestinians to have their own place with their own sovereign rule, if they would simply stop the bombings and live in peace. Many Palestinians have desired to live peaceably, if they are in turn treated with the dignity and the respect all people should be treated. But what happens, one bomb, or one violent act once more, starts the vicious cycle of violence all over again.

Could it be then that the only explanation... the only logical explanation is that the world is a captive one and is following it's lead, the one who really is in charge - Satan and his demonic forces. Could it be the Bible is correct after all?

Peace in the Church

So if peacemaking is not, in general, being taught in homes. Movies and video games teach war and violence, where is peacemaking taught and practiced as an example? The most logical place is the church. But is it... really?

Since the death of Herbert Armstrong in 1986, the Worldwide Church of God, has split into many groups. Division is rampant. With it, one can sense an underlying mood of hostility of one group to another, one person to another. Suspicion abounds and communication has broken down. Doctrinal differences and disfellowshipping practices appear to be main reasons for all the division, however disinterest and other reasons also play a part. The church no longer meets in larger groups where communication had a chance. Is this the message the church is sending out to the world for all to see. What kind of image is being presented?

How many Corporate or Interdependent groups are seeking peace with each other. How many former friends are seeking ways to break down barrier walls that have been built over the last 15

to 20 years. Is it happening? Maybe some places it is, although what seems to be the case, is that everyone is seeking to go their own way and very little attention is given to befriend one another.

So it goes, week to week, Sabbath to Sabbath the standoff continues. Each group, each person going their separate ways; each bringing praises and offerings to God pleasing Him in their own private personal way... Or are we? Are we really pleasing God in this manner? Are we really able to make contact with our creator under these circumstances? Does God really hear our prayers, if we have even a hint of animosity within us. Whether it be personal or group to group, will God favor one over another, especially if no effort is being made to make peace and heal rifts that have been created.

How does God view the situation we find ourselves in today? Take a look at what is written in Isaiah 65:1-3, 5:

1. "I am sought of them that asked not for me; I am found of them that sought me not: I said, Behold me, behold me, unto a nation that **was not called by my name.**
2. I have spread out my hands all the day unto a rebellious people, which walk in a way that was not good, **after their own thoughts;**
3. A people that provoke me to anger continually to my face;...
5. Which say, Stand by yourself, **come not near to me; for I am holier than you.** These are a smoke in my nose, a fire that burns all the day."

What it seems to be saying is many people, who don't even claim to have a relationship with God, are doing a much better job than those who go to Church every Sabbath and yet don't practice love and respect for one another. Could this statement in Isaiah 65.5 be referring to a church or people shunning or refusing to talk to one another for various reasons, each thinking they have their own special corner with God?

One corporate church leader recently wrote, "Brethren, I have been asked to remind all of you to attend our own feast sites..." He went on to admonish his followers, that only in his corporate group will you hear the strong meaty sermons Christ would have you hear. Here is where you need to stay so that you can be better prepared 'at the end of this age'.

But read Isaiah 65:5 once more. What does God think of an attitude which says, "**stand by yourself, come not near**

me, for I am holier than you"? He says it's like 'burning smoke' in his nose. How does that square with Christ's message of becoming a peace maker? If we seek to separate and remain inaccessible to each other, how is that helping one another? Is the church blind to this need? Is the church blind to see the importance of seeking and pursuing peace within itself. To this writer, the message Jesus seems to be telling the church is this, "It doesn't matter how much 'gospel' you preach or charitable good works you perform as long as there is anger, dissension and misunderstanding between you and your brother, it's no good. You must first be reconciled to him" Matthew 7:21-23 seems to indicate that the time will come when some will have thought they did great things, but in actuality had forgotten the basic rudiments of Christ's teaching. Like the Pharisees many church goers may find they had placed more emphasis on doctrine than on the "weightier matters of the law". (Mat. 23:23)

What must happen?

Christ's message to the church and to anyone is to learn to accept one another first as human beings; be communicating and reconciled with each other first. Else he is saying, "Don't even talk to me. Don't even think your going to have my ear, if you're not willing to make peace with your brother". Notice Jesus' discussion about this very subject in Matthew 5:21-24.

21."You have heard that it was said by them of old time, You shall not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment:

22.But I say unto you, That **whosoever is angry** with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, you fool, shall be in danger of hell fire.

23.Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there **remember that your brother hath ought against you;**

24.Leave there your gift before the altar, and go your way; **first be reconciled to your brother**, and then come and offer your gift."

These verses don't say anything about the falling out of the brethren, why there is a problem, who was at fault, or any of that. It only says, if you approach unto God's altar and remember that there are some bitter feelings between you and your brother or sister, you must first

address those.

So who moves first, how does the dialogue begin in order to have this matter resolved and each can be accepting one another again? One or both parties may be guilty of an infraction or offending the other, but who moves first? This is a difficult question and here again we may use human reasoning to say, "the one who created the offense, they are the ones who should apologize." If it is a clear case of abuse of one person toward another, one would think this is the way it should happen, but let's consider the case of David and Saul.

Here was a case where David is clearly vindicated in scripture as the one who is being abused. It was a case where David would have been executed, if Saul would have caught him. And yet think about the events that happened when they had some close encounters. (1 Sam. 24 and 1 Sam. 26:5-25) In both of these cases David had the chance to kill Saul and one could say he would have been justified in doing so because it was self defense. David's men even urged him to do it. But what did David do? He did the opposite. He humbled himself and sought peace with Saul.

This was totally contrary to human reasoning or so called 'rational' behavior. David's men may have said, "You are crazy! This is suicidal!" But maybe we can get the insight in seeing that David's heart and motives were guided by a higher power with a much nobler purpose. David's mission was one of peace. Maybe this is one of the reasons it is said of him that he is a man 'after God's own heart' (Acts 13:22, 1 Sam. 13:14)

Like Abraham, after he was tested, proved, and given great unconditional blessings for obedience (Gen. 22:16-18), David also was given great futuristic promises (Acts 13:22 and Psalms 89:20-37). Could it be this very thing that David did in seeking peace with Saul was that which God greatly approved of and one that really gained his favor.

So when there are disagreements and hurts between people who goes first, in settling the disputes? From this example of David and others, we can get an insight into how God views it and what our challenge is.

A Higher Standard

If you come to see that you have wronged someone and you decide to go to that person and ask for forgiveness, **PAGE #16**

that takes courage; sometimes, depending on the infraction, a great deal of courage. Some serial killers have actually gone to the families of the victims and have asked for forgiveness. Some have forgiven but some have not. But the murderer, if he is truly remorseful can to some degree quiet his conscience in that he has sought peace. He has done that which was required.

Notice the account in Matthew 18:21-22.

21."Then came Peter to him and said, Lord, 'how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Till seven times?'

22.Jesus said unto him, 'I say not unto you, until seven times; but, until seventy times seven.'

When we knowingly offend or hurt someone, we need to go to that person and apologize or ask for forgiveness, and the person who has been wronged has the command to forgive him. This may be an extremely hard thing to do, especially if your a family member of one of the serial killer's victims. And yet it falls into the category of what is required. It's what Jesus commands us to do.

Notice also what Jesus says in Luke 17:7-10

☐ 7,8,9. "When a servant comes in from plowing or taking care of sheep, he doesn't just sit down and eat, but first prepares his master's meal and serves him his supper before he eats his own. And he is not even thanked, for he is merely doing what he is supposed to do.

☐ 10. Just so, if you merely obey me you should not consider yourselves worthy of praise. For you have **simply done your duty.**" (Living Bible Version)

No doubt these things were on Peters mind when he wrote 1 Pet 2:20.

18.Servants, be submissive to your masters with all fear, not only to the good and gentle, but also to the harsh.

19.For this is commendable, if because of conscience toward God one endures grief, suffering wrongfully.

20.For what credit is it if, when you are beaten for your faults, you take it patiently? But when you do good and suffer, if you take it patiently, **this is commendable before God.**

21.For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps:

22."Who committed no sin, Nor was deceit found in His mouth";

23.who, when He was reviled, **did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten**, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously; (New King James Bible)

This kind of approach to human relationships raises the bar. It sets the standard higher than what we are humanly prepared to do. It fits in the category of 'loving your enemies and doing good to those who hate you'. But this is the standard God is well pleased with and no doubt some, like David, exhibited when dealing with Saul. David went above and beyond what was his duty.

Peace At Last !

At this very moment peace keepers have been sent to Liberia. Some are yet in Afghanistan and some remain in Iraq. These are 'peace-keepers' they are not 'peace-makers'. All that the peace keepers can do is to keep the level of violence from escalating into full scale war. But the attacks against peace keepers and average citizens continues. Once the peace keepers leave, the prognosis is not good. Most likely civil war will break out and the carnage becomes much greater.

When Jesus returns to this earth he, by necessity, he will have to use super force to put down man's insatiable quest for war. Unless He intervenes and puts an end to war and violence, war and violence will put an end to us. (Mat. 24:22) He alone will have the power to crush the oppression and remove that element responsible for violence. He will have to intervene as no one has ever intervened before. It will be a most difficult period in the history of man.

But what then? Will man automatically learn peace? Will this war to end all wars do the job? It's unlikely. It's unlikely that people will automatically change from carnal nature with warlike tendencies over night. It will take a total change of heart and mind before peace can have a chance. But will human nature suddenly change? Again, to this writer, it's unlikely. Peace will have to be learned and there will have to be those who will teach it. But who? Who will have the qualifications to fill such a role? Can it be any other than those who are practicing peace making now; those who daily work at settling disputes and differences in the way and manner Jesus taught and lived?

This task of re-education will be a monumental one, but the team that Christ

has developed will be ready and able. They will be the individuals who have built the character and spiritual qualities through training they have received in their lifetimes. These are people who have passed tests and have proven to God they will **not** use their powers for destructive means, but will consistently teach that way of peace as Jesus, the "Prince of Peace" directs. This will take time, but the long standing habits of retaliation and war will eventually die, for people will finally learn how to love instead of hate and work toward peace instead of war.

Wars will finally cease for ways of handling disputes. All of the energy and resources now devoted to armaments will one day be directed toward peaceful purposes. (Isaiah 2:4)

4. "And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, **neither shall they learn war any more.**"

Peace will eventually spread everywhere. Notice Psalms 37:11.

11."But the meek shall inherit the earth: and shall delight themselves in the **abundance of peace**"

Notice Psalms 72:2-7.

2. He shall judge your people with righteousness, and your poor with judgment

3. The **mountains shall bring peace** to the people, and the little hills, by righteousness

4. He shall judge the poor of the people, he shall save the children of the needy, and shall break in **pieces the oppressor.**

5. They that fear you as long as the sun and moon endure, throughout all generations.

6. He shall come down like rain upon the mown grass; as showers that water the earth.

7. In his days shall the righteous flourish; and **abundance of peace so long as the moon endures"**

Summary

In this world and society wars and rumors of war will continue as long as human nature remains as it is, and as long as Satan and his cohorts are allowed to interact and influence humans. This is his domain. He is now the "prince of the power of the air." (Eph 2:2)

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However, in this world there are those individuals who have come away from Satan's system. God has called, and is calling those who will hear to come out of this world and it's system of violence. (2 Cor. 6:17 & Rev. 18:4) Those who heed and accept his offer He will be with and He promises additional strength and guidance to become a peacemaker according to the standard He has set. (Rev.3:20) For without His aid we are powerless because the enemy sees those who want to escape his world and will stop at nothing to trick them to remain.

The success of our peacemaking efforts lies not in some complicated formula devised by some highly educated minds of this world. (Isa 59:7-8) It lies in how closely we follow the directives given by the author who wrote the book on peacemaking. He is called the 'Prince of Peace'. (Isaiah 9:6)

When he returns to this earth he will assemble his army of peacemakers. These will have their work before them as they will have to re-educate the world to show how peace can happen and how it can grow and be maintained. Then will these words be fulfilled that were spoken so long ago.

9. **"Blessed are the peacemakers** for they **shall** be called the children of God" (Mat. 5:9)

to each other and the husband to be seems to be listening to his wife to be. The husband to be brings her gifts, flowers and phones her often. He takes her out on special romantic dates that he sometimes plans far in advance. He buys her special cards or writes little notes to her with words which tell her how special she is to him. They both exchange words of love and get married and then what? Live happily ever after? Not...

Once you were married and now living as husband and wife, what were some of the first things you told your wife? Did you tell her how you wanted her to fold your clothes, as if she has never folded clothes before. Did you tell her where you wanted the drinking glass to sit on the bathroom counter so as it wouldn't interfere with your hand when you went to turn on the faucet? Did you hear before getting married that one of the biggest fights in marriage is about how the toilet paper is put on the roller? So because you wanted to avoid that pitfall of marriage you made sure you told your new bride right up front which way you wanted the toilet paper put on the roller. Why? So you wouldn't have to get angry at her later?

My favorite is the one where the newly married couple moves into their first house or apartment and she, not understanding fully what she is to submit to, clearly sits in the wrong chair at the dining room table. Then thunders the voice from above, "That is my chair, because I am the head of the house."

For men, the above listed or similar mistakes, are your very first mistakes in marriage. Let me explain. Men operate in a mechanical zone, so they operate in the realm of words, or via what is said literally. Women on the other hand operate in the zone of emotions. Women look at faces for expressions and draw conclusions based on emotion rather than only on words. So in the above listed examples, when you go into detail about how you want her to fold your clothes, what she hears you really saying is: "He thinks I am stupid. He thinks I don't even know how to fold clothes." When you tell her where to put the glass on the counter or which way to put the toilet paper on the roller to suite what you want, what she hears is: "He doesn't think I am important anymore. He wants me to do everything only the way he wants it. I am no longer included. He is very self centered." Again, my favorite one about the dining room chair, what she hears is: "I am the boss

and you will do everything the way I say you will because I am the boss." The thundering voice from above is meant to strike fear.

Even though the above listed things seem so silly and not worth fighting over, these are the very things which send many marriages reeling into divorce court many years later. What exactly is wrong with men saying these kind of things to their wives, besides the reasons already listed above? Look at and think about these things very carefully. From the courtship period where the man almost seemed to worship the very ground the wife to be walked on, to now we're married and I am the boss, so from this wedding night on, everything revolves around me, because I am the boss and I am the king of my castle. What ever I say goes. What a drastic change. Women go from men almost worshipping the ground they walk on, to now being dirt under the mans feet in one night, the wedding night. Could this at all possibly explain where what is known to men as "women's rage" comes from? Is this form of treatment to women considered Christ like behavior?

Let's Dissect the very first marriage.

The very first time that the word wife is used in the Bible is in Genesis 2:24: "Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave (Strong's #1692, "dabaq"=cling or adhere, to catch by pursuit) unto his **wife**: and they shall be one flesh." This very verse says absolutely nothing about a man ruling over his wife. The very term used and "they shall become one flesh", implies they shall become one in purpose. How will they do that if they are always fighting and seldom agree on anything?

Genesis 2:25: "And they were **both naked, the man and his wife**, and **were not ashamed**." How many times men, have you said things to your wife to make her ashamed of her nakedness in front of you her husband? How many times have you called your wife fat or implied that she was fat or unattractive to you? God never meant for women to be ashamed of their nakedness in front of their husbands. If your wife is unable to change her clothes in front of you, perhaps you need to find out what the problem is. There can be any number of things you are saying to your wife to cause her to feel ashamed to be naked in front of you.

In the following verses we are shown that even though Eve first took of the fruit

WHAT IS THE CONDITION OF YOUR MARRIAGE?

by **Laura Lee**
Bismarck, North Dakota

Is your wife out of control?

Does your wife seem to fly into a rage at seemingly the drop of a pin? Does she get mad at you when you don't even think you have done anything to her? Is she nearly always in a bad mood? Is your wife so out of control that it sometimes sends you running or hiding? If this description fits your wife, then I have the story for you.

Ephesians 5:23 For the husband is the head of the wife...

Male/Female relationships always seem to start out on a romantic note, with the man pursuing the woman he wants to be his wife. During the courtship, they talk

of the tree, which they were not to eat of, Adam had his very first chance to take responsibility for his own actions and he didn't do it. Adam knew full well he was not to eat of that tree, yet when Eve handed the fruit to him he ate it. Adam did not in anyway show leadership skills at this point, where he would act in a Christ like manner and lead his wife also in a Christ like manner. They both did the wrong thing by eating the fruit of a tree they were told not to eat of. However, God clearly held Adam the most responsible for this wrong when He approached Adam first. Do you honestly think that God didn't already know what they had both done? God could have easily confronted both Adam and Eve at the same time, but Adam being the head of the family was held more accountable by God for this action. What was Adams defense? What is the very first thing that most men do when they are confronted by their wife for doing something wrong or for doing something which upsets their wife? The first thing most men do is take the defensive mode and turn it around to make it look like the wife was totally to blame for what the husband did, which he knew he should not have done. Nothing has changed under the sun. Read the account for yourself.

9. And the **Lord God called unto Adam**, and said unto him, Where art thou?
10. And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.
11. And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? **Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat?**
12. And the man said, **The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat.** (Genesis 3:9-12)

This very incident between the first married couple is what leads many to believe that women are bad, evil and should be hated at all costs. The bottom line here is that both Adam and Eve did the wrong thing in the sight of God, but who did God hold more responsible for letting it happen in the first place? Eve did not twist Adams arm to eat of the fruit and Adam never protested that Eve should not eat what was forbidden to eat. One sex is not anymore evil in the sight of God than the other sex is. The bottom line is, that God did not create either sex to be evil or defective. That was never God's purpose or intent. We make ourselves evil (whether man or woman) by not believing

God and because we don't do those things which God commands us to do.

Why did God create woman?

Genesis 2:18 And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an **help meet** for him.

Here we are told a couple of things about the purpose of woman. One is that it is not good for man to be alone. The other thing is that women are meant to be a **help meet** for man. Most people, even women, translate "help meet" into "help mate" and then make slaves out of most women.

From: Easton Bible Dictionary

Help-meet

(Heb. 'ezer ke-negdo; i.e., "**a help as his counterpart**" = a help suitable to him), a wife (Genesis 2:18-20).

From the Internet at:

http://www.gnbible.org/help_meet.htm

HELP MEET

We may be troubled by the term "help meet for man" found in Genesis 2:18 KJV. The NASB translates the terms "helper suitable for him." In either case the designation "helper" may seem a bit degrading in our culture.

Military Ally

If the term "helper" is uncomfortable to you it may be because of a nagging feeling that a helper is somehow not as valuable, or powerful, or intelligent as the one being helped. Actually the opposite is often true. When a dad or mom helps a child, they are not less than the child. When the military might of the US goes to help an ally we are not less valuable or less powerful than the one we are helping. Quite the opposite. Actually the verb "help" that corresponds to the noun "help meet" in Gen. 2:18 is often used in the military context of helping an ally.

Reluctance

As a husband I was a bit reluctant to think of my wife as a helper. I had a low view of the term. Today, I am delighted to think of her this way. She is not the person who does the things that I don't like to do. She is not the person that enables my laziness by bringing me another soda while I watch the game. She is a rich source of resources that make

the goals we have set more attainable.

Comforter and Protector

"Help meet" also includes support, comfort and protection. All of these ideas are richly illustrated in the military context. A wife is like the cavalry charging over the hillside with reinforcement. That's a comfort and protection. It is foolish to be reluctant to embrace this rich, powerful term and the role it suggests. (Note: Husbands may think of themselves as protectors. And there is truth to that. But husbands are not the sole protectors in the family. The context of helper indicates that a wife is also a protector.)

Arrogance

Often, I don't want my wife's help. It offends me. Like a two year old, I say, "I can do it myself." It's interesting that God had Adam name all the animals before the arrival of Eve. During the naming process Adam began to realize that something was missing from his life. God helped Adam know that he was not complete without his helper. Husbands are arrogant if they think they don't need a helper.

From the Internet at:

<http://www.godstowomen.org/help.htm>

Help

Strong's #5828
(Hebrew=ezer)
aid:--help
Strong's Root=#5826
(Hebrew=azar)
azar=prime root: to surround, ie, protect or
aid: help, succour
Gesenius adds that the primary idea lies in girding, surrounding, hence defending

Meet

(Hebrew=kenegdo)
corresponding to, counterpart to, equal to
matching

The traditional teaching for the woman as help (meet) is that of assistant or helper subservient to the one being helped. This definition would appear to line up with Strong's definition of the word. However, if you look at the context of every other use of the word ezer in the scripture, you will see that ezer refers to either God or military allies. In all other cases the one giving the help is superior

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to the one receiving the help. Adding kenegdo (meet) modifies the meaning to that of equal rather than superior status. Scripture is so awesome. God says just what He means.

Dr. Susan Hyatt gives the following definition... "Re: Hebrew ezer kenegdo. In Genesis 2:18, the word "helpmeet" does not occur. The Hebrew expression ezer kenegdo appears, meaning "one who is the same as the other and who surrounds, protects, aids, helps, supports." There is no indication of inferiority or of a secondary position in an hierarchical separation of the male and female "spheres" of responsibility, authority, or social position.

The word ezer is used twice in the Old Testament to refer to the female and 14 times to refer to God. For example, in the Psalms when David says, "The Lord is my Helper," he uses the word ezer.

According to Ken Nair, 10834 N. 32nd St., Phoenix, AZ 85028, author of "Discovering the Mind of a Woman" and "Discovering the Heart of a Man" a wife's role as a help meet is to warn her husband when he is going away from Christ like behavior. Could it be that the "rage of women" has something to do with men not listening to the warning beacon from their wives? Please think long and hard about this. While your wife is in her "woman's rage", isn't it usually the same thing she is "in rage" about? Most men say "she never forgets anything I have ever done." My question is, "Have you ever stopped doing those things which she "rages" about?" Do her "rages" get better or worse over time? If you as a man are in a life or death situation and you are trying to warn others so they are not caught up in this life or death situation as they continue to come closer to it, does your warning get lesser in volume or does it get louder in volume and more frantic? I rest my case.

To obtain marriage seminar tapes for more information on applications spoken of in this article, please contact Wayne & Claudia Speed at: 1313 N. 25th Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85009 or E-mail them at: wspeed@webtv.net

What are a mans responsibilities within the marriage relationship?

Exodus 21:22 **If men strive, and**

hurt a woman with child, so that her fruit depart from her, and yet no mischief follow: he shall be surely punished, according as the woman's husband will lay upon him; and he shall pay as the judges determine.

The above scripture doesn't just apply to other men hurting your wife and children. This scripture also applies to men who would kill their own unborn children by beating their wives. God hold's husbands responsible for hurting or killing their wives or their children.

Concerning vows: Numbers 30:12 But if her husband **hath utterly made them void on the day he heard them**; then whatsoever proceeded out of her lips concerning her vows, or concerning the bond of her soul, shall not stand: **her husband hath made them void; and the Lord shall forgive her.**

When a man marries a woman, he vows to love her until death do they part. Many men, believe it or not, void their wife's wedding vows on the day of marriage by the very way that they treat her during the courtship and how they change their treatment of her to a totally opposite stance starting on the wedding day. The courtship period is one of showing love and all too many times the wedding day is the start of men showing hatred toward their wives which just gets worse and worse as time goes on. If men had kept on courting their wives even after the wedding day, the other would never happen. I have actually personally heard men say, "I do not have to date my wife. We are married now." The implication here is, "Now I have you, so now I don't have to do anything to keep you." This is why men go around proclaiming that marriage is for life no matter what. It's a part of their "I am the boss stance", and women die a million deaths inside because of this one. The Bible is very clear that the Lord forgives the woman who is unable to keep her vows because her husband has made them void. Husband's are the ones held responsible for voiding the wife's wedding vows.

Deuteronomy 21:14 And it shall be, **if thou have no delight in her**, then thou shalt let her go whither she will; **but thou shalt not sell her at all for money, thou shalt not make merchandise of her**, because thou hast humbled her.

Even if a man has no delight in his wife. Even if a man hates his wife he is not to sell her for money, nor is he to make merchandise out of her. He is

responsible to just let her go if he does not want her. So why is it that men with their "I am the boss stance" feel that they can treat their wife as property and God will bless them for it? God does not bless husbands for making their wives into their property. Every time a man tells his wife what to do, he is showing his ownership of her and making her little more than property.

Deuteronomy 22:22 If a man be found lying with a woman married to an husband, then they shall both of them die, both the man that lay with the woman, and the woman: so shalt thou put away evil from Israel.

In our society today, many feel it is okay for men to commit adultery and it is quite a common practice today as in yesteryear. Please take a look at our modern day example, Bill Clinton, who was allowed to remain in the office of President even after he was caught in the very act of adultery. Then look at the Bible example where they brought only the woman to Christ and said she should be stoned as she was caught in the very act of adultery. Many times woman are looked on as the bad guy in these situations, but who does God hold accountable? God holds both people accountable in these situations. How many times do women fly into "rages" because their husbands are out having sex with one or several other women in town or out of town? Do wives not have a right to be angry for such behaviors by the very men who said they would love them and only them until death do you part? People generally look at women caught in these adulterous marriages as being the bad guy because they are sooooo angry, no wonder her husband (poor guy) found comfort in another woman. What came first? The adulterous husband or the wife's rage because of such? Adultery is far more common among married men than it is among married women. I have known some women to stay married to an adulterous man for 43 years or more. The adulterous husband generally doesn't end such relationships as he has the best of both worlds a wife (slave) and whatever young chick he chooses for the moment. Generally the only reason the wife finally files for divorce in these situations is for her own survival. Women and children can only survive without love for so long. Men are held responsible by God for such acts of evil against their own families.

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Ruth 1:9 The Lord grant you that ye may **find rest**, each of you in the house of her husband. Then she kissed them; and they lifted up their voice, and wept.

A home should be a place of rest, not just for a man, but also for his wife. A husband is responsible to contribute to an atmosphere of rest for his wife as well as for himself.

Proverbs 31:11 The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil. Proverbs 31:12 She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life.

A husband who loves his wife will always understand that she only has his best interests in mind for him, so just as he wants her trust, she also deserves to have his. A man who does not love his wife will not trust her. A husband is responsible to love his wife.

Proverbs 31:23 Her husband is known in the gates, when he sitteth among the elders of the land.

A Proverbs 31 husband is known by all for his high Christ like standards. This is a chapter that many men measure their wives by. They say things like "You aren't a Proverbs 31 wife." or "I wanted a Proverbs 31 wife and you aren't it." This is just one more of many ways that men show hatred towards their wives. Behind every Proverbs 31 wife is a Proverbs 31 husband. So men, if you truly want a Proverbs 31 wife, then lead her by your example as being a Proverbs 31 husband, because it won't happen any other way except that you lead her by your own Christ like example. God will hold all husbands responsible for where they lead their wives, whether it be the path to God or the path to Satan.

Proverbs 31:28 Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her.

A Proverbs 31 husband praises his wife. Do you praise your wife? Or do you put her down every chance you get even when she does something good for you or someone else? Wives, can you only dream about a husband who calls you blessed and praises you? If more husbands took the time to praise their wives for all the things they do for them and others, I believe the divorce rate would drop off drastically. Husbands you are responsible to help your wives to feel good about themselves and feel blessed by you.

1 Corinthians 7:2 Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her

own husband.

Why would being married help us to avoid fornication? It is a simple thing, because God made woman to be a help meet for man and not the other way around. Just as Adam was not complete without Eve, no man is complete today without a wife. God made man and woman different than each other so they could glue together and help each other.

Single men will many times have a much harder time dealing with life through the years than single women will. Did you ever stop to wonder why this would be? Men have a tendency to become involved in all sorts of fornications (lifestyles of sin), which seem to become ingrained in them at an early age and they have an easier time talking themselves into thinking that sin is perfectly okay because it is their own. Men seem to excuse their own sin more readily than women seem to. That statement is not meant to show preference for one sex over the other as far as sin is concerned, because I believe both sexes sin equally. My point is that men have a track record for lifestyles of alcoholism, wife beating, sex crimes, etc., especially while single or divorced, where as single woman for the most part lead quieter lifestyles. Why would this be? Could it be because of how God made us and what his intent for our roles were? If women were intended to warn men when they were going down the wrong path, could it be that that is why woman have a tendency to live quieter lifestyles when they are single? Their (the single woman's) warning beacon still works, but there is much less rage as there is no husband to affect them so their warning beacon goes off and they go into a woman's "rage". Single men on the other hand don't have this warning beacon (a wife) at all so their struggle with sin is much harder. This is in no way meant to say that single people whether men or women cannot become Christ like. I believe both sexes when single certainly can become Christ like, I just believe the struggles of single men are far harder than the struggles of single women. When men refuse to listen to their wives, they are throwing out their warning beacon and essentially saying, "I don't need any help, I will do it my way." Man has been telling God for centuries that he will do it his way without God's help. Men should love their wives, knowing that God gives wives to bring men to God and at the same time having husbands lead their wives to God. How much more beautiful can it be than

this great design of God? Our God is an awesome God who builds help for both men and women right into a relationship called marriage. We need to as God's people appreciate this design far more than we do at this present time.

1 Corinthians 7:3 Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence: and likewise also the wife unto the husband.

What is benevolence? Strong's #2133, "eunoia" says it means wholeheartedness, enthusiasm, eagerness and good will. The Bible tells us that both husbands and wives are responsible to give this to each other. Can husbands possibly ever expect to get this from their wives full force, when they refuse to give it to their wives. Husbands set the example as the leader so if they do not treat their wives correctly, their wives will surely stumble in this area. Face it, for us humans it is very hard to be nice to those on a regular basis who want only to hurt us. My personal opinion on this is I believe that wives deliver this responsibility to their husbands far more often than husbands really deserve to receive it.

1 Corinthians 7:4 The wife hath not **power** of her own body, but the husband: and likewise also the husband hath not **power** of his own body, but the wife.

The word power in this verse means to have authority over. In other words a wife has just as much power over her husband's body as he has over her body. There is to be no power struggle here and one person is not to rule over another person within the bounds of marriage anymore so than the other person. Marriage is an equal relationship with no one having more authority than the other. God will hold husbands responsible if they try to exercise authority over their wives by saying, "I am the boss." No one is the boss in a marriage relationship except for God. God's laws, all of them are binding on both people in that marriage relationship.

2 Corinthians 11:2 For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.

Husbands are responsible to present their wives to Christ as spiritual virgins. How will that happen if husbands continue to perpetuate some sort of power struggle or competition between them and their wives, which is what you are doing every time you put her down for

any reason? Your wife is equal to you in God's eyes and when you do things which are unChrist like to your wife you are doing the same to Christ. Wouldn't a husband feel far better if he could present a Proverbs 31 wife to Christ at His coming and say, look at her, I helped! Hot dog, what a happy day that would be. Do you as husbands even know what kind of joy that can bring to your whole being and how happy your wife will also be that she has a Proverbs 31 husband who she also helped to see and love God to the full?

Colossians 3:18 Wives, submit yourselves unto your **own** husbands, **as it is fit in the Lord.**

Men always want their wives to submit to them in everything, however that is not what the Bible says. Wives are to submit to their husbands "as it is fit in the Lord." Wives should never submit to their husbands in things which are contrary to the Law of God and that includes letting a husband continue in his wrong deeds against her. There is a Godly purpose for a woman's "rage". Granted I believe that women as well as men carry anger sometimes way beyond the bounds of God's Law, however why is a man's anger always seemingly correct and right, while a woman's "rage" which is emotional anger, wrong? The Bible clearly says to be angry and sin not. I don't think either sex controls anger correctly at all times.

Colossians 3:19 Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them.

Here is a direct command from God for husbands to love your wives and be not bitter against them. Men have a tendency to hold grudges against people and then seek revenge even many years later. Where love is, there should be no bitterness. Even though it many times looks as if women are bitter because they keep bringing up wrongs of their husbands from many years ago, this is really not what it looks like on the surface. She does not truly harbor a grudge against her husband where she wants to get even many years later. What she is doing is saying "Please I beg of you, there is a problem in our home and you are not correcting the problem. You are ignoring me. You are not hearing me." These unresolved problems go on for years and many times end in divorce for the purpose of survival, because many times men never listen or work to resolve the problem. If the man would just hear the problem and work to resolve the problem, the wife would be so grateful and over

time you wouldn't even hear her mention it in the same manner again. Men actually create and then perpetuate their own problems within a marriage due to not wanting to hear or understand what their wives are really saying to them.

1 Peter 3:7 Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge (Strong's #1108 "gnosis"=understanding), giving honour (Strong's #5092 "time"=value, respect, nobility, specialness, money) unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.

Peter says it is possible for husbands to understand the wife they are dwelling with. Society teaches men from little on up that you cannot understand women. As men you need to understand that God would never give to you a help meet that cannot be understood. Men have a preconceived idea about women that they are taught from little on up, and until they get rid of what society teaches them and start understanding what God wants to teach them about their own wives there will not be much peace in many homes.

You must also honor your wife. You would do this by putting a great value on her. To honor her would be to treat her as a very special person, always realizing she is very special to God. Why would you do what God says? Because if you don't your prayers will be hindered. Husbands are held very responsible to God for how they treat their wives.

What is a man to do?

A man should read the following scriptures and realize that he must get rid of his own self centered attitude and not only love his wife as he loves his own body, but also he needs to love her as Christ loves the church. This is a big responsibility for men, but it is what God clearly expects for you to do. If you do not treat your own wife as Christ treats his church, then please do not expect your wife to reverence you as verse 33 says for wives to do. Remember God has made you the head of your wife or the spiritual leader. You are clearly responsible for how your wife responds to you. If you treat her in the wrong way, you will not get what you as a husband think you should get within a marriage relationship. It will be more like a war zone with no one ever winning. If on the other hand you treat your wife as if she is the most special person you have ever known and do it every day without fail, you will see

over time the war zones turning into peace zones and because wives are responders, that love that you give to your wife, will eventually come back to you double and then some.

21. Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.

22. Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.

23. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.

24. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing.

25. **Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;**

26. That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,

27. That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

28. **So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself.**

29. For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church:

30. For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones.

31. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and **shall be joined unto his wife**, and they two shall be one flesh.

32. This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

33. Nevertheless **let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself;** and the wife see that she reverence her husband. (Ephesians 5:21-33)

Here is how a man should rule his own house in a Christ like manner. If you as a man are unable to rule your own home in a Christlike manner to the very best of your ability, God cannot use you at all to take care of the Church of God. Christ does not rule by ordering people around. Christ rules by love, so whatever is not of love within a marriage relationship is not of God.

1. This is a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop (husband), he desireth a good work.

2. A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach; **(Continued on page 24)**

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- _____ 1. Why Were We Disfellowshipped By The United Church of God an International Association? by Darwin & Laura Lee 111 pages
- _____ 2. Wiley & Suzanne Black (Another Case of Abuse) by Bernard Kelly (The Bible Expositor--Last Issue) 16 pages
- _____ 3. The Garnet Hill Story (Another Case of Abuse) 28 pages

TRACTS (Article Reprints)

- _____ 1. UCG Attendance Policy Raises More Questions & About a Shepherd--From Servant's News--Issue #1
- _____ 2. Ending the Cycle of Abuse in the Church of God--by Laura Lee--Issue #1
- _____ 3. Are You Busy?--by Turning Point Ranch Ministries--Issue #3
- _____ 4. What is Anger?--by Scott Hoefker & Laura Lee--Issue #3
- _____ 5. What is Heart?--by Don & Petra Esposito & Laura Lee--Issue #3
- _____ 6. What is Division?--by Dave Baldauf & Laura Lee--Issue #3
- _____ 7. What is Individual Responsibility?--by Tawanda Ray & Laura Lee--Issue #3
- _____ 8. The Titanic--Then and Now--by Myra McQueen--Issue #4

