

MADE IN THE IMAGE OF GOD

The great Creator God says that they made man in the image of God. Do you know what that means? I dare say that most people only have some faint idea about what this is all about. In trying to understand this, people try to make God in the image of man. There is a great problem with this; God is spirit and man is flesh. God is Holy and perfectly righteous, and man is still living according to Satan's ways of selfishness, greed, lust, vanity, and competition. Man has temporary life in the flesh, which must continually be feed, and must constantly be breathing in air to stay alive. God lives forever, and doesn't have to eat or breathe air to live. Man is confined to a small space, but God inhabits eternity. So how can God be like man? We all need to understand this vital subject.

Throughout the pages of the Holy Bible, God reveals who and what he is like. True, God did make man in the image of God, but you may be surprised when you see just how. I plan here in this booklet to let God, through his Holy Spirit working in me reveal to you how we are made in the Image of God. You also need to read Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong's book, "Mystery of the Ages". You may be able to get a copy from the church calling its self, The Philadelphia Church of God. You can contact them through the internet. Mr. Armstrong's writings are safe to read, but I'd beware of any of their own literature. They have a lot of truth, but also a lot of false teaching. You also may be able to find "Mystery of the Ages" in a public library. We put many of them in libraries. I don't plan to rewrite all of what Mr. Armstrong wrote, here in this booklet; but only to add to it some more knowledge of God.

As Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong wrote, and taught, God is not just one individual; but God is a family. In the first chapter of Genesis, verse 26; God said let **us** make man in **our** image, after our likeness.... Notice that God didn't say let me make man in my image, after my likeness. That verse shows that God is more than one being. The word God is a uniplurl word, like church; one church but more than one member, or like family; one family, but more than one member. God is a family, consisting presently of two beings; the Father and the Son, Christ. Soon, when Christ returns to this earth, the true Christians will be born again by a resurrection from the dead, or by being instantly changed, and will be actual children of God, and we also will be Spirit born members of the God family. (Eph. 3: 15) Jesus was only the **first** born from the dead. (Colossians 1: 18) (Acts 26: 23) (I Thess. 4: 15-18) (I Cor. 15: 49-53) You should read all of I Corinthians chapter 15, for it speaks of the resurrection of Christ and the true Church of God. This is why man was created as a family. Our families are in the image of what God is doing.

When Adam was first created the Word was with God and the Word was also God. (John 1: 1) If you will continue reading in the first chapter of John you will see that the Word was the one that spoke and made all things. He also was the one who was made flesh and dwelt among us as Jesus Christ. When Christ was here in the flesh, he said, "... he that has seen me has seen the Father..." (John 14: 9) Jesus is not saying that he is the Father; he is not even saying that the Father looks like his fleshly body. Jesus was not saying that the Father has a physical appearance at all. The Father is Spirit, and not physical. We humans are physical and it is difficult for a human to comprehend that God the Father is not visible to the physical eyes. (Col. 1: 15) (I Tim. 1: 17) People try to imagine God as being Physical, and he is not; just like God can't be contained in a physical location. God inspired the prophet Isaiah to write, concerning the physical temple: "Thus says the Lord, The heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool; where is the house that you build unto me? And where is the place of my rest? For all of those things have my **hand** made, and all those things have been, says the Lord: but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor (*humble*) and of a contrite spirit, and trembles at my word." (Isaiah 66: 1-2) God is telling us that God can't be

contained in a house that men could build, but rather the temple that he will dwell in is the people who are humble and have their spirit broken so that they are willing to be obedient to God so that he may accomplish his works through them. (I Cor. 3: 16-17) (I Peter 2: 5) (John 14: 9-23) Notice what King Solomon said, when he built the temple: “But will God indeed dwell on earth? Behold heaven, and heaven of heavens cannot contain you; how much less this house that I have built?” (I Kings 8: 27) The point is God is Spirit and can't be contained in a physical location. God inhabits eternity, both time and space.

Something that all of us need to understand is that the God of the Old Testament that the Children of Israel knew of, is also the same God being that became Jesus Christ. Jesus said that no man has ever seen the Father. (John 6: 46) (John 5: 37) The Father was in Jesus but, the Father was not completely contained in the fleshly body of Christ. God inhabits eternity. (Isaiah 57: 15) We all have our habitation in the realm of God's habitation. (Acts 17:22-31) (*Notice especially verses 27, 28*) Spirit is a different dimension that is around man and is not comprehended by man. Christ was in the Father and the Father was and is in him. They were in complete agreement with each other. The works that Christ did was because of the Father in him. (John 14: 10) The Father dwelt in the mind of Jesus, and Jesus knew that the Father was perfect and right and greater than himself so he willingly submitted to do the will of the father. Jesus didn't feel that he was being subjected to a dictator, for he knew that the will and way of the Father is perfect. Jesus knew that he couldn't improve on the will, or the way of the Father, so because he agreed with him, he also obeyed the Father.

Humans under Satan's influence think that somehow they have a better idea about how to live, in order to be truly happy. The human mind is selfish, and is not so concerned with what will produce good results for all people; their fleshly senses and nerves are primarily concerned with self. This has caused man to think that the way to happiness is often at the expense, and hurt of other humans. This selfish way of man is sin; it is against your fellow man. There can be no peace when man is doing offences against the wellbeing of one another; either physical or spiritual in nature. God loves all of us and desires that we live by the way in which we all can be happy. That way is the way of outgoing love for the

concern, and wellbeing of all. “Love your neighbor as you do yourself”. Live by the Laws of God; they are for the good of all of us.

The Father was in Jesus and Jesus was happy to live the way of the Father, for he also is a loving being even as the Father is. He knew that the Father is right. That is what God wants for all of us humans; that we learn from our sinful mistakes in life, and their harmful end results, and come to see that God really is right! Then we can submit to God and his way, and still be free to do what we desire, for then we will also desire the right way of God and his pre-eminent wisdom and law. Then we also will be in complete agreement with God. We will never be able to desire anything for ourselves better than what God desires for us. Even when we must suffer, the outcome is for all of our best interest. When Christ was praying just before his betrayal and crucifixion, his flesh was weak, meaning that he certainly dreaded what he was about to suffer, but he still knew that his Father was right, so he came to the conclusion that; “not what I will, but what you will”. (Mark 14: 32-39) Have you ever considered where we all would be, if Christ was unwilling to suffer for us?

Carnal minded people couldn't see the Father in Jesus because they were looking with their fleshly eyes, and they didn't have the Holy Spirit dwelling in them, which would have given them the ability to see Spiritual things with their minds. (Read John 14: 22-31.) But the physical human eye is not capable of taking in information about the Great Spirit God. People have the idea that, “seeing is believing”; but we need to realize that we are made of matter, whereas God is not; God is Spirit. God was not made at all. God has always existed; our human minds can't comprehend that, but it is true. If God were created, then whoever created him would actually be God. God always has, and always will live. He is the eternal. God is not composed of matter like we are, and our physical eyes cannot see God. The Great invisible God is the one who created all matter, and he created man out of matter, with a limited life that requires that we are continually fed and nourished by eating and breathing in air. Our lives are temporary, tiny, physical creations that are made in the likeness of the Great Eternal God. I will explain more of how we are like God later in this booklet.

Man has been given a mind that is in the image of the Eternal God. Man's mind is composed of spirit and a physical brain to do the processing of information, and acting on the flesh to carry out the will of the mind. You should read all of Romans chapter 8, and especially notice verse 16. When we were first born our spirit was nearly blank, but as we go through life we gain knowledge, and our mind expands and grows. The knowledge that man gains enters into the mind through the five senses, hearing, touching, smelling, tasting, seeing, and this is the way that the average person is able to learn knowledge. But, God made man in such a way that if God chooses to act upon a person's mind with his Holy Spirit, then that person is able to receive spiritual knowledge from God that the average mind can't receive. This is what God does when he "calls" a person. This entire world has been cut off from God since the Garden of Eden, except for when God personally calls a person to know, and have a relationship with God. *(Satan the devil injects his evil ways of thinking into the unsuspecting human minds. We must learn to recognize, and reject this, for it is not right knowledge but destructive and deceptive, attitudes and lies.)*

Jesus asked his disciples, "whom do men say that I, the son of man am"? They responded that some thought he was one of the prophets, some thought he was Elijah, some thought he was Jeremiah, and some thought he was John the Baptist. The average mind didn't know. They knew that he must be some great prophet, because of all of the physical wonders that he did, but God had not revealed it to their minds just who he is. Then Jesus asked them, "Who do you say that I am?" Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the son of the living God". Then Jesus told him that he was blessed, for flesh and blood *(the five senses)* has not revealed this to him, but my Father which is in heaven. (Matt. 16: 13-17) God the Father, the invisible to human eyes, but all wise, all loving, all knowing, all mighty, perfectly Holy and righteous Spirit being which inhabits eternity can reveal himself and his knowledge to us by acting on our human spirit *(Romans 8: 16)* (2 Tim. 3: 16) (2 Peter 1: 21) by his Holy Spirit, but God won't force his Holy Spirit off on us if we reject it; Satan will force his evil spirit into the unsuspecting minds of people. When God starts calling a person to the truth, he will give him a space of time to repent of his sins and welcome Gods Spirit; and if an individual refuses to obey,

God will begin to chasten the person. If the person continually refuses to repent and obey, eventually God will leave him to his chosen fate, for then his understanding is enlightened, and he has knowingly rejected God. *(Satan does continually influence the unsuspecting minds of all people all over the earth; and Satan doesn't reveal to you that he is involved in your thinking, but he deceives the people into thinking that his thoughts, attitudes, and moods are really just your own. Satan has deceived the entire world by this means, as well as by false counterfeit religion. (Rev.12: 9) (Eph. 2: 2)*

By God acting on a person's mind he is able to reveal himself to whom he will, when he chooses to call them out of Satan's ways of sin. Up to this point in history God has left most people to live and experience their own way, under Satan's influence, since man rejected God in the Garden of Eden. Eventually God will call all of them to a judgment period also, even as the Church is being judged now. Throughout the ages the only ones that God has called are those whom God has predestined *(Romans 8: 29-30)* to call to help him in his service, and in preparing to be able to help Christ rule the world tomorrow after Christ comes back in Glory and power to take over and rule over all nations as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. At the end of this age God will make his Spirit available to all humans, if they will repent and desire it. *(Joel 2: 28-32)* God doesn't want to have to pour out his wrath on none who would repent and desire to live Gods way, when it is revealed to them. That is one of the reasons that God is now using me to write to you all, this precious truth. You need to read my booklet on the 144000s also.

When we are finally born again as the very children of God, and given Spirit bodies, then we shall see God as he is, for we will be like him. *(I John 3: 2)* Carnal, physical men can't seem to understand that if we can't see it with our physical eyes that it could be real. Spirit seems unreal to carnal minded men, but the physical world and man was made by this Spirit God! God is very real, and we wouldn't exist if it were not so. This planet that we live on; as it rolls through the heavens and around the sun, wouldn't even exist, if it were not for this Great Intelligent, loving Spirit God creating it. It is kind of like a blind man, he can't see another man with his physical eyes, but his mind is able to know about another

man by using his other senses that do work. It is the mind that sees; the eyes only take in, and feed the mind information to make the mind able to see, but then it is only the surface that we see with our physical eyes. God sees all things, physical and spiritual. It is like when you dream, you see with your mind, yet your eyes are closed. A blind man sees with his hearing, touch, and smell; these senses feed the blind man's mind a knowledgeable image of the other person. In similar manner God reveals himself to us by his Spirit acting on our human spirit, and by feeding our minds the word of God, while it is mixed with the faith of God, which God also must provide. No natural minded man has the faith of God in him; God has to give you that by his Spirit; and that is based on your willingness to surrender to him. And you can't truly surrender to him until you are brought to real true repentance of your way, and your character. Even to come to true repentance, God must cause his Holy Spirit to act on your mind to help you see yourself a little more from a true and accurate perspective. God must help us become "awake" and undeceived about our own sinful nature, which the average person has been hiding from.

Know this also; just reading the Holy Bible does not feed you the knowledge of God unless God has given you faith to know that what you are reading is truly the inspired word of God Almighty, and unless God makes himself seem real and involved in your life. And unless you practice living by this word in every aspect of your lives; reading it only would be like eating a dinner, then vomiting it back out; it would not benefit you one bit. Also God will not continue giving understanding of the word of God to you if you show contempt for it, by refusing to obey God in what you know that God expects of you. God will not rape you with his truth; you must show a sincere interest in it after he has "called" you.

So, what was Jesus referring to when he said that "he that has seen me has seen the Father? (John 14: 9) He was referring to his character, of love, mercy, faith, patience, understanding, wisdom, his righteousness, his knowledge, his purpose, and his power. Jesus spoke and did what his father which is in him inspired him to do and say. Jesus revealed the Father living in a fleshly human body. God the Father and Jesus Christ also dwells in the true Church of God, and they in him, yet the people of this world don't see that. It's like the Pharisee Saul,

when he was persecuting the Church of God, and even having them killed; he didn't see God the Father and Christ in the church members. But after he was struck down and converted, then he could see God in the Church very clearly, and he taught us much about this subject in his many books of the bible. Paul (*Saul*) saw it with his mind, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, and not his physical eyes. God had struck him blind physically for a while; yet God gave him Spiritual eyesight. He was also able to see that Christ was not in some, who only professed to be Christians. However not all true Christians are at the same growth level, and not all are submitted to Christ and the Father perfectly. We may be partially converted, but still don't reveal the Lord Jesus, and the Father perfectly like Jesus did.

When Jesus Christ comes back in a Glorified state, his face will shine as the sun. Then every eye will see him in a physical way, but unless they are truly converted, they still won't actually know him. It is like when you first meet another person, you see him, but you don't know him. It takes a life time to even come close to truly knowing another person. Even then people wear spiritual cloaks of dishonesty, and lies which hides much of what a person is really like. But Jesus Christ wore no cloak of deception; he truly revealed himself and the Father to us, if we can receive it. Only a very few truly have; for only a few have been called in this first lifetime, that is in comparison to the ones that have not been called, and of them only a very few truly loved Christ and were faithful to the end. As Jesus said, "many are called but few are chosen". (Matt. 22: 14) As Jesus also said, Enter you in at the straight gate; for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leads to destruction, and **many** there be which go in at it: because, strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leads unto **life**, and **few** there be that find it." (Matt. 7: 13-14) When Jesus Christ comes back only 144000 saints will be joined with him in that great marriage. (Rev. 14: 1-5) (Rev. 19: 7-9) I want to be in that number.

When we rise to meet Christ in the air at his coming we shall be changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, we will be given glorious Spirit bodies like unto his own. (I Cor. 15: 51-54) (I Thess. 4: 15-18) (I John 3: 2) (Phil. 3: 21) We will rule over the entire earth and all nations of mortals shall submit to us if they want

to live. (Rev. 20: 4-5) (Rev. 2: 26-27) (Dan. 7: 27) We will rule in righteousness. This earth will then know true peace and prosperity, and happiness. (Isaiah 11: 1-9) (Jeremiah 31: 31-34) (Jeremiah 32: 37-42) People will learn to love one another as they do their own selves. Selfishness, and vanity, and evil lust will not be tolerated. Deliberate disobedience to God will not be tolerated. The Devil will be cast off of his throne on this earth, and Christ shall rule as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. (Rev. 19: 16)

Now let us get back to understanding how we are made in the image of God. Let us examine how the human is made and see how that is like God. **A man lives in his mind.** The rest of the man is merely a support system to support his life in the flesh, or a tool to carry out the will of the mind. The spirit in man cannot live by its self; it is like an ovum in a woman's uterus; if it is not impregnated by the begetting power of Gods Spirit, it will die. The human spirit is not an immortal soul; when a man dies his spirit will return to God who gave it, and by that spirit God has a mould of your character and mind to resurrect you by, but the spirit can't think or reason by its self, it needs the brain to act on, to do the thinking. The spirit will record in it, the character and knowledge of the man, similar to a computer chip, but it by its self can't think reason or live. When a man dies he doesn't know anything until he will be resurrected. (Eccles. 9:5) But the spirit does empower the brain so that the brain can think and reason, and understand. The brain gains knowledge through the five senses, and is pretty much limited to knowledge about physical things, which the five senses are able to gain information about. The brain has a nervous system which reaches out through every part of the body to send the will of the brain to the rest of the body. The nerves will also send back signals of all of the body parts back to the brain. This enables the brain to gain knowledge and understanding, which is stored in the spirit. This process is constantly taking place. By this process there is constant communication between the brain and all of the body parts so that they all are united, and work together as one unit.

When there is some problem with the nervous system or the brain, then a person can become what is known as dyslexic. A dyslexic person's arms, hands and feet, and legs appear to all want to do their own thing instead of being united

with each other by the brain. Under Satan's influence, this present world's families seem to be functioning about like a dyslexic person. God designed man so that the head rules and unites the rest of the body for that is how God is. God created man with the ability to use his legs to move about, for God himself can move. God designed man with arms and hands so that he can reach out to accomplish tasks that the mind desires, for God himself is able to reach out anywhere he desires by his Spirit and accomplish whatever he desires; although God's reach is not limited as man's is.

An animal with hoofs or paws is not able to create the intricate things that a human mind can conceive, but God is a great creator; he can create things in large scale or in fine detail, so likewise God made man with hands and fingers so he is capable also of creating whatever his mind is able to conceive. Incidentally you may realize that even the very large things that God creates are planned out from the finest detail. Just look at the earth, and all of the planets, they are made up of atoms which are like mini solar systems; and God created the atoms also. Look at the human body how it all grows from a sperm and an ovum, and God created our entire DNA in those.

God designed man with hands so that he can do what his mind desires. And a man's mind is not like an animal. Man's mind is in the image of God. Animals are limited to what they can do; the animal is pre-programmed to do the specific function for which they were created for. A bird today builds the same type nest that it did thousands of years ago. Wild dogs today hunt and live the same way they did thousands of years ago. An animal is born with about as much mind power as they will ever have. Often times when an animal is born it appears to be advanced above that of a human baby. When a little calf is first born it is able within minutes to stand up and walk, and it already knows where its food comes from; it will go straight to it and begin to suck. Whereas a little baby human usually can't walk for about fourteen to eighteen months, and then it has to learn how. A little baby can't know where its milk is until the mother puts it in its mouth. The great difference is, an animal is limited in what it can do and understand, but the human begins the most helpless of all, yet there is no ceiling on what a human mind is capable of learning and accomplishing. Our minds are

made in the image of the mind of God. There is no limit to what God can and will accomplish throughout all eternity. We can share in this also, if we desire it enough to repent, give up on our self will and seek to do the will of Christ and the Father, and let God lead us into the development of Loving, Holy Righteous Character, so that we live the way that God lives. God will not give eternal life to a bunch of dissenting, rebellious, self-willed, selfish, vain, lust filled, competitive, divided, and warring people.

Man has feet which provide man's whole being with a foundation to support all of the rest of the man. When the man moves his feet are designed with toes and flexibility to give balance and stability to keep the man from falling down while supporting all of the rest of the man, even while walking or running. God doesn't have to physically walk to move from one place to another, for he is Spirit and he inhabits eternity. God can appear in the form of a man and walk even as he was walking in the Garden of Eden, and as he did when he met with Abraham, and as he did when he wrestled with Jacob, and as he did in Jesus. But God is Spirit, and not flesh and blood. When God makes a move it is a Spiritual movement. Such as was the case when the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters and said let there be light.

Throughout the scriptures a man's feet is symbolic of the way that he lives. Certain individuals are said to have walked with God. This meant that they lived the way God lead them by his righteous law of love and obedience to God. They walked with God by being submitted to, and in agreement with God. The feet are the physical foundation of a man. God's foundation is the way that he lives. God's foundation is his way of out flowing love for the good and wellbeing of others. When God makes any kind of move, his righteousness will uphold him; it is a sure foundation. God will never stumble, for all that he does is done in love and righteousness, and truth. Even when God wages war against the wicked, it is in righteousness, to put an end to the evil that harms the whole family of God, and man. (Rev. 19: 11-16) Read first Samuel chapter two and verse nine, how God will keep the feet of his saints, and the wicked shall be silent in darkness. This is not talking of our physical feet, but of our Spiritual feet, our way of living, so that we don't stumble. You can look in a good bible concordance such as

Strong's Concordance and look up the word feet; you will see that many references to the way we live is spoken of as our feet.

Look at Isaiah chapter fifty two, and verse seven: "How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that brings good news, that publishes peace; that brings good news of good, that publishes salvation; that says unto Zion, your God reigns!" This is not just talking of Jesus' physical feet being beautiful. This is talking of his Spiritual feet, the foundation of truth and righteousness, his way of living. This is not talking of physical beauty, but the spiritual beauty of righteousness, truth, love, wisdom, and faithfulness.

At the last Passover supper that Christ kept with his disciples before his crucifixion, Jesus washed the disciple's feet, and explained to them what this meant. He washed their feet to symbolize him washing them from sin in their way of living. (John 13: 1-11) Man was given feet as a foundation of his physical body, but God is not physical and Gods feet are not physical. God can appear in a physical body if he chooses to for mans benefit, but God is Spirit. Over in the book of Revelation, chapter one there is given some physical symbolic things to help us humans to understand about the Great Spirit, Jesus Christ. His feet are like fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace. (Rev. 1: 15) Jesus' feet, or foundation, or way of life has been tried and proven to be perfect, as brass is refined and made pure and bright with no oxidation in a furnace of fire. God through Christ has proven that his way of love and truth will remain true and right, and will not ever fail us if we will live as our Lord Jesus did. Jesus was tempted in all points even as we, yet he never sinned for he was filled with the righteous, loving way of God. (Heb. 4: 15) Jesus' feet supported him in overcoming this world and its evils. And now he is alive for evermore! Jesus has pioneered the way for the rest of us. By him living in us we also can overcome.

One of the ministers in the Church of God once said that he believed that God is about the same size of a man, only composed of spirit instead of flesh. This man was thinking in physical terms, and trying to make God in the image of man. God is not in the image of man; man is in the image of God. There is a difference. Man is small and limited in space and power. God is not small, he inhabits

eternity, and there is no limit to God's power; he is all powerful, and almighty. In psalms forty four, verse three; it says that the children of Israel did not get the Promised Land by their own sword, nor did their own **arm** save them; but by God's **right hand, and arm**. How could a hand and arm like a man's have done this? It couldn't; God's arm can defeat a whole army suddenly. God is eternal Spirit, and can stretch out his arm and crush an enemy nation, while at the same time holding the earth in the palm of his hand. God is not limited to only doing one task at a time; he creates, and rules over the entire universe, while at the same time hearing all of the prayers of his faithful saints. God can reach out with his hand and heal a sick saint in the United States of America, while at the same time defeating an enemy in another nation, while at the same time holding the planets in their orbits, while at the same time noticing that a sparrow is falling from the sky, (*Matt. 10: 29*) while at the same time hearing and answering the prayers of hundreds of faithful Christians. Almighty God is not limited as man is. God can act and rule over every planet and star in the entire creation, at once.

Look at what God said that he would do: "The Lord shall cause his glorious voice to be heard, and shall show the lighting down of his **arm**, with the indignation of his anger, and with the flame of a devouring fire, with scattering, and tempest, and hail-stones". (Isaiah 30: 30) An arm the size of a man's arm would be puny to try and accomplish this. Read also in Isaiah chapter fifty two, and verse ten. "The Lord has made bare his holy **arm** in the eyes of all the nations: and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God." Again God's arm is not limited like man is. In Isaiah chapter sixty six, verses one and two, God says that his hand has made the heavens and the earth. Could a hand the size of a man's hand do something like that? No, Man is physical matter and limited, but God is Eternal Spirit and not limited. Men try to envision God to be some form that their eye can behold, but that would be physical also. The Eternal God is Spirit and inhabits eternity and is not limited as man is.

The best way for us to be able to know God is to surrender our lives in total obedience to his laws and word, and start living the way that he does. Study the word of God to learn the will and way of God and live by it yourself. This is impossible unless God and Christ is living in you, but if you will truly repent of

your own selfish, vain, lust filled, disobedient ways, and truly surrender to let Christ be your Lord and Master, then God will give you a small measure of his Holy Spirit to unite with your human spirit and lead you into more perfect obedience of God. Then as you live and grow out of all of your own unrighteousness, and into the righteousness of God, God will give you more of his Holy Spirit. If you will remain faithful to God and Christ even in trials and temptations for the rest of your life, then you will be better able to really know the Great God, for you will be becoming like him. Then at Christ's second coming to this earth, the true saints will be born again into the God family as a very son of God, even as Christ is.

All of the true saints will be collectively joined with Christ in a Spiritual marriage, of which our human marriages are a physical image of, to all work together to bring many more children into the God family. Christ will be the head of the body, even as a husband was supposed to be the head of his wife in our human marriages. When we are born again we will be able to see God as he is, for we will be like him, (1 John 3: 2) only he will always be older, and wiser, and we will always know that he is best suited to be the head, and not ourselves. Lucifer didn't believe that, and got to thinking he knew better than God, and became a competitor to God. He chose the way of selfishness, vanity, lust, greed, and competition. He became a warped, twisted, evil being, and is now ruling the people of this earth to their own hurt. (Eph. 2: 2) We must overcome his evil influence in our minds lest we be destroyed. Only through Christ in us can we overcome.

We will never have any idea, wisdom or knowledge that can be better than what God gives us from his word. We must in this physical life, through our experience of both evil and good come to truly and thoroughly understand, and know this before God will ever Give us eternal life. God is not going to let there be any more wicked spirits with eternal life. That is why we humans are made of flesh and blood, and subject to death, before we have Holy Righteous Character formed in our minds and hearts. The idea of sending immortal souls to an ever burning and torturous life forever in hell is a Devils doctrine, and not from God. The real God is much more merciful than that. God says the wages of sin is death,

(Romans 6: 23) and that is eternal death, but he prefers that we repent and live, (Ezekiel 33: 11) his way. We do have a choice, and many will make the wrong choice, but God will mercifully give them death instead of eternal life in torment. (Rev. 20: 14-15) (Rev. 21: 7-8) (Malachi 4:1) This world's version of "Christianity" claims that we humans have Immortal souls and the punishment for unrepentant sin is eternal life in Hell fire. This is not what God's word teaches, but that is the lie that the serpent, Satan the devil told Eve in the Garden of Eden. God told them that they would die if they ate of the forbidden fruit, but Satan said, "You shall not surely die..." (Gen. 3: 1-4) This world's religions are actually Satan's counterfeit religions, and they believed, and have been teaching Satan's lie ever since. God says that if we want to have access to the tree of life, that we must do his commandments. (Rev. 22: 14) Eternal life is a gift from God to those who will repent of their sinful ways, and start obeying, and living by the true word of God. (Romans 6: 23) (Matt. 19: 16-19) You can't earn eternal life, but you do have to qualify for it, and God will help you to qualify for life if you truly desire to be a Holy, and righteous son of God more than anything else.

Why Male and Female?

Now we need to understand a little more about how Adam and Eve were made in the Image of God, and what God is creating. Why did God make man, male and female? Why didn't God make them both at the same time? Why did God use a rib, bone and flesh (DNA) from the man to make the Woman? Why did all human flesh have to come from the one man instead of making several of them? Here in these writings God will give you the answer to these questions and much more.

"And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him: male and female created he them." (Genesis 1: 26-27) Did you get that? Man and woman are both a part of man. Both are in the Image of God. How can they both be created in the Image of God when there are obvious differences between the man and the woman? Verse 27 states that the "him", (*man*) was made male

and female; and that man is a “them”. Man is also a uniplurl word like the word God; One man but more than one member. God called their name Adam. (Gen. 5: 1-2) Yes, God gave them both the name of Adam, and it was the man Adam that called his female partner “woman”, which was made out of himself, his own DNA. (Gen. 2: 23) Later Adam also called his wife Eve, because she was the mother of all living. (Gen. 3: 20) Why did God give them both the same name? God named them both Adam because they were a part of each other. God also intended that they both love each other and combine their differences to complement each other, and both of them were intended to live and function as one. Neither one of them was complete without the other. They needed each other to be a complete man as God intended for them to be. Some things were given to the man that his wife lacked, and some things were given to the woman, which the man lacked. But by joining them both, *which were made of the same flesh, with the same DNA*; together in a marriage union, they both could be a complete man, which is made in the Image of Christ and his bride, the true Church of God. (Eph. 5: 22-33) Even though we are two separate individuals, God expects a husband and his wife to function as one. I might add here also that this is not possible without they both have true love for each other as much as they do for their own selves.

Ever since the Garden of Eden, men and women have been marrying and trying to live as one, but because that they are not united by their nervous systems in a physical way; they can't truly care for one another, and look out for each other's best interest as much as they do for self. The “nervous system” that we need to unite us with each other is the Holy Spirit of God in our minds, which God would have given to Adam and Eve if they had not disobeyed and taken of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of Good and Evil. If they had taken of the tree of Life, then they would have been given the Holy Spirit, which would have imparted to them the love of God in their minds and hearts. (Galatians 5: 22-23) The Holy Spirit would also have given them the Spirit of eternal life, but since they had chose to reject God as revealer of basic Spiritual knowledge, and to decide for themselves what was Good and Evil, by taking of the forbidden fruit, then God drove them out of the Garden of Eden and barred the way to the tree of Life, lest

they eat of the tree of life and live forever in a sinful disobedient way, even as the demons do. (Gen. 3: 22-24) God knew from the beginning that man would make the wrong choice, and want to try his own way, instead of trusting in God, So that is why we humans are made of flesh and blood, and subject to death, instead of being created out of Spirit, as the former creation of angels were. To live forever in sin would be more torment than God is willing to let happen to us. God also don't want any more adversaries to have to deal with either.

Since man has not had the Holy Spirit of God in them, man is not truly united with his wife, but is selfish. The nervous system of the man and the woman don't feel the pain or the pleasure of the other, physical or mental. Their five senses and nerves are primarily concerned with self. People do have some concern for their "extended self", but not as it was their own self. This is why there is so much adultery in marriages. Selfish people want to "Get" from the other. God's way is to "Give" to the other. Real love is not selfish. Real love is out going, away from self, love and concern for the wellbeing and concern of the one being loved. Without the Holy Spirit, human love is still a great deal selfish. You should read my article, "Just What Do You Mean Love"; it is also on my website. I am very grateful to the Great Eternal God, for giving to me the opportunity to share with all of you this precious knowledge and wisdom, through the international computer internet system. I have treasured the truth of God, and have been cast out of the last two visible organizations of the Church of God because of that, but God has opened this door to me, where one man can reach out to all parts of the earth with the truth. What a blessing!

Now we need to get back to how man and woman was made in the Image of God, and what he is doing. God first created the man, and he was alone without a wife. Let me make a point plain here also. Genesis chapter two, and verse seven tells us that God formed the man from the dust of the ground. That does not mean that God just dug up a bunch of dirt and made a mud image like men would do trying to make an image of man. It is a scientific fact that man is composed of the elements, minerals, chemicals and water of the earth; (*dust of the ground*). God didn't just form the outside appearance of a man; he formed the whole man, including making the minerals, and chemicals into flesh, and he made this man to

have a heart, a set of lungs, a blood vessel system, a nervous system including a brain, a digestive system, and all of the things that is in man. I think that many people seem to assume that God just made a mud statue, then breathed on it and it just turned into a man. That is not true. God formed all of the atoms and cells in the man's body and equipped it to be able to live when God breathed the breath of life into it. People seem to have the idea that God just made a statue, then when he breathed into its nostrils, and then somehow by magic it turned into a living man. Understand this brethren, God doesn't do "magic". All, that God does, he does by understanding. (Proverbs 3: 19) Man is made in the Image of God, and all that man creates, he does by understanding also. Mans understanding of the physical world continues to grow, and especially since modern travel, and learning, by combining of the wealth of knowledge of all the different races and languages together.

The prophet Ezekiel was given a vision of the second resurrection, for all of the people who have never been "called" by God to have part in the first resurrection; and when these dead arise, it reveals that God starts with the bones, and then he brings up sinews, and flesh and skin upon them. They will be resurrected back to fleshly life, and then they will be given the opportunity to know God, and then they will also be judged by their works, and the books of the bible. (Ezek. 37: all) (Rev. 20:11-12) The point is God does everything in detail from the smallest of particle, and he does it all by his great understanding. Likewise God made man to be able to learn and do awesome things in the physical, material realm, and it also is not magic, but by understanding.

If you listen to the modern so called "enlightened and educated" philosophers of this evil age; they would have you believe that the entire creation, the stars, sun, moon and the earth and all that is in them, somehow just evolved without any mind planning it or creating it. What rank Ignorance! Can an awesome and intricate creation just happen having no mind with power to do it? No! Those ignorant deceivers are willingly ignorant, because they refuse to know God. They like Satan want to be the big boss or the highest of intelligence and power; because they refuse to be corrected by Almighty God.

Now back to Genesis; God made man and he was all alone, without a wife. God instructed Adam and had him working in the Garden to take care of it. (Gen. 2: 15) Then God made a statement saying, it is not good that the man should be alone, I will make him a help meet for him. (Gen. 2: 18) The woman was not an afterthought; the woman was part of the plan all along, but man was made in the Image of God, and God was without a wife for all eternity in the past. The Eternal was planning to make himself a wife, and children out of us humans and his Holy Spirit and his character in us, so he made the man in his image to be alone for a while also. God had the Angle creation with him, but they were not suitable to be a wife for himself, just like Adam had the animal creation with him, but Adam also discovered that none of the animals were suitable to be a wife for himself. (Gen. 2: 20) God brought all of the animals to Adam, for him to name them, so that in the process he would discover this fact.

The Angles were created beings, and many were very intelligent and powerful, but God wanted a wife through whom he could reproduce himself. He wanted a wife that is not an angle, but a wife that is God also having perfect Holy Righteous character in her. God realized that the only way to do this is to make man out of flesh and subject to death if he refuses to make the right choice when he is called, and given the opportunity to know God. Adam made the wrong choice, so God sentenced man and all of his children to six thousand years, (*six millennium days*) of living according to his own understanding and that is without God's Holy Spirit in him, but man would be influenced by the wicked spirit that deceived Eve in the Garden at the tree of the knowledge of Good and Evil.

Through this six thousand years, only a very few were predestined to be called to actually know God and his truth. Of those called, those who will repent of their selfish way of sin and disobedience to God, and actually surrender their lives to God; them will God beget as his own children by his own Spirit coming into their minds, and uniting with their human spirit. If they will remain faithful to God and Christ throughout the rest of their lives, even in trial and temptation; they all collectively will make up the members of the bride of Christ, and will be joined with him in an eternal holy marriage at Christ's second coming to this earth. That is not far off! We will rule over this earth as kings and priest under Christ for one

thousand years (*a millennium Sabbath Day*). We will train and teach and rule over many more mortal humans who will also be the children of God. Our job will be as a wife to Christ, and mother of all of the rest of the many children that God will have. Jesus Christ is also spoken of as being a Father to the Children who shall later be born. (Isaiah 9: 6) The true Church of God is the mother of all of the children of God, even as Eve was the mother of all human children.

We will all be individual sons of God with minds of our own even as Christ did when he was here in the flesh, but our minds will be in perfect agreement with Christ, by our own willing choice, but we will all be united by the Spirit of God and Christ in us, so that we will all work together as one whole complete man, or God. We will be, not physically, but governmentally structured as God designed a man, with Christ being the head, and us all being the many members that make up the body. (Ephesians 4: 4-16) The Father and Christ will dwell in us in like manner as we, *our spirit and mind and nervous system*, dwell in our fleshly bodies. We all make up the body of Christ, and we all do the will of the head, because that we have learned in this physical life through our experiences of sin and its result, and then having been called and given the truth and surrendered to it, and experienced it, that God is right and perfect. We obey the head, Christ because we choose to, and it is our pleasure to obey him, for we know that he is perfect, and right, and always concerned for us better than we are capable of.

When Christ was here in the flesh he did the will of his Father, and loved it: If we truly know God and Christ we also will be able to love doing the will of Christ and our Father. We have learned that we can't improve on the perfect will of God, so we agree with him completely, and as a result, we are blessed forever, and are given eternal life also, and as a result of us all being in agreement with our head, we will also be united with each other, and able to work together as one unit to accomplish the will of the whole God family. It is enough that we willingly let God dwell in us, and be our head. Satan's way is to compete, and exalt self to try and be our own man instead of letting Christ rule us. We true Christians have learned by experience that the way of man apart from God, leads to nothing but destruction, division, sorrow, pain, and anguish of heart. God's way leads to peace, prosperity, happiness, creativity, unity, and great joy.

Now back to the creation of Eve: The man discovered that none of the animals were suited to be a wife for himself, so God caused a deep sleep to come upon Adam, and God took a rib from the man, and of that rib God made the woman and brought her to the man. (Gen. 2: 20-22) Now why did God use a rib from the man to make a woman for him? Why didn't God just make a wife for Adam in similar manner as he made the man? God wanted the wife to be made of Adams own flesh and bone, because that was in the image of what God is doing in making the wife of Christ, the Church out of Christ's own Spirit and Character. (Ephesians 5:23-32) A man's bones is the physical character of the fleshly body; this is why no bone in Christ's physical body was allowed to be broken; Christ's holy righteous spiritual character was never broken in all that he suffered and endured, even while being tempted in all points even as we are. (John 19: 31-37) (Hebrews 4: 15)

When God designed the woman, he made her a little different than the man was. As you have probably noticed, the woman has a softer voice, large breasts which will be filled with food for their babies, and a vagina and womb that is able to become pregnant with a child when her husband enters her and deposits his sperm. The woman doesn't produce male sperm, but an ovum, or egg which can be penetrated by the male sperm, thus creating a new human life; and this is in the image of the Spirit of God entering into our human spirit, begetting us as the children of God. The woman's bones are designed so that they will spread apart to let the child be born when it has developed to that point, and has been feed by the blood system of the mother. (The blood is the life of the flesh, but Gods Holy Spirit gives life to Gods spiritual children.) (Leviticus 17: 11) (John 6: 63)

After the child is born it was Gods intention that the mother be the one that is primarily responsible for the nurturing, feeding and minute by minute care of the children. God intended that the wife be submitted to the authority of her husband, (*Eph. 5: 22-24*) which God gave the responsibility of providing for, protecting and giving overall direction, and guidance to the family. God intended that the man take the overview, and bottom line concerns for the family's wellbeing, just like Christ does for the church. God intended that the wife and mother be focused on the details of the family's needs and care. The wife or

Church feeds the children of God the bread of life, the word of God. (John 6: 48-63) (Eph. 5: 11-13)

God also intended that they not compete with each other, but that they both supply what they are best equipped to do, and work together for the benefit of the whole family. God intended that the wife be subject to her husband, but at the same time God intended for the man to love his wife and children, so that all that he does, and all of his leadership is in the overall best interest of the whole family, for that is the way Christ does for the Church. (Eph. 5: 25-30) The Man should take council from his wife to be better able to make those bottom line decisions that he must make for the whole family, that his judgments are tempered with love and mercy, and consideration for his wife's view point, even as God listens to our prayers, but ultimately it is his responsibility to make the final, bottom line decision for the whole family.

God created the man and the woman with certain differences so that they could better perform according to their God given purpose, for they were made in the Image of Christ and the Church, his future wife. Because God intended for the man to be the head of the wife, he also gave the man a more course and powerful voice than the wife or the children. Sometimes a man can just raise his voice a little and bring the children or the wife to realize who is the boss, or head. A man's physical size and strength also makes him better suited to be the provider, protector, and leader of the family. God made the man in the Image of Christ, and the woman in the Image of Christ's wife. When Christ and his wife are finally married and Glorified together in Spirit bodies, The Father will dwell in Christ and his Glorified Spirit wife, and Christ will dwell in the Wife's members even as we dwell in our physical bodies now. We will carry on the will of the Father and Christ forever, and we will help Christ bring into being many, many children into the God family. God is in the process of reproducing himself. Eventually God will plant the heavens with his children. (Isaiah 51: 16)

Even the doctors and scientist of our modern world has discovered that the brain of a man and a woman is different. The brain is divided into two hemispheres, the right and the left. One side of the man's brain is dominate,

while it is the other side of the woman's brain that is dominant. The man's side of the brain leads him to be more concerned with the overview of things, and concerned with the bottom line, instead of getting too focused on the details. No matter how good the details of a thing may seem; if the bottom line shows it to not be in the best interest of the overall good of the entire family, then it is no good. This makes the man physically best suited to be the leader and head even as Christ is head of the church. But understand and remember this; for a man to be an effective and good head of the wife, he also must be submitted to his head Christ, even as Christ submits to his head God the Father. (I Cor. 11: 3-15)

Now the woman's side of the brain that is dominate leads the woman to be more focused on the details of raising the children, and their happiness, and needs and wants, instead of being focused on the overview of direction and leadership of the whole family. This makes her better suited to raise, nurture, and feed, and clothe the children and care for their home, and its appearance, and cleanliness. This also makes her better suited to submit to her loving husbands' leadership. She can give council to her husband to consider these details also in his overview and overall leadership. This is also made this way in the Image of the Church and Christ. Neither the man, nor the woman is complete by their self. It takes both the male and the female to be a complete man.

To have this complete unity that represents Christ and his wife, which will be the church, we must be united by God's Holy Spirit in both of us, so that we have love for one another as much as we do our own self, for our flesh is not united by our fleshly nervous system. Our nervous system only unites all of our own fleshly body parts to work together as one, but for the male and the female to truly be united we must have the Love of God shed abroad in our "hearts and minds" to help us truly consider, and love one another as we do our own self. (Romans 5: 5) Through the creation of the God designed family, God helps us to learn of our God ordained destiny, and helps us to learn and develop character, and love so that we can all live together in peace and Godly love one for another, that we may eventually be given eternal life with Christ and the Father.

God could have created many men and women in the same way that he did Adam, but he didn't because God wanted Adam to be in the Image of what he is doing. God is in the process of reproducing himself, and therefore we all had to come from the one man Adam, even his wife came from him, just like all of the children of God including his wife had to come from his own self; of his own Spirit and character. (Malachi 2: 15)

I hope this booklet helps you all to have a better understanding of how we are made in the image of God, but let me tell you plainly: If you have just quickly read over this message, then you most assuredly didn't truly and completely get it. I Strongly recommend that you copy this and study it with your bible open and read what I wrote until you get to a scripture reference, then stop and read all of the scriptures in their context and then continue on to the next scripture reference, and then do the same thing. Study this whole booklet in this manner, then after that start again and read this whole booklet all over again, and then the intended message should become much clearer in your minds. Words are only a vehicle to transmit a thought from one mind into another mind. Much of the thoughts of the writer are in these other bible scriptures, and references which are given here. To really get the message you must study it in the manner that I have suggested. Too many of the called church members didn't study Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong's writings in this manner and that is partly why so many of them didn't truly get it. If your time is too valuable to you to devote yourself to studying Gods word, then you are not truly converted anyway. Those Saints that will be in the first resurrection find it a joy to study the words of our Great Creator God. It is like digging out nuggets of Gold.

Finally brethren I just let you know that I look forward to being united with all of the faithful in Christ. Let us consider one another in our prayers. God has many faithful saints out there who may be going through some tough trials, even as I have. We are being purged that we may bring forth more righteous fruit in our lives. Even these trials are in our ultimate best interest. God bless all of you who do love the truth in sincerity. A true witness and friend of God and Christ,

A true friend and witness of God and Christ,

Gary Stowers

