

The Kingdom of God

What is It?

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THIS BOOKLET IS NOT TO BE SOLD. The information provided is for the benefit of former members of the congregations of the Worldwide Church of God (WCG), and of current and prospective members of God's Church.

There have been many different interpretations about just what is God's Kingdom among the different Christian religions of the world. Can we ever know for sure what it is, where it will be located and who are those who will be part of it? Let's examine what our only sure source of information, God's holy Bible, tells us about the Kingdom of God.

Preamble

Please Note: All comments in brackets [] or in parentheses () as well as highlighted text (bolded and/or in blue) are from the author of this study. Bible quotations are in maroon.

I think it is essential to clarify the question of the “Holy Spirit” before we begin this study. If we say that who or what is the “Holy Spirit” is the question that needs to be answered, we are starting from the assumption that there exists such a being as the Holy Spirit and that it is a separate and distinct being from God and the Word. The question which should be asked is who are the beings the Bible tell us are holy, whose composition is spirit and who have existed eternally? Either the Bible plainly tells us who are the separate and distinct beings that existed from all eternity who created all things (spirit beings and the material universe) or we have no way of getting an answer to our question.

The Holy Spirits of the God Family

The Bible tells us in Gen 1:1 that:

Gen 1:1 In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

The Hebrew word translated “God” is “Eloheem” which is the plural form of “Eloah which means “God”. The word “Eloheem” refers to “gods.” It is a uniplural noun like family, group, team, etc. In the beginning, there was therefore more than one God being in existence but how many were there?

Joh 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Joh 1:2 The same was in the beginning with God.

Joh 1:3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

In the beginning when God created the heaven and the earth there was God and there was another being with God who was also God, the Word. How can these two beings both be God; isn't that impossible?

The word God indicates the kind of existence of these 2 beings: their nature is to be God in the same way that all human beings have the same human nature. However, having the same nature does not mean that all human beings constitute a single being; indeed, they are all separate and distinct beings with their own personalities. God and the Word have in common the same nature or, level and type of existence, but they are separate and distinct beings just like all human beings who have the same human nature are separate and distinct beings.

God the Father

We read in the Bible that God became a father when the Word became flesh (Phi 2:5-8) by being born of woman after having been conceived in the virgin Mary by the holy spirit being called God (Luke 1:35). God from that point on became God the Father and the Word, who was born as the flesh-and-blood Jesus of Nazareth became God's Son or the Son of God. He was both fully God (his father was God and fully human (his mother was the virgin Mary).

Jesus was God the Father's only begotten son at the time when He was conceived in Mary's womb but He was not to be the only one begotten of the Father. God the Father is the holy spirit being in the Godhead that calls men to salvation.

Joh 6:44 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.

Joh 6:65 And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father.

Joh 18:9 That the saying might be fulfilled, which he spake, Of them which thou [God the Father] gavest me have I lost none.

1Pe 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

God the Word and Spokesman

The Bible term for being called is to be spiritually begotten by God the Father (1Pe 1:3). When we are begotten, we become a spiritual embryo that can be born again as a glorified spirit being with eternal life. Those begotten of the holy spirit God the Father who follow their calling are then able to come to the holy spirit being called the Word and Spokesman (John 6:44; 65; 18:9) who then teaches them. The glorified Jesus-Christ as God the Father's Word and Spokesman is the holy spirit being that works in the minds of God the Father's called and chosen ones.

Joh 7:39 (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

Jesus had to first be glorified for it to be possible for Christians to have access to the holy spirit called the Word and Spokesman because the glorified Christ is the holy spirit being who works in the minds of God's saints (John 14:17) in the same way that Satan is the evil spirit that works in the minds of the children of disobedience (Eph2:2).

Joh 14:17 Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he [Christ] dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. [On the day of Pentecost, it would be in them and in all true Christians.]

Eph 2:2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, [Satan] the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

The holy spirit God the Father calls men and those who follow their calling are then taught by the holy spirit called the Word and God the Father's Spokesman.

Joh 14:26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

The Holy Ghost

The expression “Holy Ghost” used in the Bible is in error as there are no ghosts in the Godhead but rather 2 beings that are holy (John 17:11; Isa 6:3) and spirit (John 4:24).

Joh 17:11 And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are.

Isa 6:3 And one cried unto another, and said, **Holy, holy, holy**, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.

Joh 4:24 **God is a Spirit:** and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

These 2 God beings who are holy and spirit are the holy spirit beings of the God family who existed in the beginning at the creation of all things.

Joh 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Joh 1:2 The same was in the beginning with God.

Joh 1:3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

And, the Word who was with God is before all things i.e., *nothing* existed before He created them whether made of spirit or matter.

Col 1:15 [Christ] Who is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of every creature:

Col 1:16 For by him [the Word who became Jesus-Christ] were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:

Col 1:17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

In the beginning before anything either physical or spiritual was created, there was God and the Word who existed before all things and no other being is mentioned as having existed with them. There is no bib-

lical evidence that there ever existed a third, separate and distinct personage in the Godhead called the “Holy Spirit” who dwelt in eternity with God and the Word.

God is a Family

Throughout the Bible we can find many verses which clearly indicates the existence of family relations between God and the Word and God’s called, chosen and faithful.

Mat 11:27 All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him.

Mat 12:50 For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.

Joh 20:17 Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.

God is clearly a family in which many can be ultimately born again by a resurrection from the dead to eternal, glorified spirit life in God’s Kingdom.

Rom 8:29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he [God’s Son] might be the firstborn among many brethren.

Col 1:18 And he [the glorified Christ] is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.

Christ was the first to be born again by a resurrection from the dead to be followed by many brethren.

Bible Writing Convention

The practice in the Bible has been to simply use the expression “the Holy Spirit” without indicating which God personage in the Godhead the expression represents. Over time, because of this practice, just about everybody has come to believe that the Holy Spirit is a separate and distinct God being in the Godhead but, there is no single verse or group of verses in the Bible that prove the existence of such a third being in the Godhead. The words “holy” and “spirit” are adjectives that describe the nature of

God the Father and of God the Word i.e., they are holy beings made of spirit.

Whenever we encounter the expressions the “Holy Spirit” or simply the “Holy Spirit” in the Bible we must look at the context to determine of which holy spirit being of the Godhead the Bible is talking about: the holy spirit, God the Father or the holy spirit, the Word and Spokesman.

The Word is the holy spirit being in the Godhead who carries out the instructions and wishes of the holy spirit, God. He is the faithful son who seeks to do his father’s will in all things. He is the member of the God family that did the work of creating the heaven and the earth, who ruled over ancient Israel through Moses and his human successors, He is the one who became a man who suffered and died to be God the Father’s perfect sacrifice for sin and make the salvation of mankind possible, etc. and He came to reveal the Father to those who follow the Father’s calling.

Making Things Clearer

In this study, when referring to God’s spirit who, depending on the circumstances can be the holy spirit personage called God the Father or the holy spirit personage called God the Word and Spokesman, I will not capitalize either of the adjectives “holy” and “spirit”. This is in order to not perpetuate the false impression in the minds of readers that there is a 3rd being in the Godhead called the “Holy Spirit.” Instead, I will refer to either of the holy spirits in the God family as being God’s spirit without capitalizing the word “spirit” to make it plain that we are not referring to a third God being in the God family called the “Holy Spirit” but to one of the 2 God beings in the Godhead.

God’s family is presently made up of 2 holy spirit beings to which are to be added thousands and possibly millions of other holy spirit beings when God’s plan of salvation for mankind has reached its end. The saints that endure in the faith until the end of their natural human life, will be resurrected as individual holy spirit beings in God’s Kingdom when it is established.

There are two studies which you can read regarding what is the “Holy Spirit” and decide for yourself in light of the Bible-based evidence offered if such a being exists in the Godhead. These studies are: [What is the Holy Spirit? Cliff Notes Version](#) and [Who or What is the Holy Spirit?](#)

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All Christians are longing for the day when they will become a part of the kingdom of God but more often than not it is not all that clear in their mind just what it is. Many see the kingdom of God as a place that someone goes to and where they find absolute freedom from work of any kind. They see themselves as spending eternity in blissful idleness, lying in a hammock sipping a cool drink on a beautiful beach watching the waves come in with a body that no longer grows old and feeble and good looks that never fade.

Not understanding what is the Kingdom of God is one of the big reason why certain Scriptures have been greatly misunderstood especially regarding the Millennium and the Last Great Day. The Worldwide Church of God under the leadership of Mr. Herbert W Armstrong taught that there is a time coming when the governments of this world will be taken over by Christ and His glorified saints and that this will result in a 1,000 year period of worldwide peace, prosperity, abundance and security such as the world has never known.

However, the Kingdom of God is not something that can be seen by flesh-and-blood human beings. It is wholly composed of spirit beings whose existence is unknowable to flesh-and-blood human beings whose ability to perceive things is limited to the physical and the material. Furthermore, God cannot rule over the unconverted of the world as they are not subject to His law nor indeed can be (Rom 8:7); they are completely unteachable when it comes to God's truth. Human beings need to have the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman dwelling in

them for their minds to be able to know God's truth; in other words, they need to be converted.

Yes, all will be called during the Millennium and the Last Great Day but it does not necessarily follow that all or even a majority of those called will become converted. Those called must also follow their calling AND remain faithful or endure in the faith until the end of their lives. There is a huge difference between being called and becoming converted. Christ plainly tells us, if we will believe our Bible, that though many are called, it is the few that are chosen i.e., that follow their calling (Matt 22:14) and of the few that are chosen, it is the many from among them who take the broad way that leads to destruction (Mat 7:13). In other words, mankind to a great extent, will remain unconverted and of those who become converted, it will be the few that will remain converted until the end of their lives. The holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman only ever leads (Rom 8:14). God will not rule by force over the unconverted during the Millennium and the Last Great Day any more than He does now or has done for the last now almost 6,000 years. For more detailed and comprehensive information on this topic, please see the following study: [Mass Conversion of the Nations during the Millennium?](#)

The Bible, if we will believe it, gives us a great deal of information regarding how God's Kingdom will be organized, how it will function; the roles and responsibilities of those who will be a part of it and the territory it will occupy.

In this study, we will explore using the Scriptures, the different elements making up God's kingdom and hopefully, come to a clear, fully Bible supported comprehension of it.

Let's get started by determining what is a kingdom.

A Kingdom

In order for a kingdom to exist there has to be four elements present. There has to be a king, subjects, law and territory.

The king has supreme authority over everyone in the kingdom and those individuals who are part of the kingdom are those that are under the authority of the king. The authority of the king is exercised directly over his subjects and through others to whom he delegates some of his authority to administer the many and varied services required in the kingdom. The king can't do it all by himself and in a kingdom everyone is under authority either directly, from officials of the kingdom who exercise authority on behalf of the king or indirectly, through the laws of the kingdom which all emanate from the king.

Lastly, a kingdom requires a territory under the authority of the king and in which the members of the kingdom live.

The kingdom of God will not be all that different as we will see as we go through the relevant Scriptures and see what they say about the 4 elements which are needed for a kingdom to exist.

The King of the Kingdom

Let's now examine who is the most high or the supreme ruler in God's kingdom i.e., the king of the kingdom. Presently, God's Kingdom is made up of only God the Father and God the Word who became Jesus the Christs. In the following Scriptures, we see Jesus stating that His Father is greater than all in authority (John 10:29).

Joh 10:29 My Father, which gave them me, **is greater than all**; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.

In John 14:28 Jesus plainly acknowledges that His Father is greater in authority than Him (Jesus).

Joh 14:28 Ye have heard how I said unto you, I go away, and come again unto you. If ye loved me, ye would rejoice, because I said, I go unto the Father: for **my Father is greater than I**.

In John 20:17, Jesus calls the Father, His God i.e., the person that to whom He is in full obedience.

Joh 20:17 Jesus saith unto her, **Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.**

And, in John 16:23 we read that when we are praying and asking for God's blessings in our lives we are praying to the Father who is the One that has the authority to give such blessings. We ask the Father in Christ's name.

Joh 16:23 And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, **Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you.**

In John 16:26 we read that Christ will pray the Father which indicates clearly that the Father is higher than Christ in authority, that the Father is presently the highest in the kingdom and, that Christ is lower in authority in the kingdom.

Joh 16:26 At that day ye shall **ask in my name**: and I say not unto you, that I will pray the Father for you:

In God's kingdom there is a hierarchy of authority i.e., God the Father is higher in authority than Christ and Christ will be higher in authority than those who will become members of God's Kingdom. Without a clearly established, recognized and accepted order of authority there is confusion, strife and chaos and God is not the author of confusion.

1Co 14:33 For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.

Amo 3:3 Can two walk together, except they be agreed?

What is it that they have to agree on? That one is to lead and the other is to follow.

In 1 Corn 14:26-40 (quoted below) Paul is explaining to the members of the Church that things have to be done in order; that not all are to speak at the same time (1 Corn 14:31 quoted below), or in a foreign language if there is no one to interpret (1 Corn 14:27-28), and if something has been revealed to someone who sits by while another is speaking, he is to wait his turn to speak (1 Cor 14:30-31). They may all prophesy i.e., share with others in the congregation the truth that they receive but they have to do it one by one and the others hearing them are to judge (1 Corn 14:29) whether what they are saying agrees or not with the Scriptures which is the only sure criterion for determining the truth of what they are saying.

1Co 14:31 For ye may all prophesy one by one, that all may learn, and all may be comforted.

1Co 14:27 If any man speak in an unknown tongue, let it be by two, or at the most by three, and that by course; and let one interpret.

1Co 14:28 But if there be no interpreter, let him keep silence in the church; and let him speak to himself, and to God.

1Co 14:30 If any thing be revealed to another that sitteth by, let the first hold his peace.

1Co 14:31 For ye may **all** prophesy **one by one**, that all may learn, and all may be comforted.

1Co 14:29 Let the prophets speak two or three, and let the other judge.

And one important last point which is a digression from the main topic of this study but which needs to be highlighted is that any Church member who has anything revealed to him can speak about it to the congregation or as the Bible says it, prophesy to the congregation (1Cor14:30-31) as long as he recognizes the writings of Paul as being commandments from the Lord i.e., that the truth Paul (1 Cor 14:37) is giving them is truth he received directly from Christ.

1Co 14:37 If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord.

This truth that Paul received from Christ is the foundational truth of God's Church (1 Cor 3:10) which is not subject to discussion; no member of God's Church can speak or prophesy something which goes counter to the truth Paul gives them as he received it directly from Christ. It is however accepted and expected that Church members will receive from God as they study and pray, truth not forming part of the foundational truth given Paul and the other apostles. Paul says they can share, in an orderly way with their congregations, the truths God reveals to them. The congregation will then judge i.e., make a determination based on the Scriptures of the validity of the information shared with it. It is possible for an individual member to not have come to a correct conclusion when studying the Bible and through discussion with other members of God's Church, have his findings confirmed, corrected or invalidated always using the Bible as the final criterion.

I understand and know full well how much this goes against what the ministry and Mr. Armstrong taught and before rejecting it outright, you should spend a bit of time thinking about it and examining carefully 1Cor 14:27-31. Christians are to grow in knowledge and understanding of the Scriptures all through their lives. Paul says that his teachings to the Church are the foundational truth of the Church that others are to build on. It is not everything that can be known.

1Co 3:10 According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and **another buildeth thereon**. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon.

1Co 3:11 For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

The truth restored by Mr. Armstrong to the Church were some of the foundational truth that had gotten lost through the many years of persecution that came upon the Church but they are not the only truth contained in the Bible otherwise God could never have commanded true Christians to grow in knowledge and understanding of the Scriptures all through their lives. Rehearsing the foundational truths over and over is not growth; they are a foundation on which true Christians are to build on after having mastered them. (See the following study for a detailed review of this topic: [Do Christians have to Grow in Knowledge?](#))

The ministry when there was a true one in existence in the First Century Church had as its main function to make Church members independent of them by teaching them to prove all things with their Bible so as to protect themselves from the false prophets that would arise right from within the Church or who would come into it from the world.

Eph 4:11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

Eph 4:12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

Eph 4:13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

Eph 4:14 **That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;**

The criterion of truth for Christians is not the ministry who are but men who can depart from the truth and who have done so massively in the past. The criterion for God's saints is their Bible.

Also, it should be noted that God works with each of His called and chosen ones. As Paul states in 1 Cor 14:27-31, he is not the only person to whom truth is being revealed; other members of the congregations he raised can also receive revelation from God as they pray and study their Bible. These revelations until proven with the Bible are not doctrine, but once proven, they can change or invalidate the understanding of different established doctrines.

The criterion of truth of any new understanding that any individual may get is the Bible. The criterion of truth is not any man; it is the Bible. The Church is made up of scattered members all over the world, and when

little groups of true believers come into existence, new understandings can be tested in spiritual fellowship with other truly converted individuals.

True Christians do not have the choice of isolating themselves from other truly converted Christians when some are known from fear of losing the truth they have. True Christians must have the courage to venture out into the marketplace of ideas and be ready to make the effort required to sort the wheat from the chaff and have growth in knowledge and understanding. The servant who hid his talent fearing to lose it, lost his salvation for what he had was taken from him and given to another who had spiritual growth. Spiritual isolation and stagnation from fear of losing the truth we have leads to loss of salvation.

Christians are to have spiritual fellowship with other true Christians when some are known and in a non-contentious or disputatious way, discuss and explore together their understanding of the Scriptures with the objective of perfecting, and growing their knowledge and understanding of the Scriptures.

Mat 25:24 Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed:

Mat 25:25 And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, there thou hast that is thine.

Mat 25:26 His lord answered and said unto him, **Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed:**

Mat 25:27 **Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury.**

Mat 25:28 **Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents.**

Mat 25:29 **For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath.**

Mat 25:30 And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

It would now be a good time to examine the manner in which the Worldwide Church of God headed up by Mr. Armstrong administered its congregations in light of 1 Cor 14: 27-31. This will result in a major departure from the main topic of this study but I think it is essential that I do so now.

Administration of Congregations

In the Worldwide Church of God, there was a great fear that members doing Bible studies on their own could fall into error and jeopardize their salvation. It was understood that Bible studies had to be conducted using the guidance of the Church through its Bible Correspondence Course made freely available to all. The members were also to understand that the ministry were the ones that had the truth and what they said was pretty well the final word on matters of Bible interpretation. The main concern was to prevent the creation of division in the different congregations through the spreading of erroneous understandings of the Bible entering the congregations through the membership.

However, God holds each truly converted member of His Church responsible for proving all things with their standard of truth being the Bible, not men. God's New Testament church is a spiritual nation not a physical organization of men. Its members are from all over the world, speak different languages, live in different countries, follow different customs and traditions and are not organized into congregations. What binds them together as God's Church is their commitment, after having been called, to obey God in all things to the best of their abilities and to grow in knowledge and understanding of the Scriptures by their personal studies of God's holy Bible and this, until the end of their natural human life.

God is a spirit and MUST be worshiped in spirit and in truth.

Joh 4:23 But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.

Joh 4:24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

This spiritual organism is not being taught by men but by the holy spirit God the Father while being called and by the holy spirit God the Word one after having become chosen.

ONLY, did I say only, the holy spirit God the Father can call men to salvation and he decides who is to be called and when his calling is to occur.

Joh 6:44 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.

And, God the Father's ability to call men is in no way dependent upon men. God's plan of salvation, its administration and its fulfillment are wholly God's doing, not men.

The only man who was critical to the success of God's plan of salvation for mankind was the holy spirit God the Word made flesh whose sufferings and death on the stake made the forgiveness of sin possible. This is why Christ is called the author and finisher of the faith of true Christians.

Heb 12:2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Christ made sure God's plan of salvation and this is why it is only after His death, resurrection and glorification that God's spiritual nation could come into being. Its existence required that it become possible for the holy spirits of the Godhead to dwell in men for them to be called and taught God's truth.

Joh 7:38 He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.

Joh 7:39 (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost [spirit] was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

Christians are taught spiritual truth by those who have it, can teach it and give understanding of it: the holy spirit God the Father and the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman.

Joh 14:16 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;

Joh 14:17 Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye [my disciples] know him; for he [I, Christ] dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

Joh 14:26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, [spirit] whom the Father will send in my name, **he shall teach you all things**, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

Joh 16:13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will **guide you into all truth**: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

The Comforter who is also the Spirit of Truth, is Jesus Christ who dwelled with the disciples and who after his death, resurrection and glorification as the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman would be in them on the day of Pentecost following Christ's ascension to His Father. It would be in them and all true Christians throughout the ages teaching them all things as they study God's holy Bible, God the Word in writing.

Our salvation depends solely on us with of course Christ doing for us what we cannot do for ourselves and that is, effect the forgiveness of our sins. Growth in knowledge and understanding beyond the truths restored to God's Church by Mr. Armstrong (HWA), is vital to your salvation. Not having growth results in the loss of salvation .

Mat 25:30 And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

In Paul's days it was accepted and understood that truly converted individuals would have truth revealed to them as they studied their Bible and it was also accepted that the brethren would discuss these things among themselves as a means of sorting out error from truth with the Bible being the ultimate criterion. It was not taught that God was only revealing truth to Paul and the men Paul and the apostles appointed as ministers.

As Paul says:

2Co 1: 24 Not for that we **[the apostles, the evangelists, elders; in brief, the ordained ministry]** have dominion over your faith, but are helpers of your joy: for by faith ye stand.

The ordained ministry that existed in the First Century Church, nor any man for that matter, can have dominion over your faith i.e., what you believe, even if they wanted to. No man can be made to believe something he has not chosen to believe and that is why Paul says that he and the ordained ministry can only be helper of their joy i.e., all they can do

is assist them; not impose on them what it is they are to believe.

Why?

Because Church members' conversion is based on what they have chosen and continue to choose to believe which is something no man can forcefully change.

Individual members coming up with new knowledge and understanding of the Scriptures is something that should be happening with all long term Christians if they are hungering and thirsting for truth and studying their Bible. They should have become skillful in using their Bible through continuing study of it.

2Ti 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

Let's now spend time clarifying in the next section of this study what is a prophet. The common understanding is that a prophet is someone who has a message from God about future events but is that the only meaning of the word as given us in the Bible?

What is a Prophet?

A prophet is usually thought of as someone who has been given the task by God of providing information which he has been given to a person or group of persons. In the Old Testament, men whom God had selected to carry a message on His behalf to other men were given this message in dreams and visions while in New Testament times, this is done through the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman working in the minds of the converted.

Heb 1:1 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners **spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, [Ancient Israel]**

Heb 1:2 Hath in these last days **[From Pentecost] spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;**

Sometimes, the words received from God have to do with future events and this is the general understanding of what it is to be a prophet, but God's words given to converted men are not always about future events; in most cases, they are spiritual truth which God reveals to truly converted Christians by the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman (Heb 1:2) which dwells in them and which are not words about events to occur in the future.

Christ said that after His death and ascension back to His Father, He would manifest Himself to His disciples and to truly converted Christians through the Comforter who God the Father would send.

Joh 14:22 Judas saith unto him, not liot, Lord, how is it that thou wilt manifest thyself unto us, and not unto the world?

Joh 14:23 Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.

Joh 14:16 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;

Joh 14:26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

The Comforter will teach the disciples and their spiritual descendants **all** things. The holy spirit God the Father and the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman live in true Christians.

Joh 14:23 Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.

Understanding of the Scriptures will be given to New Testament true believers by the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman opening their minds to see truth in their Bible which before they had not realized was there and not through visions and dreams.

Joh 16:7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.

Christ ascended back to His Father and to the glory that He knew as the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman before His incarnation as a man. He had to go back to His Father so that He could be God the Father's spokesman opening up the mind of true Christians to the many truths of the Bible that build upon the foundational truths He gave to the disciples. After becoming apostles on the Day of Pentecost, they taught the very same truths to the First Century congregations of the Church of God. This is how Christ will manifest Himself to true Christians; He will give them

knowledge and understanding of the Bible beyond the foundational truths He gave to the apostles.

True Christians are commanded to grow in knowledge and understanding all through their natural human lives. This does not occur from limiting ourselves to studying the foundational truths given the Church by Christ and partially restored by Mr. Armstrong the former Pastor General of the Worldwide Church of God. Reviewing the same things over and over again is not growth. Of course, newcomers to the faith have to spend a lot of time and effort learning and understanding the foundational truths and this is as it should be but one then has to move on and build on these foundational truths. They are not an end in themselves; they are a means to an end i.e., furnishing the true Christians with the knowledge he needs to study the Bible and get more knowledge and understanding out of it. Christians are living spiritual organism who to remain alive need to keep growing in knowledge and understanding of the truth found in the Bible.

The foundational truths of the Church are not the only truth that can be known. This is why Paul says truly converted Christians are to build on the foundation of truth he gave them (1 Cor 3: 10-15). On this Web site there are many studies explaining what it means to build on the foundation and the responsibility for Christians to have continuous growth in knowledge and understanding which is how they build on the foundation. I refer the reader to the following studies where these things are fully explained and for which there is really no room to do so here: [Are You Spiritually Mature?](#) [Are Christians Personally Responsible for Proving all Things?](#)

Not all Christians receive understanding of the same truths at the same time, and this is why Christians are to prophesy i.e., share with one another or prophesy as the Bible says it, the truth given them by God as they pray and study and build on the foundation of truth given the Church by the apostles. When sharing with others (1Cor 14:27-31), those listening will make a judgment based on the Scriptures on the validity of findings made by these members. These are instances of the process of iron sharpening iron spoken of in the Bible (Prov 27:17). It, like spiritual fellowship, is an excellent means of putting to the test new knowledge discovered in personal study to determine whether it is in conformity or not with the Scriptures. It is always possible to make a mistake and sharing with others on a one-to-one basis or with a group such as was the case in 1 Cor 14 is a good way of filtering out errors if any in individual member's Bible study findings. And, of course, sometimes it will not be possible to confirm nor invalidate a specific understanding and the only decision that can be made will be that it will be necessary to study some more into the matter.

The Bible is the final arbiter in all cases in establishing the truth of a matter which is why Paul could say: “Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.” (1Co 11:1) And, how would they be able to tell if Paul was following Christ? By checking with the Scriptures whether what Paul said was true or not as the Bereans did.

Act 17:11 These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

Paul did not set himself up as the arbiter or criterion in determining what is and is not truth. (2Cor 1:24); even if he would have wanted to do so, he would not have been able because no man can be taught against his will or made to believe anything he has not chosen to believe. And, 1Cor 14:27-31 makes it clear that it was not unexpected nor unaccepted that individual members would have truth revealed to them that would add to the foundational truth taught by the apostles.

Let's now look at the different ways in which the word prophet is used in the Bible. It usually is about religious matters but it can also be about non-religious matters.

A prophet is basically a man who is an emissary or messenger from God. For those who are unfamiliar with what is an emissary the dictionary definition of the word is: “an agent or messenger sent on a mission, especially one who represents a government or head of state; a representative sent on a mission; a delegate.”

And the dictionary definition of what is a delegate is: “A person authorized to act as representative for another; a deputy or agent.”

So, a prophet is basically an emissary or messenger authorized to act on behalf of another.

Let's look at a few Scriptures.

1Ki 18:22 Then said Elijah unto the people, I, even I only, remain a prophet of the LORD; but Baal's prophets are four hundred and fifty men.

Elijah was a messenger or delegate from God and Baal also had his prophets or messengers who spoke on his behalf. The word “prophet” is also used to describe those who are the representatives of Baal or of false pagan beliefs. This shows that the word prophet does not always refer to someone who speaks the truth on behalf of God or who is a spokesman from God to men about future events which God made known to him.

In the book of Nehemiah, chapter 6 we have an example of the word “prophet” being used about individuals sent to represent not God but a man and for the purpose of giving out a non-religious message.

In chapter 6, we read that Nehemiah was overseeing the rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem and that the enemies of the Jews did not want them to complete the wall. They tried to lure him away from Jerusalem by asking him to come to a meeting that would be held outside of Jerusalem. Nehemiah knew their ill intentions towards him and refused to go saying he was too busy supervising the rebuilding of the wall. In one last effort to get him to meet with them they sent Nehemiah a letter.

Neh 6:6 Wherein [in the letter] was written, It is reported among the heathen, and Gashmu saith it, that thou and the Jews think to rebel: for which cause thou buildest the wall, that thou mayest be their king, according to these words.

They were accusing Nehemiah of wanting to become the king of the Jews and that was why he was rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem. They were hoping this accusation would be sufficiently shocking to Nehemiah that he would go to them to explain that it was not so. They could then do mischief to him. That is the context of the 6th chapter of Nehemiah which brings us to Neh 6:7 where we see Nehemiah’s enemies falsely saying that Nehemiah had appointed prophets (spokesman, emissaries, messengers) to preach about him in Jerusalem saying there is a king in Judah i.e., Nehemiah.

Neh 6:7 And thou [Nehemiah] hast also appointed prophets to preach of thee at Jerusalem, saying, There is a king in Judah: and now shall it be reported to the king according to these words. Come now therefore, and let us take counsel together.

Here in Neh 6:7 we see that the word “prophet” is applied to men who are emissaries or delegates *not of God but of another man* i.e., Nehemiah, who will preach or in this case, announce to the people of Jerusalem that Nehemiah is going to be their king. A prophet in this case is men that Nehemiah would appoint as his agent or spokesperson to carry to a given group of people a message on his behalf which is of a non-religious nature. The word “prophet” is used in Neh 6:7 to describe such a non-religious message which is also not a message from God of events that are to occur far out in the future.

Prophesying is not always about things religious nor about future events. There is a religious and a non-religious use and meaning to the word “prophecy.” The men supposedly delegated by Nehemiah to speak to the

people are called “prophets” and their message is about Nehemiah and is not from God.

Hopefully, these explanations are sufficiently clear for you to understand that prophesying as used in the Bible is not always God using men to predict future events and that someone delivering a message on behalf of another human being is also referred to in the Bible as being a prophet.

Finally, prophesying can be about converted men sharing their understanding of truth given them by God in an iron sharpens iron attitude with other converted members of God’s Church where the speaker stands ready to be corrected should it be determined in discussions with the congregation and by reference to the Scriptures that his understanding is erroneous. At other times, it is used simply to indicate that individuals after their conversion can and will speak the truth of God as the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman makes it available to them as they pray and study. This particular meaning of “prophesying” can be found in Joel 2:28.

Joe 2:28 And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions:

The meaning is not that all the sons and daughters of men in the days when the holy spirit God the Father calls all men will start prophesying in the sense of talking about events which will come to pass in the future and which God has revealed to them. Rather, it means that those who follow their calling, they will come to know some of God’s truth upon being called and that they will talk about it and share it with other individuals who are also being called or who have become converted. They will have spiritual fellowship with other truly converted Christians.

This was a long digression but one which I feel was necessary for you to understand the different meanings of the word “prophet” as found in your Bible.

Now, going back to the topic which is the focus of this study. So far, we have established that God the Father is the king of the kingdom of God and that Christ is second to Him in order of authority. This means there is a hierarchy of authority in God’s Kingdom; that not all will be equal in authority and that all will be under authority.

How will this authority be exercised?

Hierarchy in God's Kingdom

In 1 Cor 12 we find Paul explaining to the Church, them and us today, how the Church is made up of many members with different abilities and spiritual gifts but who despite these individual differences among them, the Church constitutes one body.

In Eph 5:22-33, Paul explains that the relationship between a man and a woman in a Godly marriage is a physical level example of the relationship between God the Father and Christ and that it is also an illustration of the relationship between Christ and the Church.

Eph 5:22 Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.

Eph 5:23 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.

Christ is the head of the Church as the husband is to be the head of the wife so that they can live together in peace and harmony. Two separate, distinct, autonomous human beings self-willingly and in obedience to God, apply God's government to their relationship. The husband is to lead and the wife is to follow and in this way, they become one; two individuals acting as one as is the case with God the Father and Christ.

Eph 5:24 Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing.

Eph 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

Eph 5:26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,

Eph 5:27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such

Eph 5:28 So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself.

A married couple is a new creation where two separate and distinct individuals with their own minds and personalities become one. They are made one by their maintaining their relationship in accordance with God's government i.e., one leads and the other willingly follows in the same way that Christ is in perfect obedience to His Father and He and the Father are thus one.

Eph 5:29 For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church:

Eph 5:30 For we [the members of God's Church] are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones.

Members of God's Church are an integral part of the body of Christ as we submit to God's government in our lives. We are not our own anymore doing as we please, we are members of Christ's body and we follow Christ as we follow God's law which governs what we can and cannot do. The law is from God the Father and Christ is in perfect submission to His Father and the law as a wife is to submit to her husband.

Eph 5:31 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.

A new creation where by applying God's government to the relationship two separate and distinct individuals begin acting as a single entity. Either part of this new being is not free to act independently from the other or as the saying goes today "To do their own thing."]

Eph 5:32 This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

Ephesian 5 reiterates the idea that in God's Church (Eph 5:32) and in a Godly marriage there is a hierarchy of authority and that this order of authority is established by God. It also establishes that as a man and a woman in a Godly marriage become one flesh, one being; they are no longer separate and distinct individuals free to act as they wish independently of each other as is the situation with those who become part of God's Church. The Church is the body of Christ and Christ is the head of the body; all are part of the body regardless of their role in the body are all in submission to Christ.

A man and a woman in a Godly marriage is a type of the relationship of God's Church to Christ. In both instances, they are a new creation where separate and distinct individuals become a new entity through the application of the authority structure of God's kingdom to their relationship i.e. God the Father is higher in authority than Christ, the husband is higher in authority than his wife, and Christ is the highest authority in God's Church. This authority structure is the very basis of God's Kingdom where in time a great number of converted individuals will become part of it and come under the authority structure of the Kingdom. This authority structure will ensure that though the kingdom will be composed of untold number of

autonomous individuals with independent mind power, they will all be under the authority of God the Father and others to whom authority will be delegated in God's Kingdom by God the Father and as such, operate as a single entity or body.

Ancient Israel was set up according to the pattern of God's Kingdom in that God ruled over Israel through Moses who delegated authority to other men in the nation of Israel who administered the law over the people who were to live their lives in accordance with the requirements of the law. This authority structure is what made Israel the nation that it became i.e., a strong, prosperous and wealthy nation. A nation's law defines it whether it be Old Testament Israel or modern-day nations.

Deu 4:5 Behold, I [Moses] have taught you statutes and judgments, even as the LORD my God commanded me, that ye should do so in the land whither ye go to possess it.

Deu 4:6 Keep therefore and do them; for **this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the nations**, which shall hear all these statutes, and say, Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.

The statutes and the judgments given the physical nation of Israel by God through Moses are a practical application of God's wisdom to the government of nations. The nations that apply them have freedom, peace, prosperity and justice. The nations of the world but a few exceptions like the United States are run by dictators who live as kings while impoverishing their people and controlling them through propaganda, demagoguery and the unequal enforcement of laws.

The people greatly suffer under them and desperately seek to escape from the poverty, squalor and misery in which they are forced to live. This is the result of men governing nations using their personal version of truth and justice which is always self-serving and to the detriment of those they govern.

This is why these nations, particularly their citizens, are amazed and astounded whenever they see a country where its people have freedom, opportunity, prosperity and are not oppressed by their government. This is the result of nations applying more or less perfectly, God's statutes and judgments, knowingly and unknowingly. Right and good results always happen whenever God's law (statutes and judgments) which is God's wisdom applied to governing men is used in governing nations. Nations that do are considered exceptional as there are so very few of them who do.

Deu 4:7 For what nation is there so great, who hath God so nigh unto them, as the LORD our God is in all things that we call upon him for?

Deu 4:8 And what nation is there so great, that hath statutes and judgments so righteous as all this law, which I set before you this day?

Deu 4:9 Only take heed to thyself, and keep thy soul diligently, lest thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen, and lest they depart from thy heart all the days of thy life: but teach them thy sons, and thy sons' sons;

Many Members but One Body

Now let's continue with 1 Cor 12 where Christ emphasizes that the Church is made up of many members but is one body. Its different members have received different spiritual gifts and God sets each member in the body in such a way that the spiritual body of Christ can best profit from their individual spiritual gifts. All members are essential and are part of the body regardless of their function in the body. This is illustrated by a physical analogy with the human body. In the human body we find different parts with different abilities and functions and they all are essential to the body as all in their own way work toward and contribute to the wellbeing of the physical body. In the same way, God's Church which is the body of Christ has different members with different spiritual gifts who along with all other members of the body are essential and contribute to its wellbeing.

I have highlighted in blue in the following quotation of 1 Cor 12 the verses and parts of verses pertaining to the matters we have just examined.

1Co 12:1 Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant.

1Co 12:2 Ye know that ye were Gentiles, carried away unto these dumb idols, even as ye were led.

1Co 12:3 Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost.[spirit]

1Co 12:4 Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.

1Co 12:5 And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord.

1Co 12:6 And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all.

1Co 12:7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. **[All have their own spiritual gifts.]**

1Co 12:8 For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit;

1Co 12:9 To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit;

1Co 12:10 To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues:

1Co 12:11 But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.

1Co 12:12 For as the body is one, and hath many members, **[parts]** and all the members of that one body, being **[though]** many, are one body: **[Each part does not constitute a body; it is all the parts working together that constitute a body.]** so also is Christ.

1Co 12:13 For by one Spirit are we all baptized into **[become part of]** one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. **[All called and chosen by the holy spirit God the Father and taught all things by the holy spirit God the Word who is one with God the Father.]**

1Co 12:14 For the body is not one member, but many. **[Individual parts are not a body; all parts together are the body.]**

1Co 12:15 If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body?

1Co 12:16 And if the ear shall say, Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body?

1Co 12:17 If the whole body were an eye, where were the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where were the smelling?

1Co 12:18 But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him.

1Co 12:19 And if they were all one member, where were the body? [If all members of the body had the same role or function, how would they constitute a body which has to have many different parts (members) playing different roles.]

1Co 12:20 But now are they many members, yet but one body.

1Co 12:21 And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you.

1Co 12:22 Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary:

1Co 12:23 And those members of the body, which we think to be less honourable, upon these we bestow more abundant honour; [because of its function in the body] and our uncomely [Not in keeping with accepted standards of what is right or proper in polite society] parts have more abundant comeliness.

1Co 12:24 For our comely parts have no need: but God hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honour to that part which lacked:

1Co 12:25 That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another.

1Co 12:26 And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it. [A toothache affects the whole body as a happy occurrence also affects the whole body.]

1Co 12:27 Now ye are the body of Christ, [collectively; altogether] and members in particular.[individually]

1Co 12:28 And God hath set some in the church, first apostles,

secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.

The human body, in how it is organized with its various organs which perform different functions which are all needed by the body and make it complete, is like the body of Christ which is made up of individuals with different spiritual gifts which God has placed in the body of Christ as it pleases Him. Each member of God's Church is assigned by God the Father, a level of authority and responsibilities which best suit the needs of the body.

The body of Christ, the Church is like a human body. In the human body all parts cooperate with each other for the good of the body and in the body of Christ, truly converted members willingly submit to God's will and exercise the authority and assume the responsibilities given them.

In Ephesians 4:15-16 we read of how Christ's body is fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplies or provides. In other words, all members of God's Church which constitute the body of Christ all fit together perfectly as each member assumes the responsibilities given it in the body in accordance with the spiritual gifts received and as God sets them in the body. They do not choose their role or responsibilities in the body.

Eph 4:15 But speaking the truth in love, [the members of God's Church who collectively are the body of Christ] may grow up into him [may become like Christ as much as is possible in this life] in all things, which is the head, even Christ:

Eph 4:16 From whom [the Head, Jesus-Christ] the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

The authority structure that is in the Church is what makes the body of Christ one though composed of many members or individuals. Through

the willing acceptance of God's authority, the members of God's Church are one with Christ and God the Father. There are many members but only one body as all members cooperate and fulfill the roles given them by God in the body of Christ.

More about this in the next part of this study.

True Believers are One with Christ and God the Father

A fundamental characteristic of God, His Kingdom and truly converted Christians is that of oneness. It is a very important concept without which many Scriptures can be and are grossly misunderstood. Let's examine what it means to be "one"?

Christ says that He and His Father are one.

Joh 10:30 I and my Father are one.

As we have seen in the example of marriage (Eph 5), a man and a woman though remaining two distinct individuals with their own personalities become one in marriage through the authority structure God put in marriage. We have also seen how the Church which is the body of Christ is made up of many different members with different spiritual gifts who remain individuals with their own personality and who in the Church constitute one body (1 Cor 12) as they are all in submission to or under the authority of Christ.

In the book of John, we see repeated the idea that Christ and the Father are one and that true believers i.e., those constituting God's Church are one with Christ (see John 14:20 quoted below). In John 15:23, Christ says there is no difference between Him and His Father; that if you hate one you are also hating the other because they are one. They speak the same things and Christ agrees to be perfectly in submission to His Father.

Joh 14:20 At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you.

Joh 15:23 He that hateth me hateth my Father also.

Joh 17:11 And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are.

Joh 17:21 That they [true Christians] all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us:

that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.

Joh 17:22 And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one:

Joh 17:23 I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.

Joh 14:20 At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye [true Christians] in me, and I in you.

God the Father is in Christ and Christ is in the Father and both are in true believers. The implication of this oneness between the Father and Christ and true believers is that the Church which is made up of true believers is a type of the very Kingdom of God and this is something we will explore in the next part of this study.

The Church — a Type of God's Kingdom

Presently, the Kingdom of God is made up of 2 personages, God the Father and the Word. In this kingdom there is a hierarchy of authority with God the Father being the most high and the Word being fully in submission to His Father. The manner of their existence reveals to us an important characteristic of God's Kingdom and that is that in it we find a hierarchy of authority with God the Father as the supreme ruler and Christ fully submitting to His Father. There are therefore different levels of authority and an established order in which this authority is exercised.

Christ says He is in the Father as the Father is in Him and as they are in true believers who collectively constitute the body of Christ. The body of Christ as we have just seen is described as being organized like a human body with every part being assigned a level of authority and responsibilities in the same way as in the Church, God the Father sets every member with their different spiritual gifts as it pleases him and in a manner that best profits the body or Church.

Therefore, the Church which is the body of Christ is a human level type of God's spiritual Kingdom in which levels of authority and responsibilities will be allocated by God the Father. The many members with all their individual differences nevertheless constitute one body in the same way the different parts of the human body constitute one body where every part harmoniously contributes to the well-being of the body.

It should be kept in mind that God's Church is not a physical organization whose form of government follows that of the great number of false Chris-

tian churches in the world. These churches are headed up by men covetous of fame and money who have appointed themselves as great teachers of God's truth but who don't actually have nor can have any knowledge or understanding of the spiritual truth of the Bible which is only by revelation from God. Please review the following study for more detailed information on this topic: [God's Church a Spiritual Organism](#)

These so-called great spiritual leaders and supposedly holders of God's truth are usually found living in luxurious houses, sometimes several of them; jet setting around the world and being chauffeured around in limousines, keeping company with the rich and famous of this world, wearing fine clothes and always impeccably groomed with a great smile as they rejoice in the huge amount of money their ministry has given them.

Now, pursuing with the main topic of this study.

What makes it possible for a very large number of different, autonomous, individuals with mind power to be able to function as one, is the form of God's government that exists in God's Kingdom. God the Father is supreme in authority and Christ is 2nd in authority to God the Father but He is also under the authority of God the Father. All members of God's Kingdom will find themselves placed by God in offices of responsibility in a vast hierarchy of authority where they will contribute in the best possible way to the well-being of the body.

It is through the hierarchical authority structure of God's government that all members of God's Kingdom will be one. And it is through this same authority structure applied in God's Church that the Church is a human level type of God's Kingdom. Of course, it is not possible for this authority structure to be perfectly applied in an organization made up of fallible human beings but despite unavoidable shortcomings in applying this government structure in the Church, the Church remains a physical type of God's Kingdom.

Since there will be a very large number of individuals making up God's Kingdom as there are a great number of parts to the human body, how will it be possible for all these different parts to cooperatively and harmoniously exist together and in service to the Head of the Kingdom which is God the Father?

God's Law

The many and different parts of our human, physical bodies work perfectly together because of **unchangeable laws** that regulate their individual activities. These are laws which science is still in the process of discov-

ering and which may never be fully known by men so complex is the human body which the Bible describes as being "...fearfully and wonderfully made... (Ps 139:14).

The laws regulating the functioning of our bodies are an integral part of our bodies. They are not something which is outside the body and which can vary from body to body. All human bodies work according to the same laws.

God says there is a time coming when He will write His law in the hearts or minds of men.

Eze 36:26 A new heart [not physically speaking but rather a new, unchanging attitude of mind] also will I give you, and a new spirit [the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman] will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart [your previous inability to obey God's law (Rom8:7)] out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. [a mind that can be taught God's spiritual truth and which can be in submission to God if the person chooses it.]

That will be the time of Israel's calling on its return from its end-time captivity and scattering among the nations of the world, and it will also be the time when God will call all flesh at the beginning of the coming Millennium.

Eze 36:27 And I will put my spirit within you, [this will happen for all those who choose to follow their calling] and cause you [not force but give men the possibility of obeying God] to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them. [not in their own strength but through Christ (the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman) in them who perfectly obeyed His Father]

Imperfect flesh-and-blood men who are unable to perfectly keep God's law which is spiritual will become able to do so through Christ in them. When a called out person chooses to follow his calling and commits to submit to God's authority in his life as expressed by God's law as found in the Bible then God the Father imputes Christ's perfect holy righteous character to him and the grace that resulted from His perfect sacrifice for the sins of mankind covers their sins. This is a topic which constitutes a whole study in itself and which I cannot pursue here so as not to make this document overly long. Detailed information is provided on this topic in the following studies available by clicking on the following hyperlinks: [Salvation by Imputation](#) and [Does the Holy Spirit Make it Possible for men to Obey God?](#)

God's kingdom will only be made up of individuals who have been called, chosen and who have remained faithful until the time of their death. They become part of God's Kingdom and will constitute the subjects over which God the Father, the King of the Kingdom, will rule once they become glorified spirit beings through a resurrection from the dead.

When the faithful are resurrected, God's law will be written on their heart i.e., their mind; it will be an integral part of their unchanging spiritual being and character. They will be God as God is God and unable to sin as God's perfect spiritual law will define them as it defines God the Father and Jesus-Christ or Logos.

Jas 1:13 Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man:

1Jn 5:18 We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, [tries as best he can not to sin] and that wicked one toucheth him not.

1Jn 1:5 This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

And, as has been mentioned in other studies on this Web site, the Bible clearly states that there is a spirit in man, or a spirit essence which is in the man but not a part of him like a marble that one would swallow. At death this spirit goes back to God and the body goes back to the dust of the ground.

Ecc 12:7 Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.

This spirit essence that goes back to God at the time of death is a perfect copy of all that person has been and will be used by God when that individual is resurrected. All of mankind has this spirit essence in them which goes back to God at the time of death and which is a perfect spiritual mold of all each person who ever lived has been.

Those that have died in Christ will have in their spirit essence the abiding attitude of obedience they had while alive as flesh-and-blood humans. When resurrected as glorified spirit beings this attitude of obedience will become a perfect and unchangeable part of their spirit being which will make it possible for them to become perfectly fitting members of God's Kingdom as they willingly and happily assume the roles and responsibili-

ties that will be assigned to them by God, the King of the Kingdom.

There will never be any dispute over who is to rule or over who is to follow who. All will be in perfect obedience to God's will as is Christ.

So, so far, we have established who is the King of the Kingdom, who will be the subjects of the Kingdom, what will be the law of the Kingdom and now we have to look into what will be the territory over which the King will reign and that His subjects will inhabit.

A New Heaven and a New Earth

In the Bible we see flesh-and-blood men of greater or lesser importance wondering why it would be that God would have any interest in them.

Job 7:17 What is man, that thou shouldest magnify him? and that thou shouldest set thine heart upon him?

David in the Psalms while looking at the vastness of the universe, the millions of stars in the sky and which were all created by God wonders why it is that God should be mindful of man which by comparison to the universe created by God seems to be so small and insignificant that really, God should have no interest whatsoever in such a puny being.

Psa 8:3 When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained;

Psa 8:4 What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?

Psa 8:5 For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour. **[Man was created a little lower than the angels for the purpose of later being crowned with glory and honour and this providing certain conditions are satisfied; must be called, chosen and faithful.]**

Psa 8:6 Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet: **[Mankind was made by God to rule over the universe, the work of God's hands; all of God's creation is to be made subject to man.]**

Psa 8:7 All sheep and oxen, yea, and the beasts of the field;

Psa 8:8 The fowl of the air, and the fish of the sea, and whatsoever passeth through the paths of the seas.

Psa 8:9 O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth!

In the book of Hebrews we have the same topic being addressed and which adds to what is said in the Psalms.

Heb 2:6 But one [David in the Psalms] in a certain place testified, saying, What is man, that thou art mindful of him? or the son of man, that thou visitest him?

Heb 2:7 Thou madest him a little lower than the angels; thou crownedst him with glory and honour, and didst set him over the works of thy hands:

Heb 2:8 Thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet. For in that he put all in subjection under him, he left nothing that is not put under him. But now we see not yet all things put under him. [Mankind was made to rule over all of God's creation not just the earth; that is why mankind was created but now is not the time when mankind is to do so but there is a time coming when He will.]

We know that this present universe will pass away.

2Pe 3:10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

2Pe 3:11 Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,

2Pe 3:12 Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?

The Scriptures also plainly tell us that there will be a new heaven and a new earth created.

Rev 21:1 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first

heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

Rev 21:2 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

Rev 21:3 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.

Rev 21:4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

Rev 21:5 And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.

The creation of the new heaven and of the new earth occurs after the 3rd resurrection at the end of the Last Great Day where all those who have refused their calling or turned away from it after having followed it, will die the second death in the Lake of Fire (Rev 20:14; 21:8)

Rev 20:13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.

Rev 20:14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

Rev 20:15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

Malachi 4 allows us to know that the time of the Lake of Fire is also the time when the wicked die the second death by being burnt up in the Lake of Fire.

Mal 4:1 For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, [they will die in the Lake of Fire] saith the LORD of hosts, that it shall leave them

neither root nor branch. [It is a death from which there can be no resurrection, no root or branch will be left from which new life could spring up.]

Mal 4:2 But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall.

Mal 4:3 And ye shall tread down the wicked; for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do this, [this is the time of the resurrection of God's Millennial and Last Great Day saints who together with God's first resurrection saints, will tread down the wicked who will have died in the Lake of Fire and of which there will only be ashes left] saith the LORD of hosts.

And 2 Pe 3:10 makes it clear that the time when the new heaven and the new earth will be created, when God makes all things new, is the time when the earth becomes a great lake of fire, the elements melt with fervent heat and the earth and the works that are therein are burnt up

2Pe 3:10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

Mankind was created to have dominion over God's creation however, the creation over which he is to rule is not God's current creation but a new heaven and a new earth which God will create when He makes all things new. Only God beings can rule over earth and especially the universe where space and time make it impossible for mortal, flesh-and-blood human beings to even reach the closest star to the earth. These God beings will be God's resurrected saints who were formerly flesh-and blood mortal human beings which had no such power.

Conclusion

We have determined who is the King of the Kingdom, who will be the subjects of the Kingdom, what will be the law of the Kingdom and where the Kingdom will exist.

God the Father is the King of the Kingdom, the subjects of the Kingdom will be God's resurrected saints, the law of the Kingdom will be God's law and the territory of God's Kingdom will be the new heaven and the new earth which God will create after the Great White Throne Judgment which

occurs at the end of the Last Great Day. Christ divides the sheep (those who inherit salvation) from the goats (the wicked) and then comes the Lake of Fire which burns up the wicked and expands to the whole earth and the universe which are consumed. God then creates new ones.

Hopefully, all these things are clearer to you and add to your knowledge and understanding of what will be the Kingdom of God.

