

God's Government in God's Church

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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.

The leadership in God's Church has presented itself as representing God's Government in God's Church. But can any fallible human being ever be a faithful representative of God's Government? And, is there even any need for any man to do so? Find out what your Bible says about what is God's government.

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 (Php 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 o 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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This is a topic which to some will seem to not warrant any examination as for them it is clear what is God's government while for others it may not be as clear. Whatever the case may be, what is government as found in God's Church is much more of an elusive topic than what it appears to be and a correct understanding of what it is and how it is to be administered requires putting together a lot of different concepts found in Scriptures spread all over the Bible.

Retrospective

Most of you reading this study will be familiar with the form of government that existed in God's Church in the days of the Worldwide Church of God (WCG) headed up by its Pastor General, Herbert Armstrong (HWA). For just about all of us I would say, that form of government represented the way God governed His Church i.e., through a man who held all authority and who delegated it to subordinates right on down to deacons who were responsible for carrying out different manual work as required for the conduct of Sabbath day services and various social celebrations organized for the church members. Additionally, it was taught that doctrine entered the Church and new understandings of the Bible only came through the Pastor General who under Christ was the human spiritual head of God's Church. It was taught that God revealed truth to only one person at a time to prevent confusion, the Pastor General.

Basically then, God's government in God's Church was understood as one person having all authority for the administration of the physical and financial needs of the Church assisted by subordinates whose authority to exercise different functions in the Church came from the Pastor General.

And, the Pastor General was considered to be the spiritual head of the Church being the mediator between God and the Church. Decisions and proclamations made by the Pastor General were to be considered as God speaking through him to the faithful.

But is this what the Bible reveals about how God governs His Church and of how God rules over His called and chosen ones?

It is vitally important for all truly converted Christians to understand how God rules over His Church which consists of those who have been called, chosen and who are remaining faithful.

A correct and Biblically-sound understanding of God's government will protect us from becoming victims of men seeking to use religion as a means of making a living.

The Bible warns Christians to be wary of false teachers as many had gone out into the world. Some would come into God's Church pretending to agree with its teachings only as a means of spreading false teachings and getting a following for themselves and, some would arise right from the very ministry of God's Church.

Religion has always been big business. It has been so since the beginning of mankind. All one has to do is take a quick look around to see all the so-called true religions that exist around the world and which are all financially, emotionally and physically exploiting and abusing their followers. They all say they hold the keys to an eternal after-life of bliss which is defined differently by every religion.

The Bible prophesied that the false prophets or teachers would be the many.

God's Warning to His Church

The Bible is just full of warnings to God's Church to be wary of false teachers. Below are some of the many verses in the Bible where this warning is being given to the faithful. I have highlighted words in some of the verses to bring them to the attention of the reader but I have not attempted to

explain the verses in any great detail as their meaning should be clear to the reader. All of the followings verses are talking to true Christians, God's Church. The Bible does not talk to the unconverted world but it sometimes talks about it. They are many who would distort the truth to get people to follow them and make money both in the world and in God's Church.

Mat 24:5 For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.

This is what would happen in the world as truly converted Christians cannot be deceived (Mat 24:24). The very great number of different Christian religious organizations in the world and the great number of incredibly rich televangelists that have arisen with the coming of television and the internet should make this evident. False prophets pretending to be Christians as a means of making money.

1Jn 2:19 They [false prophets/teachers] went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us.

Men had come into the congregations of God's Church pretending to believe its teachings, but their real purpose was to undermine it from within and to work at getting a following for themselves from which they could make a living.

2Pe 2:1 But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, [God's Church] who privily [secretly] shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.

2Pe 2:2 And many [in God's Church] shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.

Haven't we just recently seen the creation of several "churches of God" after the death of Mr. Armstrong (HWA) and did the many follow the men who started them. Weren't these some of the same men who privately disagreed with HWA and who are now preaching their version of the truth.

Why would they do that? The next verse tells of 2Pe 2 tells us.

2Pe 2:3 And through covetousness [lust for money] shall they [the false teachers] with feigned [will pretend to be teaching the truth] words make merchandise of you [truly converted Christians in God's Church]: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.

The lust for money and fame are very strong corrupting forces which once one becomes caught up in them, they can never free themselves. There is never enough money and fame to satisfy them and they certainly don't want to do anything that would cause them to lose what they already have. They are caught in a trap lusting for ever more money and climbing the hierarchy to get to be the top man. As we will see, Christ tells us that these 2 things are incompatible with true religion.

Jud 1:3 Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.

Jud 1:4 For there are certain men crept in unawares, [among the congregations of God's Church who pretended to believe the doctrines of the true Church] who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, [teaching that there is no law that one must follow to be saved; Christ died for our sins and therefore, we can sin without losing our salvation] and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.

Act 20:29 For I know this, that after my [Paul's] departing shall grievous wolves [false teachers] enter in among you, not sparing the flock.

Act 20:30 Also of your own selves [God's ministers] shall men arise, speaking perverse things, [distorting the truth] to draw away disciples after them.

Act 20:31 Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears.

Rev 2:2 I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars:

False teachers had come into the Church claiming to be apostles and the faithful examined or proved their teachings against the Holy Bible and found them to be liars. Christians are to always prove all things and separate themselves from those who are found to be lying.

After having carefully read and understood these verses, there should be no doubt in anyone's mind that God's Church has been under attack by false teachers since its foundation and that its doctrines at different times were corrupted by false teachers coming into the Church pretending to believe its teaching, and by false teachers rising up from within the ministry of the Church.

It should also be clear that this state of affair would continue until the end of God's master plan of salvation. As long as there will be religion there will be men seeking to profit from it by preaching a smooth and easy way to eternal life (the broad way spoken of in Matt 7:13) that the [many](#) in God's true Church will follow (Matt 7:13).

This is made clear by the following verses which, please note, are addressed to God's Church, not the churches of the world.

2Ti 4:2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

2Ti 4:3 For the time will come when they [\[members of God's Church\]](#) will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts [\[they will seek teachers who will make them comfortable in their own lusts telling them they will be saved just the same.\]](#) shall they heap to themselves teachers, [\[they will seek those kinds of teachers\]](#) having itching ears;

2Ti 4:4 And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, [\[this is something they knowingly and willingly do\]](#) and shall be turned unto fables. [\[they will believe things that are not true\]](#)

Many of us have lived through the destruction of the Worldwide Church of God (WCG) organization and its splintering into many new so-called churches of God who are no longer preaching the truth and in which many

of the former members of the WCG now find themselves as prophesied in 2Pe 2:1-2 previously quoted in this study.

Conditions in the Many False Churches of God

For the many who have followed the false prophets, in most instances, it has been far from being a comfortable existence as the leaders of these churches are power and money hungry men. They do not hesitate to physically, mentally and spiritually abuse their followers while continuously exhorting them to give bigger and more generous offerings. They pauperize their flock while themselves and their supporters live in luxury even going to the point of using the brethren's money to buy a jet airplane for the Pastor General's personal use. The ministry lords it over their flock and longs for and expects like the Pharisees to be treated as great teachers of God's truth worthy of the highest respect by all.

They see their flocks as being servants whose duty is to eagerly await the opportunity and great honor of serving them. Ministers' desires have to be their commands. Their lust for power, prestige and money have corrupted their mind. Anyone having any questions about what they teach and how they spend the brethren's money is said to be in a bad attitude and to be resisting God's government (themselves) which of course leads to one becoming disqualified to go to the place of safety. No one wants to be in that situation as the Great Tribulation gets closer and closer. In most cases, the dreaded Great Tribulation is always imminent and there's always a need for one last immensely generous outpouring of money for the church to be ready to go to the place of safety. These prophecies of men never come to pass. Inevitably there will be the announcement of a new time of departure for the Place of Safety which again will require one last and mighty donation to the Church until the next time.

A very sad and deplorable state of affairs but which unfortunately is not a rare occurrence.

We have to be sure we understand what is God's true form of government in His Church so that we can never be deceived by the many smooth talking false teachers in the world that have found their way into God's Church and especially, by those that arise from the very ministry of God's Church.

Oddly enough, it is the hardest thing for members of God's Church to believe that someone in the ministry could be or have become a false prophet. Most of them have placed their trust in the ministry and are

basically following men whom they consider would always tell them the truth. They are not spending a great deal of time studying their Bible to become able to use it to sort truth from error. They are quite happy and comfortable with relying on the ministry but God holds each member personally responsible for his own salvation. The only man any minister can save is himself. Salvation is an individual and personal process not a group process. It is not based on finally finding and following the right man or being part of the right organization of men.

And, it is unwise to create a link between preaching and money and to have hierarchy in God's Church. Men despite their best initial intention will become corrupted by money and the fame and prestige that comes from holding progressively higher offices of authority in God's Church. God calls preaching for money filthy lucre. Those of us who have been members of the WCG have seen at work the corrupting influence of money and how there was much competition for ministerial offices. Ministers drew away congregations so they could be "the" Pastor General. Mr. Armstrong's son, Garner Ted did the very same thing and for the very same reasons: money and the fame and prestige of being the Pastor General.

What happened after the death of Mr. Armstrong (HWA) and the transformation of the WCG into a false Christian church of this world should be a strong warning to all those who were once part of the WCG. Many were the ministers who stayed with the WCG and taught with fervor and enthusiasm the new false doctrines introduced into the Church by HWA's successor. Some finally left the WCG only to become leaders and ministers in the new "churches of God" teaching whatever the headquarters administration tells them to teach.

Did they really believe that what they taught in the days of HWA was the truth or were they just pretending to believe it. Do they now really believe the new truths they teach in the many "churches of God" or are they still just pretending to believe them. They were to have proven for themselves with their Bible the doctrines of the WCG so why did they stay when they were changed? Were they not able to prove using their Bible that the new doctrines were wrong? If not, why not? Isn't the ministry supposed to have a greater knowledge and understanding of the Scriptures than those they teach or do they?

There would be false prophets in God's Church and some would arise right from the ministry of God's Church and the many would follow them. The ministry would compromise its beliefs for the sake of money. Those who followed them would do so because they would find their changed message more to their liking or were simply looking for a WCG

look-alike organization as they think belonging to the right organization is what will guaranty their salvation. They don't see themselves as having to prove all things, and have growth in knowledge and understanding of the Bible through their personal studies of the Bible.

They then become easy prey for the many false prophets wanting to make a living from preaching.

God's First Century Church

In the Bible, there is a very important factor which just about everyone has ignored or of which they simply never became aware and that is, how God's Church was changed by the persecutions that came upon it. Christ said He would found His Church and that it would always exist until the end of mankind; however, would it always exist without change. The First Century Church of God had the offices of responsibility mentioned in Eph 4: 11.

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

Christ is the one who gave the great commission to His disciples which made them apostles (one sent forth with a message). Some of the disciples (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) wrote the Gospels making them evangelists. All the disciples were to feed God's flock making them pastors and teachers and all the disciples were prophets in that they taught God's truth to others on behalf of God. John wrote the book of the Apocalypse or of Revelation. Matthias was added to the rank of apostles by God through the casting of lots. He replaced Judas Iscariot who had betrayed Christ and was dead.

Act 1:24 And they prayed, and said, Thou, Lord, which knowest the hearts of all men, shew whether of these two thou hast chosen,

Act 1:25 That he may take part of this ministry and apostleship, from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place.

Act 1:26 And they gave forth their lots; and the lot fell upon Matthias; and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

Christ is no longer among men and the will of God on certain matters cannot anymore be determined by the casting of lots. In NT times, God the

Father is speaking to all true Christians (God's Church) by His Son, the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman.

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

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

Since the passage of Christ and the first NT day of Pentecost, God is speaking to His called, chosen and faithful ones by His Son, the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman by whom He made the worlds (spiritual and physical).

Christ has not appeared to anyone to ordain them to any ministerial office as listed in Eph 4:11. They have all appointed themselves or were appointed by an organization of men who gave itself the authority to appoint ministers.

Shortly after its founding on the day of Pentecost, God's Church was persecuted by the Jews. Then, persecution came from a great new false Christian Church which sought to exterminate all other religious groups not wanting to follow its doctrines. Persecutions from all sides intensified on God's NT Christians and it became imperative that they flee into the wilderness to avoid being martyred or imprisoned. As a result, there was a great physical scattering of God's Church and much of the truths it had received from Christ through the apostles was lost.

The Bible tells us that this new great false Christian church was able to wear out the saints.

Dan 7:25 And **he** shall speak great words against the most High, and shall **wear out the saints** of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.

The true saints of God's Church over centuries of persecutions were reduced to a small, scattered remnant with a greatly reduced knowledge of the truth.

The Ministry of God's First Century Church

God's First Century Church had ministers who had been trained by the apostles who had been ordained by Christ.

Mar 3:14 And he **ordained** twelve, that they should be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach,

Joh 15:16 Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and **ordained** you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.

These ministers had the very truth taught by Christ to the apostles. However, knowledge is not the same thing as understanding. Paul in 1Co 3:5-7 tells us what is the contribution of human teachers.

1Co 3:5 Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers by whom ye believed, even **as the Lord gave to every man?**

1Co 3:6 I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase. **[in understanding]**

1Co 3:7 So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase.

Paul and Apollos were simply tools used by God to teach members of God's Church. They were not able to give those they taught, spiritual understanding. Men can only teach knowledge; spiritual comprehension can only come from God. This is why men who are not called and chosen can study and be taught the Bible without ever coming to a correct understanding of what it means. The same fate befalls those who once were converted and have returned into the world. Having lost the holy spirits of the Godhead, they again become as spiritually blind as they were before their calling and so much so, that it is impossible to convince them that they have left the truth as they continue to firmly believe they have never left it.

The understanding of God's spiritual truth is from God only; not from men converted or not.

1Co 2:14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are **spiritually discerned**.

Luk 10:21 In that hour Jesus rejoiced in spirit, and said, **I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes: even so, Father; for so it seemed good in thy sight.**

Keeping this understanding in mind, let's read **why** it is that God had given some men the ability and responsibility to be apostles, prophets, teachers, etc. in His First Century Church.

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;

When there was a true ministry in existence, its role was to teach God's saints the truth God placed in His Church through Christ at His First Coming. The truth taught by God's First Century Church was the foundational truth of God's Church (1 Cor 3:10). The goal of teaching these truths to God's babes-in-Christ was to develop them into spiritual adults who cannot be swayed and troubled by the doctrines of cunning and crafty men seeking to deceive them including some of which would arise from the ministry itself.

As spiritually mature adults, they become able to read the Bible on their own and get the correct meaning out of it under the leadership of the holy spirit God the Word (Heb 1:1-2). Christians are to prove all things like the Bereans did (Acts 17:10-11), the Thessalonian congregations (1Th 5:21) and they are to study their Bible (2Ti 2:15). Christians are to become able to prove the truth or falsity of a matter on their own by studying the Scriptures; they are not to take any man's word as being the truth no matter who is saying it. They are to study their Bibles; not books written by unconverted men about the Bible. (For more information on this topic, please see the following study: [Are Christians Personally Responsible for Proving all Things?](#))

It is their only protection from the many false prophets in the world and those who will arise from the ministry within God's Church.

The role of the First Century Church ministry was then to make those they taught eventually independent of them as parents who train their children to become self-sufficient. They, the ministers and those they teach, are personally responsible for their own salvation.

The foundational truths of God's Church in an ideal world would have

been transmitted from generation to generation of believers but, as previously stated, because of persecution coming upon the Church most of them were lost. Some of these truths were restored by Mr. Armstrong but how many we are missing is not known.

The faithful in God's First Century Church were NOT to remain babes-in-Christ and the ministry was there to assist them in becoming mature spiritual adults whom God can teach directly from the pages of His Holy Bible. God will teach them through Christ as they study their Bible.

Isa 28:9 Whom shall he [God] teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts. [They are no longer babes-in-Christ.]

Isa 2:22 Cease ye from man, whose breath is in his nostrils: for wherein is he to be accounted of?

1Th 5:21 Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.

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

How God Teaches Spiritual Truth

Christ is fully in submission to His Father and He is the head of God's Church but Christ is a spirit being who men cannot see so how can He possibly rule over a church composed of physical mortals who cannot see, hear, touch, smell or taste things which are "spirit?" Does it not then become necessary for God to use men to rule over His Church?

Part of the answer to this question can be found in examining how the Scriptures say God, a being wholly made of spirit, can communicate with beings wholly made of matter and who do not have the ability to perceive spirit.

1Co 2:9 But as it is written, Eye hath not **seen**, nor ear **heard**, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

This verse makes it plain that God has not ever communicated His spiritual truth to men through their 5 physical senses which are limited to perceiving and understanding physical and material things. This is why hearing

or seeing (reading) the truth does not make it possible for someone to understand it. *Understanding comes only from God.* Then how can God a spirit being make known to man, a material being unable to know God level spiritual knowledge, the things which God has prepared for those that love Him?

1Co 2:10 But God hath **revealed** them unto us **[truly converted Christians]** by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.

God is the one who reveals spiritual truth to those who love him (they are those who keep His commandments (1 John 5:3)). He is the only one who can do so; it is not something men can do, converted or not.

How does God do this?

1Co 2:11 For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.

1Co2:11 tells us how it is that men understand the things of other men i.e., how it is that men can understand how other men think, what is of interest to them, their joy, their sadness, their hopes, etc. It is because all men have in them the same spirit essence, the human spirit, which gives them all the same general ability to know and understand the physical world in which they all live. They do not all think and feel things in exactly the same way but they all have similar abilities to think and feel emotions and can therefore understand the thoughts and feelings of other human beings.

In the same way that men who have in them the same spirit essence as other men can understand the things of other men so is it possible for physical men to know God level spiritual truths when the holy spirit God the Father dwells with them (while being called) and when the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman dwells in them if they follow their calling. There is then a sharing of God's thoughts with men which makes it possible for men to *understand* God level truth.

1Co 2:12 Now we **[true Christians]** have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. **[The human mind is capable of receiving the holy spirits of the God family and this enables them to know and understand the spiritual truths of God which men cannot possibly know or understand in any other way.]**

And there we have it. True Christians, have received the spirit which is of God, the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman. The holy spirit God the Father is responsible for calling men and the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman is responsible for teaching all things to the Father's chosen ones and giving them **understanding** of the Scriptures.

This first occurs through God the Father then if chosen, through God the Word. Thoughts are then shared from their minds to the minds of Christians. This is what makes it possible for them to *understand* the God level spiritual truths of the Bible. This is how when reading the Bible, suddenly and unexpectedly, we understand something that was always there but we couldn't see. And, once understanding it we wonder how we hadn't understood it before. The understanding came from God's mind to their minds.

Joh 14:16 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you [Christ's disciples and their spiritual descendants] 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 [the disciples] know him; for he [Christ, the Word in the flesh] dwelleth with you, [Christ while He was a flesh-and-blood human being] and [in the future] shall be in you [after Christ's death, resurrection and glorification (John 7:39) He would be in them on the first Day of Pentecost and all true Christians.]

Joh 14:26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, [the holy spirit being which is the Word i.e., Christ restored to the glory He had with the Father before His incarnation as the man Jesus of Nazareth] 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.

God the Father teaches His Spirit-begotten sons by the holy spirit God being called the Word or Spokesman who was also, for a time, the human Jesus-Christ. And this is plainly stated in Heb 1:1-2.

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

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

In Old Testament times, God spoke to the physical nation of Israel by prophets who were human beings whom God used as mediators between Him and man. The holy spirit the Word who is God the Father's Spokesman, spoke to the prophets in dreams and visions and they transmitted His message to physical Israel who was then God's unconverted nation. God ruled over them by giving them His law (the 10 commandments) and the statutes and the judgments through Moses who was the mediator of the Old Covenant.

In the last days, which started with the Day of Pentecost (we are now at the end of the 6th day with each day in God's 7-day plan of salvation for mankind being a 1,000 years in fulfillment (2Pe 3:8)), God is speaking by His Son (Heb 1:2) to His spiritual nation of Israel which is His Church. And, as we have just seen, the glorified Christ is the God being called the Word and Spokesman that would come to true Christians and teach them all things.

Knowledge and Understanding

What is the difference between knowledge and understanding? What is it about God teaching men being different from men teaching men when it comes to the meaning of the Scriptures?

Pro 2:6 For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.

Pro 3:13 Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding.

Pro 4:5 Get wisdom, get understanding: forget it not; neither decline from the words of my mouth.

Pro 4:7 Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and **with all thy getting get understanding.**

Pro 9:10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and **the knowledge of the holy is understanding.**

As we have often heard it said, the difference between the unconverted world and the converted of God's Church is that the world can only get knowledge of the Scriptures but that what God gives the truly converted is understanding. This is why in the world there are so many different Christian religions but with significant differences in doctrine that keep them apart. This same situation can be found among the many "churches

of God" that have come into being after HWA's death. All say they get their religion from the Bible but all have significant and seemingly unchangeable doctrinal differences.

These differences are due to the fact they don't all have the same understanding of the Scriptures.

All can have knowledge but not just anyone can have a correct understanding of the Bible. Knowledge is not understanding and I'll try to make the difference clear to you.

For example, children learn to speak before they can read or write. When teaching them to write, as a first step they are taught the alphabet which they have to memorize. But, even after having memorized it they still do not know how to write or read. Then they are taught how consonants and vowels are combined to make words. They then start to understand how words are made and what they mean. Understanding how vowels and consonants can be combined different ways they realize they can make words up applying the principles they've been taught. Knowing the alphabet is not understanding, it is simply knowledge; learning how vowels and consonants can be combined to make words is understanding.

The process is a repetitive one. Once understanding how vowels and consonants can be combined to make words then this becomes knowledge. However, making words is only part of what can be done with consonants and vowels. The next major understanding that needs to occur is how to make sentences; then how to use sentences to convey information; etc.

Basically, knowledge is knowing what are the parts; understanding is how they fit and interrelate to each other like the vowels and the consonants in the alphabet. Anyone can memorize and quote Scriptures and they are many who do but that does not mean they understand them. The one who knows what are all the parts and how they fit and interrelate to each other is God. He is the only one who can provide this understanding and this is done by the holy spirit God the Word.

The correct understanding of the Bible comes from the holy spirit God the Word who teaches all things to God the Fathers called and chosen ones. The Word's teaching gives spiritual understanding of the Scriptures but men, converted or not, can only teach knowledge.

The understanding of the Bible is by revelation from God the Word to God's called and chosen ones and He is the only one who can do it.

Spiritual Leadership in God's Church

Another very important point to understand in the context of what is God's government in God's Church is that the ministry has no ability to force men to believe God's truth nor to give them understanding of it. As we have just seen, *spiritual understanding of the Scriptures comes only from God*. Also, they are unable to force anyone to believe the truth or to stay with it once they have decided to no longer believe it.

In the following verses, Paul tells the Corinthians what are the limits of what he can do as a minister and basically, of the extent to which men have the ability to change the mind of other men whether it be about religious matters or not.

2Co 1:23 Moreover I call God for a record upon my soul, that to spare you I came not as yet unto Corinth.

2Co 1:24 Not for that we have dominion [can force you to believe what we want you to believe] over your faith, but are helpers of your joy: for by faith ye stand.

This verse can be a little confusing because in it we find the word "faith" being used and for many individuals, this word has a specific meaning that they apply to it whenever and wherever they read it. I'll try to cut through the clutter by saying that "faith" is all those things, religious or not, that a person has chosen to believe. It is common to hear people say things like "I have faith in those tires, that they are safe and long lasting." Or, I have "faith" in this diet, that it is good for my health and the list goes on and on. What people believe is their "faith."

In a religious context, when the word "faith" is used, it usually refers to the religious beliefs that a person has chosen to accept as being true. And, there is also the "faith" of Christ which was perfectly believing and obeying God.

In 2Co1:24, what Paul is telling the congregations of his days and us today, is that he, Paul and others teaching them, do not have "dominion" over their faith which is to say that they cannot force them to believe something they have not chosen to believe because they "stand" by their faith that is, by the truth **they** have chosen to believe. Individual Christians remain part or not of God's Church only if **they** choose to believe the truth and only if **they** choose to live their lives accordingly which is something that no man can force them to do.

And, what Paul is in fact telling them with respect to his coming to them to correct them is that although he could come in person to give them words of correction, this would not change the behavior of those who are transgressing God's law. They, themselves have to make the decision to no longer do so; no one can force them to do so; why?

God has given man absolute free moral agency which means that no one can be forced to believe anything against his will. God commands man to choose and in order for him to be able to do so there must be no power in heaven or earth that can force him to choose something against his will.

Deu 30:19 I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live:

Why do I mention this in the context of examining what is God's government in God's Church? It is because for us to be able to determine what is the correct form of government in God's Church we have to first understand the limits of men's ability to effectively influence and change the minds of others against their will. The Scriptures tell us that men can't force anyone to believe something against their will and this includes ministers.

Let's continue with our study.

The Conversion Process

Why do God's saints obey God? Is it because they fear God will punish them if they don't or is it because they fear being disciplined by men? Do they obey out of fear and is it, that were it not for the threat of punishment hanging over their heads, they would not obey?

What does God say about it?

Rom 8:14 For as many as are **led** by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

God **will not force** anyone to obey Him and this because men have to be beings of character to become members of God's Kingdom. *Character is the unforced commitment to obey God after having come to the knowledge of the truth.* Those called by the holy spirit God the Father have to freely choose to follow their calling and every day after, they have to freely choose to obey God as best they can. *No man can force them to do so.*

We can look at the conversion of end-time Israel to find out how men come to conversion. End-time physical Israel is an unconverted nation and

the conversion process used for them is really not any different from the one God has been using since the Day of Pentecost.

Eze 36:26 A new heart also will I give you, (and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.

Eze 36:27 And I will put my spirit within you, [Physical Israel when God will call them] and cause [make it possible] you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.

Eze 36:28 And ye shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; and ye shall be my people, and I will be your God.

End time physical Israel returned from its captivity will undergo a conversion process but they will first have to be taught the truth as they do not know it. They have been living as Gentiles and have lost their national identity, their language and their religion. And so we read in Daniel 9:27:

Dan 9:27 And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.

Christ's ministry with physical Israel was to last 7 days which in accomplishment is a year for a day (Num 14:34) so it was to last 7 years. Christ's ministry at His First Coming to His people Israel lasted 3 1/2 years. At His 2nd Coming to His people Israel (Christ is **not** coming back to the world), He will complete His ministry to them; it will be 3 1/2 year's long. In this way, Dan 9:27 will be fulfilled.

At the end of Christ's 3 1/2 year ministry, there will be the making of the New Covenant with all those who commit themselves to obey God. They will have done so knowingly, freely and self-willingly without any external pressure, physical or psychological, being applied to them any more than our personal conversions occurred out of fear of physical or mental punishment from God. They, like all newcomers to the faith, will fall in love with God's truth. On being called and chosen they will want to live their lives according to God's truth and will be eager to learn more of it.

As we know, those who have been called and have chosen to obey God

are God's Church. God rules over them solely because they have freely chosen to place themselves under His authority; not because they are being forced in any way to do so. God's law is written in their minds by their willing acceptance of it. They have accepted to be governed by it and they conduct their lives accordingly to the best of their abilities.

God will only rule over those who voluntarily submit to Him when called. This is necessary for "character" to exist in the person that is to be saved. Only individuals of "character" can be saved. Character is obeying God when not forced to do so. This attitude maintained throughout the life of the converted will become permanent in the resurrection ensuring there will never be another rebellion in God's Kingdom as occurred with Satan. God will not grant eternal spirit life to anyone whose obedience is not assured. In this life it cannot be perfect but as a glorified spirit being, the attitude of obedience in all things maintained by the converted individual will become a permanent part of their spirit being. They will never and can never rebel against God.

This brings us back to the focal point of this study: what is God's Government in God's Church?

Men as Spiritual Leaders

There are many who think that God's government is exercised through the ordained ministry which given what we have just explained does not make any sense. Obeying God because one fears being punished by the ministry is of no value in God's eyes. If Christians obey out of fear of men or to have the praise of men, then when out of sight of men in their private lives, they will not obey God. They are the eye and lip servants spoken of by Christ.

God's government is wholly based on His spiritual law which is written in the mind of each truly converted individual who is remaining faithful.

Jer 31:33 But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.

It does not come from the ministry or any other men nor can it. God's government is exercised in them through God's law written on their heart or in their mind by the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman to which they willingly and freely submit themselves.

So when someone in God's Church announces that they represent God's government in God's Church and that failure to recognize their authority or to follow their declarations of doctrine is tantamount to not being under God's government, we know that this person does not understand what is God's government. He is knowingly and arrogantly, or unknowingly and erroneously, setting himself up as representing God's government.

Spiritually speaking, there are no men that can claim to be the spiritual leaders of truly converted men. Christ in speaking to His disciples told them the following:

Mat 23:8 But be not ye called Rabbi: [a title of honor] for one is your Master [teacher], even Christ; and all ye are brethren.

In other words, no true Christian is worthy of greater honor than any other Christian as they are all brethren. Their "one" master or teacher is Christ, the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman.

Mat 23:9 And call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven.

Christians' spiritual father is God as He is the only one who can spiritually beget men by calling them. (John 6:44). No man can be the spiritual leader of truly converted Christians.

Mat 23:10 Neither be ye called masters: [teachers] for one is your Master, even Christ.

No truly converted man should accept to be called master (teacher) because Christ after His death, glorification and ascension is the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman who teaches them all things; not men.

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

No man has a special relationship with God where he gets truth which is not otherwise available to other Christians and who then teaches it to

other Christians. God's spirit teaches all things to all members of God's Church. And, what the holy spirit God the Word teaches or gives to truly converted Christians is "understanding."

Pro 9:10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.

Without understanding which only comes from God, men don't have knowledge of the holy.

Also, all truly converted Christians are indeed taught all things by God the Word but not all Christians are being all taught the same things at the same time. The holy spirit God the Word teaches them as they study God's holy Bible and different Christians will come to understand different things at different times. They can then discuss the truth revealed to them in spiritual fellowship with other true Christians when some are known and assemble on the weekly and annual holy days.

The Worldwide Church of God

Is the organization called the Worldwide Church of God (WCG) representative of the way God's Church has always existed and should exist?

This organization consisted of a Pastor General who had all powers (financial, administrative and spiritual) and who delegated them to subordinates such as local pastors, teachers, elders and deacons. It was top-down government in a hierarchical structure. Based on what the Scriptures say, hierarchy is not to exist in God's Church. There are no Rabbis, masters (teachers) or any man who can be the spiritual father of truly converted Christians (Mat 23: 8-10).

Then there was the size of the WCG which according to Mr. Armstrong was an anomaly but it would seem not too many heard him. HWA used to say that the only reason God had allowed for a large, visible-to-the-world church to exist was to support an apostle, himself, which God had raised up to preach the Gospel to the world before the coming of the end. HWA knew that God's Church was to be a little flock, invisible to the world and persecuted whenever it came to its attention.

Luk 12:32 Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

After His death, several other organizations arose all calling themselves "church of God" organized in exactly the same way as the WCG. But even

in God's First Century Church, when the apostles were to preach the Gospel to the world, no such large and visible organization as the WCG existed.

Irrespective of organizations of men setting themselves up as churches of God, God's [one](#) true church has never ceased existing. Through the ages it has consisted in little groups or single individuals scattered all over the world whom God has called and chosen. It is small, invisible and unknown to the world.

It is small because though many are called, few are chosen (they don't follow their calling).

Mat 22:14 For many are called, but few are chosen

And, of the few who are chosen, few remain faithful.

Mat 7:13 Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:

It is invisible to the world because conversion is something that occurs in the minds of men. A change in attitude from being hostile to God to wanting to obey Him in all things as much as is possible for a human being to do. This changed attitude is not something that is outwardly visible to others and truly converted Christians live unknown among the unconverted of the world and to other Christians.

Can you identify as you walk through the city who are the truly converted?

God's Church during the Millennium and the Last Great Day will be found in individuals scattered all over the earth who have been called and chosen by the holy spirit God the Father and who are remaining faithful. Jerusalem will not become the world center of true religion with the nations eagerly going there seeking God's truth and wanting to convert. (This is discussed in detail in the following study: [The Nations go to Jerusalem?](#)) It was not a religious center in the days of the apostles; the people did not come to the apostles; the apostles went to the people. There was no impressive and expensive building representing the Church that people could see and go to. God's Church is not a physical building in a given geographical location (Israel) in a specific city (Jerusalem). The holy spirit God the Father calls men straight out of the world wherever they may be on the earth and upon their following their calling and becoming chosen, there is no requirement for them to go to a specific city in a specific country to a building where the global leadership of the Church would be located.

God's Church at the beginning of the Millennium will exist as a small part of the general population of Israel which for the greatest part will be unconverted as in the days of ancient Israel when the priesthood lived among the general population. The remnant of end-time Israel returned from captivity will be taught by Christ for 3 ½ years. They will then be offered to enter the New Covenant; most of them will choose to remain in the world and the few that will follow their calling will become part of God's Church. In time, individuals from the nations of the world will be called and chosen and become part of God's Church but they will remain where they were called. Being part of God's Church does not require one to live in or go to a specific geographical location. God's Church is first and foremost a spiritual organism and one belongs to it as long as they have been called, chosen and are remaining faithful wherever in the world they may be located and whether by themselves or in small groups of faithfuls.

God's church during the Millennium and the Last Great Day will consist of individuals scattered all over the world who have been called by God and who have chosen to follow their calling. The spirit of the God being called the Word will teach them all things (Joh 14:26) as they study their Bible which is how God speaks to His spirit-begotten church since its foundation on the Day of Pentecost (Heb 1:1-2).

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.

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

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

Christians are the result of God's workmanship. Their calling and conversion is God's doing; not men's and their growth in knowledge and understanding of the truth is also God's doing.

Eph 2:20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;

Eph 2:21 In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord:

Eph 2:22 In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.

Christ is the author and the finisher of true Christians' faith; not men.

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.

Salvation is by grace through faith and the faith that saves us is a free, unmerited gift from God. It is not the doing of men.

Eph 2:8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

Eph 2:9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

Salvation is not the result of anything men can do for themselves or other men can do for them. It is completely God's doing.

Eph 2:10 For we are his [God's] workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

Now we are ready to determine what is the right form of government in God's Church.

God's Government in God's Church

As we have seen, those who are called and chosen self-willingly and freely choose to obey God. In other words, their commitment to obey God in all things to the best of their abilities until the end of their natural lives is by their own decision. They obey God because they have freely chosen to do so after coming to the knowledge of the truth. No man can force another man to obey God against his will or to keep on obeying God once he has decided to no longer do so.

God's government is based on God's law which the truly converted who are God's Church have written in their minds.

Jer 31:33 But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.

God's government of His Church is by His law which is in the minds of truly converted Christians. It is not something that is or can be imposed on them from without by any man converted or not. Upon conversion men do not lose their God-given absolute freedom to choose. No one can make them believe something against their will and only God can by a great, one time miracle, open their mind so they do not immediately reject the truth.

God's government cannot be exercised by any truly converted man over any other truly converted man. Their commitment to obey is to God; not to a man or an organization of men claiming to represent the government of God which in itself is an impossibility. Men are imperfect, fallible and all suffer from the weaknesses of the flesh and despite their best intentions are all sinners. Christians follow and are ruled by God; not men.

God's government does not require the converted to submit to the dictates of men falsely and quite erroneously claiming they represent God's government.

Conclusion

God's government in God's Church is not from men but from God working directly in the minds of the truly converted by the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman. God's government is only possible in men who have been given to know the truth and who have voluntarily and freely chosen to submit themselves to it.

God's government cannot be exercised through a man. There is only one mediator between God and God.

1Ti 2:5 For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;

All truly converted men are subject to the very same conditions for salvation. They must have growth in knowledge and understanding which comes from their personal Bible study and spiritual fellowship with other true Christians when some are known. No man enjoys a special relationship with God where He uses him to reveal truth that is then to be taught to the Church. All Christians, ordained or not, can and do receive truth from God as they study their Bible and this is made very clear by Paul in 1 Co 14: 26-40 which is explained in great detail in the following study posted on this site: [The Ministry and God's Truth](#)

God's First Century Church ministry did not constitute God's government for those called and chosen by God. No man can be the spiritual head of

God's Church. This is very different from what most of us have understood and what we have experienced but it is what the Bible reveals to us.

Hopefully, you have the eyes and ears to understand what really is God's government in God's Church. The Faithfuls' salvation does not and cannot depend on men and their growth in knowledge and understanding of the truth has to be as a result of the holy spirit God the Word opening their minds to understand the truth contained in God's holy Bible as they study it.

God's Church is spiritual; it is not a physical organization of men structured according to the unconverted world's administrative, financial and legal requirements.

God's Church exists by the work of 2 spirit beings. The holy spirit God the Father calls men and He is the only one who can do so. And, the holy spirit God the Word is the only one who can give spiritual understanding to God the Father's called and chosen ones of the truths contained in God's holy Bible.

God the Father's called and chosen ones though physically scattered across the nations of the world are God's people or nation.

1Pe 2:10 Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.

What makes them God's people, nation, family and church is that their sins have been forgiven because of their continued attitude of obedience to God; not because they are part of a physical organization of men. The relationship between God and His called and chosen ones and between themselves are "spiritual" not physical. It is the truth revealed by God to them and their attitude of obedience to it wherever they may be in the world.

God's Church is not a "physical" thing that can be seen; it is "spiritual" and spiritual things cannot be perceived by men's physical senses.

There is no requirement for true Christians to be part of any organizations of men to worship God as physical organizations are not and cannot be God's Church which is "spiritual." God's OT nation was physical with a physical mediator, Moses but God's NT nation is spiritual. God's rule or government over them is by His law written in their minds which they have chosen to follow as best they can.

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

