

Call NO Man
Your Father

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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 Bible tells us not to call any man our father. This saying is somewhat enigmatic as often are many verses of the Bible. So, what did Jesus mean to say when He said that we are to call no man our father upon the earth?

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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For many of us who are long time members of God's Church and also, newcomers to the faith, there are many Bible verses which make statements that are difficult to understand.

Whenever coming to hard to comprehend statements, we need to take a step or several steps back and examine them in the context of the total message of the Bible with respect to how God is working out His great, master plan of salvation for mankind.

The Bible is written in a discontinuous fashion i.e., many topics are mentioned one after the other without much if any associated clarifying information being provided. This is what the Bible refers to as speaking with "stammering lips" and knowledge being "here a little, and there a little."

Isa 28:10 For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little:

Isa 28:11 For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people.

This means that in most instances in order to get the intended meaning of hard-to-understand verses, it is necessary to consider many other verses which directly and indirectly contribute to clarifying them.

Call no man your father is a very important statement which contains a lot of vital information about God's plan of salvation particularly, with respect to the role of men in the salvation process.

The first thing to realize is that Christ spoke these words specifically to His disciples who were being called and given to understand God's spiritual truth (Mat 13: 10-11) while others standing by were not and could not understand the spiritual content of Christ's words. Remember that Christ, the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman made flesh, came the first time, among many other things, specifically to train the men that were to become the foundation of God's New Testament (NT) Church. This NT Church's doctrines would in many ways be a radical change from the teachings given ancient Israel, an unconverted nation.

Ancient Israel — A Carnal-Minded Nation

Ancient Israel was a carnal-minded nation which could not understand God's spiritual truth. This is why it was given physical things to do (the ordinances) which are things they could understand. The statutes and the judgments were from God through Moses. The law and judgments were taught by the priesthood of Aaron and administered over the people by the judges. The judgments were examples of the practical application of the law in different social circumstances. When there were no previous judgments that could be used to decide a case, the decision was made by either Moses or God whenever the judges (Ex 18: 15-26).

Christ came and taught God's spiritual law. With the beginning of God's NT Church, there was a change of priesthood required and a new way of worshipping God would be required.

Heb 7:11 If therefore perfection was by the Levitical priesthood, (for under it the people received the law,) what further need was there that another priest should rise after the order of Melchisedec, and not be called after the order of Aaron?

Heb 7:12 For the priesthood being changed, there is made of necessity a change also of the law.

The law given the people by the Levitical priesthood did not give those following it perfection i.e., it did not result in the forgiveness of sin. It was therefore needed that a another priest or priesthood should arise not according to the order of Aaron but according to the order of Melchisedec.

Heb 5:5 So also Christ glorified not himself to be made an high priest; but he that said unto him, Thou art my Son, to day have I begotten thee.

Heb 5:6 As he saith also in another place, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.

Christ was made a high priest by God after the order of Melchisedec.

Heb 7:15 And it is yet far more evident: for that after the similitude of Melchisedec there ariseth another priest,

Heb 7:16 Who is made, not after the law of a carnal commandment, but after the power of an endless life.

Heb 7:17 For he testifieth, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.

Heb 7:18 For there is verily a disannulling of the commandment going before for the weakness and unprofitableness thereof.

God says that Christ, God the Word made flesh, is a priest forever after the order of Melchisedec (Heb 7: 17) and this high priest of God, was made an eternal priest (Heb 7: 16), that is, he was made “after the power of an endless life” (Heb 7: 16). His priesthood is forever.

Christ, the holy spirit the Word made flesh and returned to the glory He had following His death on the stake and resurrection by God the Father is the high priest of God’s NT Church.

And, with this new high priest, there also came a changing of the law and an annulment of the previous “command” or law given ancient Israel (Heb 7:18) because of its “weakness and unprofitableness.” They were physical rituals that could not and did not forgive sin but in a ceremonial and symbolic way. Those observing those laws were still under sin.

God’s New Testament Church — the Spiritual Nation of Israel

Another change of great significance occurred with the coming into being of God’s NT Church which is also His spiritual nation of Israel. Israel is now made up of all those called, chosen and faithful whatever their national origin may be.

Rom 2:28 For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh:

Rom 2:29 But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God.

With the foundation of God's NT Church there is also a change in the manner of worshipping God.

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.

God's NT nation of spiritual Israel would no longer worship him as ancient Israel did through physical and symbolic rituals.

This is a very important distinction to understand for those who want to worship God according to God's standards and not those of men. They would worship God by keeping God's spiritual laws to the best of their abilities not by performing physical rituals and symbolic ceremonies.

Their salvation depends on their maintaining their attitude of obedience to God in all things to the best of their abilities. Their conversion is a personal and individual relationship with God through the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman, Christ who is their high priest and mediator between them and God.

Heb 6:20 Whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.

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

The True Teachers of God's Church

God in the Bible repeatedly warns His called and chosen ones to beware of false prophets. Some would come from without as individuals pretending to want to learn God's way but whose real purpose was to infiltrate the Church to spread false ideas in an effort to draw people into a different organization which supposedly really has the truth. Others would arise right from within the ordained ministry and they would also

seek to convince as many as they could to follow them because they too supposedly have “the” truth and God’s Church does not.

Religion, pagan and Christian, for the longest time has been used by men as a means to make a living for themselves. These impostors understand the power they can have over men if they can assure them that by becoming part of their organization they are certain to be saved. And, your Bible tells us that it is the many in God’s church and in the world that will follow the sure path to salvation they offer.

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 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.

A prophet depending on the context, can be someone relaying a message from God; it can be a representative of Baal or of false gods seeking to make new converts to their belief system, it can be a man who teaches the truth He has received from God, it can be someone who represents and promotes the ideas of another man and it can be true Christians when they’re having spiritual fellowship.

In summary, the word “prophet” has many different meanings both religious and non-religious. A prophet is not always someone speaking about events that will occur in the future which God has revealed to him. This is the understanding most people have of what is a prophet but it is only one of many of which you have to be aware to correctly understand the Bible. This has been fully covered with supporting Bible verses in the following study: [What is the Kingdom of God?](#)

God says there is a time when He will give His truly converted, true teachers or shepherds that will feed the flock and not themselves. God tells true Christians not to trust men but to verify everything they say with the Scriptures. This is extensively covered in the following study: [Are Preachers the Means to Salvation?](#) As you will see as you read through this study, the true shepherds of God’s Church or spiritual nation of Israel are the holy spirit God the Father and the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman who are responsible for teaching all things to the truly converted.

First, it is God the Father who provides those He is calling with understanding of spiritual truth sufficient for the person to have to choose between staying in the world or committing to obeying God. Then, for those who accept their calling and are chosen, it is God the Word and Spokesman who continues the teaching process throughout the life of the convert. Acceptance and understanding of God's truth is by the holy spirit God the Father and the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman; **it is not by any man**. As has been explained in several studies on this Web site, God says His called and chosen ones are not to trust in any man, even truly converted men, for their salvation. The Bible is clear that men who have been given to be teachers, pastors, elders and deacons in God's First Century Church have strayed from the truth and became teachers of falsities. The only teacher in which Christians can fully and always rely are the holy spirit God the Father and the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman to God the Father's called and chosen ones,

Joh 6:45 It is written in the prophets, **And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me.** [The holy spirit God the Father initially teaches those who are being called and if they accept their calling, they are then taught by the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman to God's called and chosen ones as long as they remain faithful. All true Christians are taught of God not men.]

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.

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 know him; for he dwelleth with you [I, Christ am the Spirit of truth, the Comforter], and shall be in you.** [After Christ's resurrection to His former glorified state as the holy spirit the Word and Spokesman, Christ would dwell in them with the holy spirit God the Father.]

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.

2Co 6:16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

Act 7:48 Howbeit the most High dwelleth not in temples made with hands; as saith the prophet,

And, in the last days in which we are now living and which started with the First Coming of Christ and the foundation of God's New Testament Church on the day of Pentecost, God is speaking to true Christians by His Son, the holy spirit the Word and Spokesman whose teachings we have in writing in the Bible which is the Word of God.

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;

As Paul makes clear, understanding God's spiritual truth does not occur as a result of the work of human preachers/teachers. It is by the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman working in the minds of the truly converted.

1Co 3:6 I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase.

It was not Paul, nor Appollos or other preachers/teachers by which understanding of God's spiritual truth occurred, it was by God.

This brings us to the main topic of this study.

Call NO Man Your Father

So, what was Christ telling His disciples when He said: "call no man your father?"

The key to understanding what Christ was saying is to realize that He was not talking about the begettal of sons by men who are then their fathers but of the spiritual begettal by God of His sons. Essentially, as Christ twice stated, no man, no one can come to Him unless He, God

the Father calls them.

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.

In other words, no man can claim to be any man's spiritual father i.e., the means by which he became able to understand the spiritual truth of God. We all have physical fathers and can rightly call them our fathers but when it comes to becoming spiritually begotten (conceived in this life and to be born by a resurrection from the dead to immortal, glorified spirit life into God's Kingdom) this can only be done by God the Father who indeed is the only one who has the power to do so.

He is the only one who can, by a great one-time miracle, open up the minds of men to understand truth which they had always previously rejected and bring them to a point in their knowledge of the truth where they have to make the decision to either commit themselves to a life of obedience and growth in the knowledge of God's truth or to go back into the world out of which they are being called.

All will be given the opportunity to choose and all will have to choose life or death and God will respect their choice even if it is unto death.

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:

Refusing to make a choice when given the opportunity to choose is to choose death.

This was not only spoken to ancient Israel but to all of mankind.

In Conclusion

Understanding that no man can be the spiritual father of true Christians should cause us to reflect on what is the role and importance of human teachers in the administration of God's master plan of salvation for mankind.

True enough, God says He has given some men to have certain responsibilities in His First Century Church.

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:

But note that the overall result of these men's work, when properly done, is to help the babes-in-Christ or newcomers-to-the-faith no longer be children but spiritual adults whose faith cannot be shaken by the cunning and crafty men seeking to make merchandise out of them.

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;

2Pe 2:3 And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.

The role of the ministry when one existed in God's First Century Church was to make spiritual adults of the babes-in-Christ not make them dependent on them as the criterion of truth they must follow to be saved.

The spiritual father of all truly converted Christians is the holy spirit God the Father, not men and the true teachers and preachers of God's Church are the holy spirit God the Father and the holy God the Word and Spokesman.

And, the holy spirit God who became a father with the begetting and birth of His son, Jesus is also the one and only father, spiritually speaking, of all those He has called and who became chosen after having decided to follow their calling through committing themselves to obey God to the best of their abilities and to a life of studying the Scriptures to grow their knowledge and understanding of God's spiritual truth.

Truly converted Christians have as their father the holy spirit God the Father and no man can claim that title spiritually speaking nor the ability to bring men to conversion. Truly converted Christians are the spiritually begotten and yet-to-be-born sons of the holy spirit God the Father by a resurrection from the dead into God's Kingdom.

This is what Jesus meant when He told His disciples to: ".....call no man your father upon the earth...."

