

GARNER TED ARMSTRONG ANSWERS

Questions Most Frequently

Asked About The World Tomorrow Program

And Ambassador College

QUESTION: How would you define the overall purpose of the World Tomorrow Program?

ANSWER: The World Tomorrow program is an educational extension program which is for all people at all levels. It covers issues involving the home, the family, health, farming, the economy, Vietnam in an in-depth, informative and objective a manner as possible. Underlying the World Tomorrow program is always the obvious concept of a belief in a God. It's obvious to anyone who watches me very long, that I believe in God, a Divine Creator Being. When you get into conditions involving crime, drugs, morality, marriage, etc., it's unavoidable. You cannot keep the theological issue out of it.

QUESTION: Aren't most of the positions you've taken clearly conservative and pro-Establishment?

ANSWER: I'm not Establishment. I rejected this Establishment many years ago.

I rejected many of the evils in the Establishment -- drugs, crime, divorce, pollution. We all agree these are evils, but we disagree on how to solve the problems.

I feel we're in a nuclear nightmare of madness, a ridiculous ever-spiraling arms race and we're not able to make the right decision between the priorities of considering the hazards versus the benefits of living in either a technologically oriented society or an agrarian oriented society. We're on a kind of merry-go-round where once having started the avalanche we're just riding with it downhill. We can't get off our technology binge, yet we insist that we don't want pollution.

I just point out these inconsistencies in human nature. I stand for law, and I mean by that Divine Law primarily. Lots of man's laws are ridiculous. People assume that I'm standing here for "God, Country, Momism,

GARNER TED ARMSTRONG ANSWERS

and Apple Pie."

I believe I'm as much a patriot as anybody.

I salute my flag. I stand at attention when somebody else salutes his flag. I will pledge allegiance to the flag, I sing the National Anthem, I honor the American flag, I'll salute, but I don't worship it.

QUESTION: You talk a lot about youth and their problems. Are you down on young people?

ANSWER: Absolutely not. I don't believe the philosophy of a lot of youngsters today. I don't believe the instant you're 13 you have suddenly joined some nameless mob, and are part of some cohesive unit which stands for about a dozen different polarities that supposedly answer all the problems of humankind.

I'm not down on youth. Each youth is an individual. I work with young people. I play basketball with them. I rub shoulders with youth all the time. I'm for the youth -- but I do not for an instant believe "youth" is the magic prerequisite for all the solutions -- anymore than I believe advancing age automatically carries with it increasing wisdom.

I'm not down on youth, but the "you-hurt-me,

watch-me-kill-myself" philosophy is ridiculous. A kid sits there beating himself over the head with a brick, as it were, wrecking his body and his mind with drugs to prove to me that he's down on the Establishment.

I'm down on the Establishment. I can't stand the double standards and hypocrisy, etc. But I'm doing something about it by trying to educate people to the problems and what the solutions ought to be.

QUESTION: Most of the concepts that Ambassador College espouses do have a theological foundation. Aren't you offering the same shop-worn, pie-in-the-sky, traditional religious approach that has been tried and failed so many times before?

ANSWER: Absolutely not. As a matter of fact I got some hate mail because of an article I wrote, (and I also did a television program on the subject) on the "Jesus People." I explained that I felt the long haired, sentimental, white-robed, halo-wearing "jesus" of traditional societies, was a "pusillanimous pansy." This made people mad.

I continually take issue with the traditional doctrines of Establishment mainstream theology. I heard

GARNER TED ARMSTRONG ANSWERS

a fellow say not long ago that he was going to heaven, and I asked the question; "How on earth are you going to get there? Who's going to be there when you get there?" And I answer those questions out of the Bible. He's not going to "heaven," and neither is anyone else.

I tell people go to the public library, get to the source of what they believe -- start proving, quit assuming.

I'm saying that somewhere society, history and theology have contrived to lead people pretty far afield. And I do take issue with traditional Christianity. I don't believe in it. I believe in Christianity, but not traditional Christianity.

QUESTION: You give away tons of literature, all free of charge, and an educational service in the public interest --this sounds rather pretentious. How can it be done?

ANSWER: Every time you offer something free, people are suspicious of it, apparently. They tend to hang back and think "What's this guy want from me?" In most issues of The PLAIN TRUTH magazine the question, "How has your subscription been paid for?" is answered in a special box.

First the Worldwide Church of God is the supporting body of its Educational Extension Program. This is done primarily by the tithing principle, and then by free-will contributions. Yet there is never any solicitation for funds -- there never has been in more than thirty years of radio broadcasting and never is in the literature, and as the radio listeners or viewers of the telecast know, there's no such thing, ever, on the telecast. The literature is freely given, in countries all over the world.

QUESTION: Are you trying to start some kind of a movement?

ANSWER: No, I'm just trying to make people think for themselves, and I don't ask them to believe me. I'm not running for office. If I were, I would be up and saying, "Judge me; look at me; look at my credentials; look at my background; look at my stand on this and follow me." I don't say that. I say, "Follow your own nose into your public library; follow your own common sense in issues and try to get at the basis of all the chicanery, the double talk, the double standards, the lying, cheating ways of a competitive world and find out what is this sickness in human kind." I'm not asking people to follow

GARNER TED ARMSTRONG ANSWERS

me. I'm saying, "Go to your public library and open your own Bible and find out where it's at."

QUESTION: You have stated on one of your previous programs that it will be necessary for God to be involved in government if this world is to survive. Doesn't this contradict the cherished American tradition of separation of church and state?

ANSWER: Not necessarily. Separation of church and state is basically a political tenet as it has to be in any human-oriented, human-dominated society. I would hasten to say once more, as I've said time and time again, "Give me the American form of government above any other on the face of this earth."

I believe there are many things that are wrong with America that ought to be changed, but I think that a program such as this program is drastically needed to try to provide a balancing point of view, somewhere in the middle, that does not go to either extreme.

I am not reactionary. I am not a traditional conservative or anything of this nature. But this is why people have difficulty in trying to place me. They say:

GB2

"What are you, exactly?" They don't really know because I'm trying to present an overview and a balanced approach to all of these issues.

God's Government is obviously, by the very terminology itself -- the combining of "Church and State," though, since I'm not speaking of any human organization called a "church", nor of any human government called a "state", the traditional terms are meaningless.

The Government of God is what Jesus preached. He continually told the people what the "Kingdom of God" would be like. He talked of His being a "young nobleman" who went into a far country to be coronated, and to return. I espouse no human movement which is labeled "God's Government" but I tell the truth about the REAL government of God Himself.

QUESTION: Is there some great transcendental purpose that Americans should have, based on the fact that there is a God who's benevolent and has watched over this country?

ANSWER: Well, definitely. America has lost transcendental purpose. We don't have any sense of belonging in the community of nations. We're ashamed of our power.

GARNER TED ARMSTRONG ANSWERS

We're afraid to act like number one and to really lead the world on into broad avenues of peace, because we have false values instead of the correct ones of moral principle and of character, of a right way to live.

QUESTION: What are your credentials for speaking out and telling people what to do on public affairs and their own personal lives?

ANSWER: Anybody can discover what we discovered by our combined research. As far as credentials are concerned, I could cite many varied sources but I don't think this is needful. Why? Because I have a vast world-wide base of information available to me which is the same record that's available to any private citizen. I have no corner on that market. All I'm trying to do is give solid, useful, documented information and to get people to think for themselves and to react to that information in their own private lives and I'll never hear if they do, in the case of tens of thousand. My credentials are simply my belief in God, His Word, the Gospel His Son brought, and my God-given right of free speech.

QUESTION: What do you personally get out of this? What's in it for you by doing this job?

GARNER TED ARMSTRONG ANSWERS

ANSWER: Very deep satisfaction in being able to be a part of something that I feel is eventually going to have a real impact on society as a whole.

 People point to the colleges, or to various material things, and "wonder" whether my motives were for material gain. Human nature is so basically dishonest it almost automatically imputes dishonesty to others -- but no matter what people "think" -- it's what God thinks that is important.

 Surely, God has allowed me to enjoy certain "material" benefits, but when I first began preaching these truths, I was making about \$75.00 per week, and never honestly expected to be making much more. The message, then, was the same. To me, a far simpler, uncomplicated life would be by far the most desirable -- and I'm doing what I'm doing not out of choice, or personal design, but because I feel I have been directly commissioned to do so.

#

GB2