

## 11 HLH Problems 770311p3

In the lineage of Abraham is found in the city of Heran, so it does appear that this is indeed the area from which the family of Abraham, in one way or another, sprang and dwelt. Anyway, because of the change, last year the Ambassador to the International Cultural Foundation was the sole financial sponsor in terms of monies as distinct from staff, because we were the only ones who didn't have the kind of bureaucracy that would prevent a quick decision, a change. The Crest Foundation necessarily is a larger institution with bureaucratic red tape as most have, and they were not approached. Dr. Buccellotti felt it was unadvisable to approach them, so we bore the entire cost of the expedition. This year they have agreed to support it as a part of the broader perspective of Mesopotamian archaeology, and therefore happily at least they will bear half of the cost, which doesn't necessarily minimize hours. It only means that the further on you go, often the larger the expenditure is. I am happy to say that this is possible. I hope that our budget will at least enable us to do the minimum committed. I'm mentioning it because if you were to look at a map, you probably have seen, as some of you brethren even showed me a copy of, the story of the excavations at Ebla, where such names as Abraham, Sodom, and Gomorrah, and many of the other biblical personalities, in this case probably the names, not the individual, but there's no reason to assume that only the Bible characters had these names, that they were invented only for Bible people, that they are in fact the names of people of that language group and that period. They have been, these names have been discovered, geographic terms, beyond what I've mentioned in the area of Ebla. Now Ebla and Terca are related as the northern and the southern cities that you would go through normally if you were leaving Mesopotamia and coming into Syria, Lebanon, and Palestine. It is possible that some interesting finds will also occur at the excavation where we are involved. The Italians are involved in the northern one at Ebla and the University of Turin is working closely with UCLA and with us at the excavations at Terca. Initially the excavations didn't have to go anywhere but what you would see tablets on the surface at Terca and very probably next year, that is this present year, this next period of excavation, that we will find tablets pertaining to some period probably not later than the patriarchal on the basis of the evidence that we know. Now what may come of it? People ask, well what do you, what will you find? And the answer of course is since we are digging we don't know yet what we'll find. There would be no use paying for what we already knew would be there. We could merely publish it in advance and never have to turn a spade. God has reasons why perhaps we are involved in the one science in particular that lends itself to information in terms of the validity and the historicity of the biblical record. And I think it would be very important that the right kind of contacts are made. Now we didn't ask, we didn't decide on this we thought well the other came to us, we'll dig there in Mesopotamia to have an even balance between the Israeli and the Arab world but at the doors closed and yet within a matter of weeks the doors opened in Syria which is far more important to us than Iraq would be because Iraq doesn't play a major role. Now I hope that sometime this year that some perhaps myself I would rather not be the one to do it I would rather have Mr. Rader and Mr. Armstrong be able to be there because the American ambassador as well as the Iraq sorry the Syrian government at Damascus is very interested in this expedition and therefore it is possible to make this kind of contact you see in this part of the world now how much we can do to bear witness to prevent political explosions remains to be seen but at least we have to recognize that it's one thing to pay money to get on television and radio and a new stands in some countries but in others if we had not involved ourselves in archaeology we would not be in Israel that's just the fact.

Now in some cases if we had not involved ourselves in putting money for educational purposes as in the hill country of Thailand into the king's project we wouldn't really have any reason to maintain contacts with the king of Thailand so these things vary I received a call yesterday indirectly through one of our staff here who first received it one of our brethren on some assignment will be going to Thailand and he wanted to know if he could visit the area where the ambassador international cultural foundation supports the schools for the hill people I tried to relay the message that there are only two ways of getting there one is by military helicopter and the other is on horseback you don't just take a taxi the hill country is totally cut off from the rest of Thailand purposefully and I will repeat this although some of you do know but it illustrates through whom we work and how the men who are responsible such as the king works the ties in the lowland that's the bulk of the population own land and have the sense of ownership as also do the Chinese communities in the large cities however the people who came from Yunnan in China into the hill country of Thailand over the last three centuries or more are nomads the peoples of the hills of southwest China are nomadic and they move into these other areas they speak languages related to Chinese but nearer Thai and they don't have a sense of ownership they move from area to area with the slash and burn method of agriculture what the king would like to do and what his purpose is and what our role is in this is this to educate them to the point that they have a sense of ownership of land because this is the way that a people can take root and not be uprooted now it will take some time to educate them to give them a sense of ownership of land then you can open the roadways build highways and have communication between these people in the lowland ties but if we did it otherwise or if the king decided well the way to educate them is to have all kinds of communication what would happen is that the ties would move in settle on the property and soon the other people would all be dispossessed because they have no sense of ownership they only move from place to place and the ties would occupy and own all the unoccupied land and when the other people want to move back because theirs temporarily must rest they have no place to go and so the king decided that the area must not be open and can only be reached by military helicopter through the air can't be reached by bus or train if you've seen the roads the only way to get there is by animal back but on the other hand it is a similar area as Mr. Aims will tell you in the hills the chin hills of verma where the work of god has gone so far that we have dozens of people without really ever turning a finger other than somebody receives a piece of literature and shares it with others the god has a reason why we happen to be involved not in some areas of the world but in others he takes the week of the world to confound the mighty he hasn't called the main bermes he hasn't called certainly the tie as a people but we are working interestingly with the hill people in these areas either through the king of thailand or just through our literature and we have the church only in verma we have no there's no such influence in thailand this is an unusual situation but our impact in this area is certainly going to be known and god is laying foundations not just for today but for the world tomorrow anyway it is very nice to know that there are individuals who respect in this sense what we are doing and it's a contrast of course to some things that are published in this country about the work but jesus mentioned of course that the prophet is often without honor in his own country where we might not be known by contrast in other areas of the world such as this we really are and there is no objection there has recently appeared an article i presume somewhat derogatory as articles like to be about the work or some aspect or personality of the work in a magazine called penthouse now i would like to say a word not about penthouse but about just the practice of reading derogatory statements i think that we do have individuals who like to know what other people are saying about us to the point that they would like to know the gossip that they haven't yet heard it is probably wiser to recognize that there are some magazines where we have had very positive contacts with and i believe that the in two installments in the month of april in christianity today which is somewhat different from penthouse there will be two articles which i can recommend because the man himself

was loud that is we he asked and we granted him permission i talked with him Dr Meredith talked with him Raymond McNair talked with him and most certainly he spent a great deal of time with dr cune Mr Ted Armstrong and others in all of administration and there are articles that i think i could at this moment in advance of seeing it recommend on the basis that at least you have a solid idea of what writers who are acknowledged professional writers in the world of theology think of us as distinct from scandal sheets that are not worthy of our interest and indulgence i hope we take note of some thoughts like that when these things come out much of the work that we do in the office throughout the day and off campus Mr Tkach and myself in particular Mr Aims handles other matters on behalf of the local church administration also all right Mr Rice has his business ours mostly is dealing with what we call people problems rather than administration and i would like to address today a question to all of us as to why we have the problems we have with ourselves as individuals what is the nature and what is the cause and what is the solution of what we call personal and interpersonal relationships and this is important because we are approaching the Passover season and it is very difficult to perceive people being in the kind of attitude they should with all the problems that there are now i do know that some of you apparently have no personal problems with yourself it's only with other people right happily some of you don't have the latter and are working on your own and the only reason i want you to stay here so you can help the others who haven't reached that point but without any question we have a great many difficulties that we need to look at with greater care now if what i say happens to reflect on you it is absolutely unintentional except as i have learned about it or i don't know about it but it happens to be your problem too there's no intention to indicate who's who i certainly have no reason to even mention names but it's probable that if you were to read the book of Proverbs on the one hand that you would think Solomon were writing about you on occasion so if there is any similarity between the living and the sinner it is unintentional but it's just a reality we just have to bear these things in mind i would like to be able to open in the sense your life to you to enable you to see yourself and some of you of course will immediately see other people's problems in this manner and hopefully we'll be able to resolve many of the difficulties that we have in Genesis to link up both Old and New Testaments chapter 17 verse 1 we are told that God asked Abraham to walk before him and to be perfect Jesus in Matthew chapter 5 the last verse said be you perfect as your father who is in heaven is perfect so it is important to note that what Abraham was called to do what Jesus called Christians to do do not constitute separate religions not Judaism versus Christianity they constitute in fact the same truth which is that man was put on earth to develop the character of God to be perfect as God is Jesus adding the thought that our perfection is not merely walking before God as an individual our perfection is patterned after the example of God himself whose mind is revealed in the Bible and so we are asked to be as the father himself in heaven is now by analogy then we should assume without any further question that children should imitate their parents as parents imitate Jesus Christ who set an example in the flesh of what God the father is like in terms of how he dealt with problems in terms of how he looked at problems one of the great difficulties is that we use other people as an example without comparing that example with the Bible the important and most important thing is not that you join the church because you liked our social fellowship we were learning in 1972 and 1973 I was amazed at the number of sermons given by those who have left the fellowship of the church of God who said that the reason they came among us is that they saw that there was something among us that wasn't to be found anywhere else and they liked that social fellowship so well they sat down in our midst and enjoyed it and they misconstrued that for repentance belief in Jesus Christ who paid the penalty for sin and submitting to him as the head of the church we can reflect on this we have had many who appreciated the spirit with which the program has gone out the openness with which we explain portions of the Bible as the example of brethren but we must recognize that it isn't merely the company of others that determines whether we are Christian I have quoted to you not

from a direct reading recently at all but when there was a publication that came out I guess it was in 1974 after many had left a small percentage but many in numbers sadly some people wrote to the editor of this publication stating what to me was the source of the problem of many I will quote at least in my words as I remember it I think it was a woman who wrote she said now when I was a member of the and then there was blank blank blank church this is the of course Worldwide Church of God she said I tried notice I tried to do everything the church asked us and taught us and I felt condemned it just seemed that everything that I was asked to do seemed a burden and now that I know the truth about the law that we don't have to keep it and since I've left them I feel so free that I can now be myself I want you to think about this you see the problem here were people who were trying to do it in their own strength people who had no arguments initially against the truth that is there was no hostility in terms of arguments and they sat down in our midst they were among us but they were not of us because they had not come to the place of repentance which means examining yourself comparing yourself with what is in the bible deciding that you have not measured up to it as you come to see it laid out in the bible asking god to forgive you through jesus christ of the mistakes that have been made the sins the oversights the acts of commission the areas of failure that's omitted that should have been done to ask god to make something new of you that you're not what you were before that you want to be something different you want to be like god not like you were in those areas where indeed you have seen yourself quite different from the way god would think and act and speak then you ask him for his spirit which he has promised to those who obey now you see the problem here is that there were people apparently who might have regretted i didn't say repented i said regretted some things they did but very few what they were really most pleased with was the nice fellowship and they were happy perhaps to change a few things to conform to the fellowship of the church of god so they now fit in our midst that is maybe they wrestle with smoking maybe they didn't have it as a problem and a few things they might have worked on and beyond that they were sorry they regretted a few things but they were really happy because most of you are nice people to use this simple term in other words they couldn't find as large and as interesting a group of people who aren't backbiting anywhere else and so it was a pleasure to be here now if you think i'm talking about other people only just keep listening but they never came to the place where they listen to the advice and examine to see whether their attitude conformed to the example of Jesus the prophets the apostles and the teachings of the bible anywhere they never came to the place where they had to wrestle with themselves and were in a sense set into a spiritual spin i'm using that as an analogy for a reason that i'll explain in a moment where they they suddenly discovered how much they didn't understand and how much they needed to correct as Mr Armstrong would have said long ago that when you begin to look at the bible and see yourself and begin to think about these things as distinct from merely enjoying fellowship going to musicals and dances and sports and the bible study and Sabbath services inviting somebody over for dinner and going over there for dinner when people get their minds in the bible their minds are suddenly sent spinning by contrast to the stability they had before in ignorance because suddenly they see how much has been an error that they have taken for granted but in reality most people who left never went through that experience because the bible wasn't that important where they had to unlearn and that's the beginning of being begotten of god that is to begin to unlearn and to submit and to acknowledge that you've been in error both in practice and in thought and indeed i use the analogy of spinning because science has found that before an egg can be impregnated the sperm set the egg to spinning and each of the sperms try to enter and at some point in time one makes it and in reality when we begin to wonder and doubt will have i taken this for granted have i taken that for granted how come i came to believe this what did my parents teach me well i learned this in school and is that what's in the bible until you go through a period where you think you're mixed up you probably haven't and i'm not necessarily talking to people reared in the congregation throughout their lives i'm especially talking

to people who come from the outside or come from church homes where christianity as revealed in the bible is of recent origin here there are too many who have not been interested in examining the word of god they have just accepted fellowship they accepted baptism they accepted repentance and confused it with regret worldly sorrow works death repentance means you turn around and do something different that you never did before david is an example of what repentance is he sinned without any query at all but he changed he had to acknowledge and he gave great occasion for the enemies of the lord to use his example against the truth of god and god had to have that written that's david's example it's all there but repentance in david's case was acknowledging that he was wrong and not doing that again now unfortunately the proof for those who don't sin like that the proof of whether they are forgiving really depends on whether they like to ask more and more well now what how did david do that you know who else was involved or have you heard and there are many who would have wanted to know a lot more than is even in the scripture that's like it is today and many who are of that nature who are seeking to publish things against the work are of that nature and that reflects their attitude for those who have been reared as some of you have most of your lives in the church as young people you may not have so many doctrinal problems like individuals who have been misinformed misinstructed mistaught who come to the truth of god but you will have to face up to whether your attitude that's the heart and core of the problem whether your attitude reflects what is in the bible you know i can say that sometimes we ask our children the simple question now we notice attitudes that's very important and the scripture says honor your parents says you shall not bear false witness what we really have to do if you've been taught to truth doctrinally in many areas is however to reflect very carefully on whether you really think you're honoring or you know you're not an only kidding yourself whether you really bear true witness or whether you hide or cover up now there are a lot of people who have hidden their problems for years and we have one explosion after another in the life of individuals or families usually the reason it comes out as an explosion is the fact that the individuals involved either are totally blind to their problem which is rare or in fact knew there was a problem but were afraid afraid to face it and being afraid to face it you covered up you gave a public image that everything was fun but privately it's something else now we have of course many of you who know that there are people who have problems of our congregation or other congregations doesn't matter and interestingly the usual thing is that as ministers we learn about their problems from you and as Mr. Tkach has quoted to me the first question normally is but did you talk to them about it no i'm only talking to you if you want to help somebody who is making a clear mistake or a sin you go to that person and you discuss that person's problem with him in private not to his wife or her husband or children or parents who are not directly involved now that's an area in which probably many who may not have their own personal problems to any great extent fail i don't say all because i think some of you have helped others but very often unfortunately it is expected that the minister will go to the individual who has a problem and not someone else who has seen and can solve it at the level at which we are as human beings that's where it ought to be solved then if it can't be solved maybe you and your wife ought to go and ultimately perhaps it belongs at the level of the ministry but many of our difficulties come from the fact that we don't even face up to those things that are seen among ourselves now when we look at people with problems we usually find and if i'm quoting somebody it's because it happened to be a good expression i don't mean to quote you and nobody else knows who you may be if it happens to be your words and maybe these are words only from other congregations that i have heard many people especially in marriage as distinct from business child rearing but in marriage i think this is a classic illustration well i don't believe he could ever change or i don't believe she will ever change she's just like that now supposious or supposious what's the problem right there it's in the attitude of the person who thinks the other can't change that's where part if not half of the problem exists when you are convinced that the other cannot change you have measurably

shortened god's capacity to work through you in terms of your attitude that may indeed be the cause of the other person's problem mr arm's gone long ago many others have said in the church that if two people have problems with each other the first area that each one must work on is himself or herself and not the other person that each one must individually seek to change himself or herself and not say that it is the other person who must change first then i will now we hear this we say well that's logical so when is she going to change you know or when is he going to change and somehow within a second our mind is back in the same rut or as someone said not long ago well if she will ever change it would take a miracle yes it probably would but that's what god is here for now the person who believes that the other individual cannot change unless it takes a miracle is probably doubting god's capacity though probably the assumption would be it's the person who's at fault and is out of contact with god but you really are doubting god's capacity whether you know it or not therefore the issue of faith is involved so i would ask the question if you think that your wife can't change unless it takes a miracle and your wife does feel that there are problems with you what about you can you change and the answer in this particular instance was well i'm just like that but that's probably true that ought you to be unless this is a conversation we had this is not made up but i just can't take her any longer that's probably true the way you are you can't and the way she is i could hardly blame you so let's begin to solve the problem but when you each say well it would take a miracle to change me that's exactly what's required i think we're kidding ourselves when we just let these things ride by you know some people don't provide the same kind of verbal grist that i can use here because this particular instance was i thought very effectively expressed and i think it says itself more readily than many a conversation which we have had because sometimes there are people who look at it this way who are not really accusing each other and i've told you about people who are accusing and can only see the evil that other people are doing but sometimes we don't have people who blame the other we just have people who really are short of faith in god to change the individual if you live with a woman who's nagging the fastest way to solve the problem apart from leaving is to ask god to give you more capacity to absorb the problem and ask him in the meantime if he wouldn't mind working elsewhere too in solving it but at least give you the capacity to wrestle with this problem like jacob had to wrestle and the other person and usually both people do come to us about it it's not just one we're not dealing with outsiders god doesn't ask you to live with an outsider who has no contact with god you understand that one of the teachings of the church is that you are not asked to live at war with your mate just because the mate's an unconverted person and you're married to him or her you're asked to live at peace and since you're likely living at war in instances like that and god is not changing those hearts if he hasn't called them why god asked you perhaps better just determinate it and you are free to do so because initially the law forbids you even to live with someone like that but Paul allows it but but this is quite different from two people who are in the congregation who sit among us who come to us with their problems see that's the majority the majority of problems don't involve the unconverted and converted they involve only those who should have been converted the issue is whether we're willing to let god perform what is inevitably a miracle and when you decide that is going to take that and it would take a miracle you're really saying you don't want it to happen that's what you're saying whether you know it or not then you're going to be just like you are and it is akin to stubbornness it's akin to saying i'm not going to let god do through me what he can do and therefore the inevitable question is had you become begotten of god and are you now in a state of hostility that will lead to an abortion in advance of the proper time of birth or are you dealing with the question of a person who hasn't even seen what it means to repent and to break down and to submit to god could be either probably the majority is the last sometimes it is the other and the other is a very sad and dangerous situation it's one thing for those who were among us but who were not of us to leave it's a greater tragedy for those who have known and tasted who have rebelled and left and have nothing but the smell of spiritual death around them till the third

resurrection now we have situations that involve business indebtedness alcohol rearing of children divorce proceedings trial custody going to courts these are all problems that exist in the work in the church i should say have to advise responsible people in the church to do business with responsible people in the world and not irresponsible people in the church this is a reality i deal with it by individuals whom we have to talk to right in this congregation who find that sometimes it's easier to employ an outsider than one of our own now what we really are saying then is that there are a remarkable number of people who are not responsible both as employees or employers and i think we should examine what is our attitude that we have to have this kind of image of irresponsibility in the first place maybe you have a business problem maybe you don't know how to handle money well then the answer is you need to get advice of somebody who does whether in or out of the church may not be important at this point depending on the problem but for you who may not know how to handle finances to get involved with someone else and let the other person in the church hold this fact is not so to speak that's not the way we should conduct ourselves when we owe money to outsiders or brethren it is important that we make the kind of arrangements we can to resolve indebtednesses especially when we have contractual arrangements in business talk to the person who's involved explain what your problem is if you have one i know of people who have come to us to help solve their problems and they have worked on them and resolved them but there are others who are in fact financial dead beings and they don't come for advice they don't come for guidance i had to deal with the man years ago who was a very able person but he had one fatal flaw in handling his business had nothing to do with attitude and nothing to do with character with just a bit of common sense he didn't have he was tithing on his gross income in business and he was going in the hole and going to go broke so all he did was show me his books and i explained to him when as soon as i saw it i didn't take me more than a minute to realize what his problem was he was paying tithe on what he had no reason to he should have paid tithe on the adjusted gross income after the expenses and then he was doing well little thing but you see the fact remains that that man was of a right attitude he just didn't see this small thing he was being overly generous the lack of wisdom but it had nothing to do with attitude but when people are dead beings and don't share a responsibility don't go to the person to whom they owe the money to try to work it out there's something that is fundamentally wrong and this could be at any level i mean this is a minor problem compared to the marital ones but it does exist and when you work for somebody else it's very important i know people in the world who would never let themselves get into a state of bankruptcy i know a man who's been a travel agent for years i've known him for a quarter of a century now he happened to have been in business with somebody who took the money that people were paying him and instead of sending it to the airlines he was pocketing it and ran off with tens of thousands of dollars and let the other man hold the sack the man who held the sack had the choice of either bankruptcy or spending the rest of his life paying off that debt because he did not properly evaluate the other person that man is to this day working he has paid his debts which really were the other person's debts he chose to go the hard way and he's a very responsible individual he's a musician as well and i have to admire a person who does that and doesn't take the easy way and doesn't have any sense of conversion as we understand it and then to have people who presumably are this is a very sad situation that needs examination are we really interested in correcting it if our attitudes are right we will be if we find difficulty in working for the boss maybe the boss is partly the problem maybe you are partly the problem if you're the boss and you have difficulty with some of your employees maybe you're part of the problem as well as the employee try to sit down and evaluate it and if you need some third party it's perfectly all right ask somebody if you're big enough minded to do it you have any problem if the third party can see where the problem is you can work on it but we too often don't want to face up to the need of change we don't want to acknowledge that that's not the way to do it in dealing with other people now some people are far more sensitive than others i am normally

a little more thick skin than some i know that some are very sensitive others are so thick skin that you know practically nothing that penetrates you have to examine yourself now maybe because you can take it you think others can take it but you need to be concerned for the needs of the other party how you criticize how you advise how you put pressure on others is very important because there are some people who need it and others who can be broken by it so we're dealing not just with the questions of sin we're dealing with the question of how not to offend how not to hurt a perfect man and jesus asks us to be perfect is one who offends not in either deed or word and there probably isn't any of us who has been able to achieve perfection in either case that we inevitably offend somewhere in deed or word and this is very important we have school teachers here i see miss johnson is here so i'll since i know nothing about any problems i will just illustrate some of your teachers you know it isn't easy in being a teacher to deal with every single individual on the basis of everybody's you know private needs i've you know talked various subjects for years and you can be pretty strong when some student doesn't measure up and you can be that way to another one it can do good for some and it can let's say really hurt others who need another approach one has to be careful same as with parents and children that you can say some things to some children and you need to add special discipline and in others you'll find that they respond readily some are more submissive than others some are more self-will one of the great difficulties we have today is the inevitable problem of divorce and the problem of course of going to court about it the tragedy is that too many do not seek the ministry and seek reconciliation to the point where at least if a court decision is necessary you can jointly appeal to the court for a decision without recrimination before the court without suit and countersuit without getting two lawyers the church is it seems being abandoned as a source of responsibility both between because sometimes the ministry doesn't want to get involved with some hard-headed people and Paul says very plainly he says how dare you go to court to settle your problems now we may have to go to court to have the final decision but it would be a lot better to seek some kind of reconciliation prior to presenting a final petition in court but we have individuals who have gone so far that that others are so totally alienated that there is no way of reconciliation and you really have to ask yourselves how can people sin as far as some people go and actually have the spirit of God now it's possible David did but there's going to have to be repentance and there's going to be a blot on that person's life and his example in the church or her example in the church and when people are so hurt and offended I have to ask myself when people are so offended that there is clear attitude problem showing itself the righteous are not offended are we big enough to forgive and at the same time have wisdom not to be taken in again there's some people who have a lot to learn in terms of how to deal with others and to a great extent one's own attitude and how you come across to the other you may not see and the worst thing of course is that most people with attitude problems don't want to hear what they're like that's the difficulty they want to stay that way or they feel that I'm that way because and it's always somebody else who's really the basis for it we have to learn what Christ expects of us I think it is time we examine those chapters in the bible that define what our conduct is to be in terms of our own feelings toward another this is probably the biggest area in which we fall short there was a time as you know most of our problems seem to be from the outside we had diseases and as parents we had problems with children versus hospitals versus doctors versus the school or as parents and holy days we had problems with the children in school they were not given proper grades they were never given an opportunity to observe what God asks we had financial problems because the bosses didn't like us doing this or that with respect to the Sabbath or holy days or there was clearly a problem in the economy I could say that the bulk of problems used to be external whether through disease economics or the attitudes of those who were institutionalized through whom we had to go in our educational and business system and in those days every one of those problems created a sense of unity in the church a sense of mutually sharing and being concerned with the others problem helping

financially helping physically now there are many who still help financially who still help physically in the needs of other people but the more we had these problems from the outside the more we got our minds off our internal relationships that is we had our minds so occupied with the opposition from without that somehow we could overlook the problems that were within the meat seemed so much less of a difficulty in contrast to the problem elsewhere the woman who had to support her unemployed husband with encouragement didn't have the time to nag but now that he's got a steady job on unemployment you know there's always now the opportunity to find fault he with her and she with him and you know this kind of thing goes on now that we have medical science god is much further away than he used to be because there are so many other ways now other than faith that you can go because men have learned so much more or a price we have far fewer school problems in terms of the administration because the school has so many problems already they don't want more and as the pressures from the outside percentage rise decline which is true we have it easier in all of these areas there is far more consciousness of health and nutrition and natural childbirth than there used to be far more cooperation because of the presence of the Jewish community with the holy days school far more opportunities to have government funds for unemployment instead of falling back on the church but the more the pressure from the outside is removed the more the pressure builds up within that is the more we see the internal problems between each other we find out that our bigger problems suddenly seem to be anonymous and then there are always those things that some people allow themselves or some people allow others to do and we begin to hear about what people permit themselves this is a time where we allow things that we never allowed internally before or some things where we allow what we once did is in makeup and now people can do what they please it seems and they do what they please anyway whether it's permitted or not on birthdays to a great extent on how to keep the Sabbath how to handle your finances for that matter how to handle your marital problems we have adultery far more often than we should but it may not be any greater than it used to be because that's an ongoing human problem but now it seems it's one of the things that you know we can understand adultery we could we've always been able to forgive and override it the problem is when it's permitted and the ministers sometimes allow it before action is taken and people have been damaged instead of when it is found that action is taken we have a situation that we want to make plain the devil tried to stop this work through external pressure on the individual and the church for years and the church grew and the more the pressure the more the church grew and the devil was smart and he decided that the best thing then is to pull off the pressure and see if it comes apart because there's no external pressure that makes the thing hold together you take the pressure off family responsibility child rearing decays husband wife relationships decay and we are in a state today where there is far less rapport between many individuals that is where the attitudes that are reflected in this how you observe the Sabbath the attitudes that are reflected in the kind of social dancing and music the attitudes that are reflected in employee employer relationships in the use of drugs and alcohol in sex parties let's call it for what it is doesn't have to be in our congregation but it can be that these things go on to the point that people see the problems that are inside the church because they don't see all the problems outside they aren't as many outside and the devil has indeed pulled some pressures away just to find out whether indeed you would come apart within and so if iniquity abounds it is inevitable that the love of many not all will wax cold now Jesus says this very plainly in Matthew 24 verse 12 because iniquity shall abound the love of many shall wax cold how can an employer who has nothing but problems with church members employees feel the same way well he can if he is big enough to forgive to be merciful to be wise and not get stunned again but he can also have the problem of his love waxing cold husbands and wives have the same problems employees toward employers ministers toward each other layman toward the ministry the ministry toward layman it doesn't really matter i don't care what the relationship children and parents that the more we find

that others do things that don't measure up to the bible the more upset we can be if nothing is done about it this is important you see the more we allow shall i say birthday parties on the campus on the Sabbath evening and other kinds of parties the more we have individuals who allow themselves the opportunity to take drugs drugs and alcohol alcohol get pregnant get raped and then take the next step pregnancy is terminated the more we allow ourselves these things the more you really wonder what is going on see and that is what the devil wants you to think to the point where your love waxes cold and you don't have the same rapport with the other person this is taking place it affects me because i know it's happening these things come to us now what i do with that is my responsibility can i still love and extend my concern for someone who has terminated pregnancy someone who's committed adultery with someone else someone who encourages other people to do these things and to pass drugs one has to learn when the individual did it in ignorance caught up in his or her own emotional instability and when it is intentional and when it's intentional one has to crack down and that's where too often there's failure now you're going to have to look at yourself and since most of you do not have the problems and the minority do the biggest problem of course is what your attitude is going to be can you still love the other person if Jesus asks us to love our enemies how much more should we be willing to love our brethren how much more should we be willing to love our brethren and if our brethren make mistakes as well as our enemies are we willing to forgive but are we also willing for the brethren to instruct and to help a person not to sin again like that because that's where the breakdown is we have a responsibility then as individuals to ask ourselves whether we're involved in the problem or whether we're emotionally being disturbed by problems you see they're both situations we have to be very careful in the latter case that if other people's problems well up that they don't cause our love to wax cold because you see going into the same 24th chapter of Matthew just a little before it says there's coming a time when there will be renewed affliction for reasons of religion and verse 10 says at this time many shall be united and stand as one oh no it doesn't it says at that very point after the pressure has been removed little by little and when the love of many waxes cold because of the permissiveness of others then many shall be offended the devil knows that and shall betray one another and hate one another when there is a lack of love there is a lack of trust when there is a lack of trust there is the possibility of betrayal when there is the possibility of betrayal there can be no doubt that there is hate we are at a state in 1977 when we do not yet know just how long it shall be before great religious pressures occur we've had a very interesting religious explosion in washington dc internally within a distinct religious environment the muslim environment what's going to happen when we have the catholics and the dutch reform churches coming to clash with one another in south africa the various churches in rhodesia the problems in northern ireland the ultimate controversy of christian gunmen and muslims in the middle east the controversy between the religious groups in western europe and the non-religious in eastern europe some place somewhere along the line there is going to be a catalyst that has not yet shown itself but when it does when the only way to preserve western civilization is to conform to a religion then indeed what do you think would happen when there is no love between a husband and wife children and parents one brother and another or friends employees and employers when to survive you have to conform would you protect the other person because when love waxes cold in you even if you obey much less if you don't you're not very likely to have the zeal and the faith and the confidence that it takes to stand up under this kind of pressure and the devil knows it now as the Passover season approaches it is very important that we examine ourselves in terms of what we think of others what we allow ourselves whether we really help others to overcome their problems when we see it or only gossip about them or report it to the ministry which is not always wrong if you can't have any way of helping the other person we must examine our animosities we need to ask for the kind of forgiveness and to get our minds even in the areas of doctrine where there is animosity toward Herbert Armstrong or Garner Ted Armstrong or the ministry or what doesn't

matter because people get so close to their little hobby and they think it isn't being looked into and maybe it isn't being looked into maybe it isn't that important and maybe it is and it has not been seen for its importance but in any case your attitude is the most important thing and after all the time is coming when a lot of people in the world tomorrow we're going to have a chance to let their light shine even if it wasn't seen today the people who want to see their light shine because they like their light will soon see it go out if the truth has been suppressed through history somewhere along the line through mismanagement in the church god's going to use the people to whom he revealed it to make it know and are not those who stood in the way that's exactly why this church is where it is in contrast to a body of people before who acknowledged the truth but did nothing about it or acknowledged the truth and tried to hide it god stepped in and had to raise up a whole new work to finish because the other was dead spiritually at the top we cannot compromise with sin there will be differences in how we view matters some will not quite understand that as others and one of the functions of the ministry is to bring us all to unity sometimes the church must speak where something is not clear and then we must walk arm in arm I hope that we take note of the importance of what our attitudes do to us and if there is one thing that will enable us to be perfect as god in heaven is perfect it is this that our attitudes are perfect the knowledge is short because we only understand in limited fashion today our understanding of prophecy is only an obscure view of history in the future it is not what we know or how much we intellectually accumulate or how righteous we think we are it is the issue of attitudes toward every other person those with whom we agree and those with whom we don't whether in or out of the church you don't have to accept somebody else's philosophy even if that person seems to be a member just take heed that you examine yourself in terms of the biblical account because we're all going to stand before the judgment seat of christ now we must learn in this matter of attitude that we don't be permissive on the one hand and we don't become offended on the other we've had individuals who left who were permissive and individuals who left because they thought the church that remained was still too permissive and they became offended jesus christ addressed this question and i hope that prior to the Passover service many of you will have a chance to examine what christ said and the attitude that is reflected in the several chapters 14 through round 17 of john's account of the gospel and see to what extent you measure up in your mind and in your dealings with other people in the way that christ's mind measured up to this responsibility you know we often have it read to us and we probably absorb it for a few minutes as it's being read and the minutes over then we begin to do the same thing we did before there is only one way to secure the spiritual safety and preservation of god's people and that is that we learn to exercise control over ourselves through the power of the spirit of god that we do not do these things in our own strength but with our strength through the spirit of god