

Graeme Marshall
Resignation

Mr. Tkach,

I'm saddened by your April 17 member letter where you state that the Sabbath and Holyday requirement for Christians was only Mr. Armstrong's teaching - not what Paul taught nor a biblical commandment.

This is not what I knew of Mr. Armstrong nor from my reading of scripture. You also stated how the Church cannot support the position of Ministers who believe they must lead God's membership in such belief.

As I personally do believe God's commandments to be valid and in force this places me in conflict with your requirement.

In the latest Statement of Beliefs it is stated that the decision-making process of the Church is by councils of Ministers who report to the Pastor General. An in-depth consultation of Ministry was not gained before any of these major core belief changes. I certainly know of no International Ministry input.

In fact in your Jan. 18, 1986 sermon after the death of Mr. Armstrong you stated that you would follow fully in his footsteps with all his teachings. Yet only 9 years later have changed wholesale doctrine without full ministerial or member approval.

If it is true that an Azusa Pacific University theologian is writing "a new constitution" for the Worldwide Church of God, this too is done without approval from the commandment keeping membership.

As you have left me no middle ground because of your requirement in how Ministry must now believe and preach, I am forced to submit my resignation from the ministry and membership of the Worldwide Church of God, effective May 4th, 1995.

I hasten to add I do not resign from the Ministry of Jesus Christ. My ordination certificate signed by Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong says "chosen according to the Will of God to become a Minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ". Having faithfully ministered some 29 years I cannot, and do not resign such high calling.

Similarly, I do not resign from the spiritual body of Christ, the Church of God. As you wrote in the Pastor General's Report of April 26, '94 -- "...it is the Holy Spirit that identifies and unifies the true Church of God, not any humanly incorporated church organization". I accordingly remain a faithful member of the body of Christ, the true church of God.

I however do now, at your precluding me from continuing otherwise, formally dissociate myself from the Tkach family and their teachings.

I continue as a servant of Christ,

Sincerely
Graeme J. Marshall.