

The Good News

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Christ Did Put Authority and RULE in His Church!

Lip-Stick is only a minor question that spot-lights the BIG POINT—authority and RULE in the Church. It is now vital that we understand which questions are for personal decision, and which are not; and the relation to preserving UNITY.

by Herbert W. Armstrong

BEHOLD *how rare* it is, and *how lovely*, for brethren to dwell together in unity" (Psalm 133, Moffatt translation—my mother's favorite chapter.)

Why should it be *so rare* to find unity among church members?

WHY Hundreds of Sects?

But what's the connection? Just what does the preservation of unity have to do with the make-up question?

A great deal!

Look at the churches of this world. Repeatedly torn asunder in dispute, divided into hundreds of denominations! Haven't you ever wondered *why* they are so divided—*how* all this sectarian division came about? Few realize the true reason.

The answer is simple: None but God's true Church follows GOD'S WAY of preserving that blessed harmony. The world's churches have followed the ways that have *seemed right* to the natural mind. And these same ways will seem right to *you*, today, unless you heed what God reveals!

Yes, even one of us today, failing to understand what God reveals, might express it about as follows:

"Here's the way I see it: No man or board of ministers has any right to tell me, as an individual member, what I must or must not do. We each stand alone before God. I think the way to preserve unity is simply to follow the basic command to love your neighbor as yourself. If we have LOVE, each may do what is right in his own eyes, and all the other members will have tolerance. I think the only firm foundation for fellowship is LOVE toward those who believe and act differently—even differently than the ministers believe.

"I don't want," this attitude continues, "any ministers telling ME that what I believe or think is wrong. I have just as much right to my views as they have to theirs. They have no right to rob me of free moral agency. When my wife can come to church with lip-stick on, and I can work on the holy-days as I please, and keep Pentecost on Sunday if that seems right to me, or observe Passover on the 15th instead of the 14th, and en-

counter *not* critical disapproval, but LOVE—when the Church recognizes *my right* to my honest views—when the ministers show LOVE toward us as free individuals with minds of our own and rights of our own, then we will really ENJOY coming to church, and then we shall have peace and UNITY, for real love will always let each of us do as we please, and always will rise above differences."

This natural, carnal attitude might ask further:

"Isn't this doctrine of Church government dangerous? Isn't my religion a *private* matter, just between me and God? Should not each individual decide *for himself* such issues as the right or wrong of make-up, or how to figure the correct day for Pentecost, or whether divorce and remarriage is a sin, according to the way he, individually, sees it? If I have to let the Church, thru its ministers, rule me, doesn't that rob me of free moral agency?"

What's WRONG With This?

These opinions express the *natural*

attitude and reasoning of the human mind. These opinions and questions *deserve an answer*, based on the BIBLE.

First of all, tho you might not have thought of it in this light, this is the identical concept held by those who argue that it makes no difference *which day* we observe as the Sabbath. From your own reasoning, apart from the Biblical revelation, you would never be able to see whether it makes any difference which DAY is observed—or whether any is observed.

"Oh, but that's different," some will say. "The Bible commands us to keep the seventh day, but I can't see where it condemns lip-stick."

But thousands say: "I can't see where the Bible commands me to keep the Sabbath." Millions think the Bible says the law is done away.

What's WRONG with this concept outlined above? Let's summarize the whole reasoning. It simmers down to the idea that each individual must be free to decide for himself what is right, or what is wrong, for *him*. It all revolves around a false idea of what constitutes *free moral agency*. This reasoning proposes that each member of God's Church, in order not to be robbed of free moral agency, must be free to decide for *himself* what constitutes SIN—and every other member is supposed to have tolerance for his belief and way of conduct. This attitude resents having God's ministers show the people their sins, and wants them to preach the soft and smooth things.

What Free Moral Agency Means

But *what* is *free moral agency*, anyway?

Free moral agency means God has decreed that the individual is free to decide for himself *whether* he will obey God.

GOD ALONE decides *what* to obey!

Surely we all know that sin is the transgression of GOD'S LAW! That Law is a SPIRITUAL Law—a great fundamental law of *principles* for right living. It must be obeyed "not of the letter [ONLY] but of the Spirit." To break the SPIRIT of the Law, tho perhaps not transgressing the strict letter, is still transgressing the law—IT IS SIN!

The literal *letter* of the Law does not

cover, in direct specific terms, the right or wrong of every possible act. Jesus Christ came to MAGNIFY the Law, according to its SPIRIT—the *principles* involved. The *letter* says merely "Thou shalt not commit adultery." Some man harboring a lust for sensuous female figures might argue, in the *manner* of some who desire lip-stick today:

"I think it's all right for me to harbor lustful *thoughts* after these women, as long as I don't commit any direct *act* of adultery. The Law doesn't say it's wrong to just LOOK upon her to lust after her, as long as I keep my distance."

But Jesus MAGNIFIED this law. According to its SPIRIT—the PRINCIPLE of the Law, He said that such a man has committed adultery with such a woman already in his heart.

Now in the same manner, the letter of the Law does not say directly and specifically that cigarette smoking, using make-up, gambling, or many other such things are sinful acts. But the SPIRIT OF THE LAW—the *principles* it sets forth, and Bible examples, when properly applied, do reveal the right or wrong of every such question.

But all individuals do not properly understand or apply the Scriptural principles and examples in the same way.

The individual is NOT left free to decide for himself WHAT is sin—but free moral agency allows him to decide WHETHER to sin!

It is GOD'S prerogative to tell man WHAT sin is. And when we come to these vague, disputable questions of DEFINING God's Law in respect to sin, it is GOD'S prerogative, not that of the individual, to set the definition. And CHRIST HIMSELF has set up the machinery in HIS GOVERNMENT in HIS CHURCH by which HE HIMSELF renders all such decisions for us! A fundamental *mission* of the Church is to "feed the flock"—to *instruct* and *perfect* the members. This I will explain fully, a little later in this article.

What Always Caused DIVISION

This very WAY—the idea quoted in the beginning of this article—the way that seemed *right* to men—the way of every one doing what seemed right in his own eyes, and trying to have love and tolerance for others in the same

right—has always CAUSED division, and brought disaster.

Look at what has happened! Listen to the lesson of EXPERIENCE!

The Church actually began in the days of Moses (Acts 7:38). God placed HIS GOVERNMENT in that Church of the Old Testament, even as He did in the New. It was *the government of GOD*, not of man. But God administered it thru human instruments of HIS choosing.

What happened? The people then, like some today, refused to recognize that it was GOD'S government. They regarded it as the dictatorship of MEN—their human leaders. First, God chose Moses and ruled thru him. But you'll read of "this Moses whom they refused, saying, 'Who made *thee* a RULER and a judge?' The same did GOD send to be RULER." (Acts 7:35).

In the time of the Judges, it is written of the congregation of Israel: "Every man did that which was right *in his own eyes*." (Judges 17:6). But GOD had commanded, just as He who is the SAME today commands today: "Ye shall NOT do after all the things that ye do here this day, *every man whatsoever is right in his own eyes*." (Deut. 12:8).

Yes, those who do not want GOD'S GOVERNMENT thru His ministers of HIS choosing, but want to do whatever is right in their own eyes today, actually want to DISOBEY the direct command of GOD! Let them read these Scriptures, and then try to *answer* GOD in the final judgment!

Well later, God chose Samuel. GOD ruled Israel thru Samuel. But the people only looked upon it as the human rule of Samuel, and they rejected him. "And the Eternal said to Samuel . . . they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected ME, that I should not reign over them." (I Sam. 8:7). Finally all Israel was punished in captivity and slavery!

And this system of disobeying the DIRECT COMMAND: "Ye shall NOT do . . . every man whatsoever is right in his own eyes," has split and re-split the churches of this world *since* Christ.

Division in the "Christian" Church

During the first 300 years after Christ, entirely apart from the true Church, more than fifty different professing "Christian" sects appeared. Tho Christ,

as we shall see a little later, placed His GOVERNMENT and central authority in His Church, there was no such authority in these sects. They *tried* this idea of "having LOVE" for those with whom they disagreed. But the DIVINE Love of God—the same Spirit that guides all brethren in GOD'S WAY, into ALL TRUTH—was not the kind of love they had. Their human "love" only *divided* them *in error!* It proved no foundation for unity. It brought repeated DIVISION.

Then Constantine, Roman Emperor, the prophetic "Beast" of that day, made Christianity (falsely so-called) an official religion of his government. He abolished the sectarianism—forced a united Catholic Church under his dictatorship, put iron RULE into the Church. From this the papacy developed. Other sects were exterminated by soldiers and government police. Millions of martyrdoms followed. The true Church of GOD was forced to "flee to the wilderness" to exist.

The Church evolved the "primacy of Peter" doctrine. The *principle* of authoritative government in the Church was God's—but *their system* of using it was Satan's. It was not GOD'S government, but that of men swayed by Satan.

This "primacy of Peter" doctrine on which the papacy is built represents Christ as having said to Peter, in effect: "Peter, I have to leave the earth. I won't be the Head of the Church any longer. I'm making YOU, Peter, the Head of the Church, in my stead. I'm turning all the authority over to you, and those whom men shall elect as your successors. I'm bowing out. You are taking over—taking my place, ruling in my stead."

The Roman Catholic Church does not call Christ the present living Head of their Church. That title they give to their pope. So theirs is NOT the government of GOD, thru CHRIST as living HEAD of the Church, ruling thru ministers of HIS choosing. On the contrary, it is a counterfeit HUMAN government swayed by Satan.

Until the time of Luther, this counterfeit Church government, however, *did prevent division!* The Roman Church continued many centuries undivided. But the system of *applying the principle* of Church government was all wrong. It ruled by the will of man, Satan-inspired.

It preserved unity by physical FORCE. It was the instrument of Satan. Therefore its fruits were EVIL!

Why Protestants Divided

The Protestant movement failed to correct what was wrong. Because the Catholic government was a counterfeit *mis-rule*, they abolished the rule, instead of yielding themselves to the divine government of GOD. They reasoned that every man ought to do what was right *in his own eyes*.

And what resulted? John and Charles Wesley came along and disagreed with Luther on certain points of doctrine. There was no CENTRAL AUTHORITY in the Protestant Church as GOD'S instrument to define the true BIBLE doctrines. The Wesleys were strong leaders. Hundreds, then thousands, followed them like sheep, and a new denomination appeared.

Different ideas arose as to whether there should be some kind of limited church government. Some wanted a limited government by the elders and ministers—the presbytery. Others wanted DEMOCRACY—government by the whole congregation. So, in addition to the Lutheran Church following the human Luther, and the Methodists following the Wesleys, the world soon had the Presbyterian and Congregational churches.

They went the way that seemed right in their own eyes. But, devout though they were, they had no firm basis for UNITY. They split and re-split, and today we have *hundreds* of Protestant denominations!

The ideas held by a small few in the Church today, enunciated at the beginning of this article, have been put to the test of experience and TIME. And they have proved the very CAUSE of division and confusion. They have not unified the Church members in TRUTH—but *divided* them in ERROR!

But What IS Unity?

Let's let GOD tell us what He means by UNITY.

Paul's final word to the Corinthians was this: "Finally, brethren, farewell. Be perfect, be of good comfort, *be of one mind, live in peace.*" Being of ONE MIND is the WAY to peace, and unity. (II Cor. 13:11).

"... stand fast in ONE SPIRIT, with ONE MIND, striving together for the faith of the Gospel." (Phil. 1:27).

"Fulfil ye my joy, *that ye be like-minded*, having the same love, being of *one accord, of one mind.*" (Phil. 2:2). Notice how being AGREED and of ONE MIND is continually connected with true LOVE in God's Word! It says nothing about showing love by disagreement. God FORBIDS you to do according to what is right in your own eyes!

"Can two walk together, except they be agreed?" (Amos 3:3).

"Let this MIND be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus." (Phil. 2:5). Is Christ's mind divided?

Two men in the Church at Philippi were in disagreement over some point. In his letter to the church there, Paul gave them a command. He did NOT say, "each of you go ahead believing what is right in your own eyes, and have tolerance toward the other." He rather commanded "that they be *of the same mind* IN THE LORD." (Phil. 4:2). Notice carefully, not merely of the same mind! Not the same mind in error. But IN THE LORD!

One person who did not know past history correctly said that years ago, when I was working as a minister with the "Sardis" Church (Rev. 3:1-6) which God says is now "dead" (spiritually), and I did not agree with a few points of doctrine and practice laid down by the ministers, that I did not accept their dictums. But the "Sardis" Church already was spiritually dead, and the time for the "Philadelphia" Church had come.

What this person does not know is that on one occasion the leader of the ministers of that Church admitted to me that the Church position on a doctrine in question was wrong, and that I was right—but, he said, the Church would not dare correct its error.

On another occasion he admitted to me, in writing (I have the letter), that God had revealed to me a great TRUTH about our national identity as the House of Israel. But neither he nor his Church would *accept* this TRUTH, *even though he privately agreed it was TRUTH!* On another occasion this minister asked me to deliberately REJECT truth and light from the Bible, and to preach what he

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Heart to Heart Talk with the Editor

IT SHOULD be explained that pressure of the duties of the office in which God has placed me has delayed more than a year the writing of the two articles appearing in this number.

I have sincerely felt, after having read these articles set in type, after the writing of them had gotten "cold," that the truth will surely be made completely plain, and will be wholly accepted by all members of God's Church.

But I feel I should explain briefly that these articles were written with one foundational assumption confidently taken for granted. Dear Brethren in Christ, I have most assuredly ASSUMED that the *source* of our belief and practice is GOD, and that God speaks to us thru HIS WORD, the Holy Bible.

Do you realize the one basic *difference* between God's true Church, and all others—the difference between it and *the world*? That difference is simply the difference in the SOURCE of our religion.

Religion is a system of faith and devotion to a Superior Authority—the belief and practice required by that Superior Authority. All professing Christian denominations claim to believe in God, and in Christ. But, actually, is GOD the

real *source* of their belief and practice?

To them, God is unreal—as if He were far off. At birth they knew nothing about God. Whatever knowledge has come into their minds, naturally, has of necessity come thru the five channels of the five senses. But they have never *seen* nor *heard* God, nor *touched* Him. They have heard *about* Him, and that from those around them. Their only sources are physical, not spiritual. So God seems unreal.

But the world around them seems REAL—because they *see* the people and the things of the world; they *hear* and *touch* them; they taste and smell the things in the world. And because the very NATURE in man causes them to *want to be well thought of* by other people—to appear "acceptable" in the eyes of others—in order to avoid the uncomfortable experience of feeling INFERIOR, people by nature accept the beliefs and practices of the world about them.

They don't realize it. They have heard *about* God. Their world about them professes to believe in God. The churches of the world even claim to believe and follow the Bible—by interpreting their own meaning into it. They seem to believe that God speaks to man thru his *conscience*, and then carelessly assume this squares with the Bible. But whether they realize it or not, the actual SOURCE of the beliefs and practices of nearly all people is SOCIETY—THIS WORLD! And, realize it or not, this is the very essence of WORLDLINESS!

Brethren, you and I were born in such a world. It has been all about us. We have been influenced by it far more than we suppose. And, *within*, is human nature, which wants to *belong*—wants to *go along*—wants to be *well thought of* by the world—acceptable to the world—and which by nature *dreads* the criticism of society around us, or that inferior feeling of not being acceptable or well thought of. This is VANITY, springing from an inherent inferiority complex born in every one of us.

This is part of the SELF that we must *overcome!*

It is the OVERCOMERS who shall inherit the Kingdom of God and sit with Christ on His throne. God's Word shows us that we have two things to overcome

—the *self within* us which is human nature, and the *world around* us, which is, in a larger sense, Satan the devil—for the world is under his sway!

If the true SOURCE of your religion is GOD, as He reveals truth and right ways thru HIS BIBLE—if HE is the object of your devotion and worship—then I *know* you will find His truth on the subjects of facial make-up and church government made clear and plain in these articles, and you will accept HIS TRUTH with joy and rejoicing. But if the SOURCE of what you believe and practice is the world around you, then you will not accept this Bible truth which runs counter to the hereditary NATURE of fearing the opinions, customs and dictates of the world—of wanting to conform to and be well thought of by the world. If this powerful pull of the world and of human nature proves stronger than the truth of God, then this world and its Satan is, in actual fact, the SOURCE of your religion—it is THE GOD THAT YOU SERVE AND WORSHIP, while deceiving yourself in the delusion that you believe in and worship the true God.

What is written in this issue of *The Good News* may be the fateful test of eternity for some we have loved as our brethren.

God made us all free moral agents. God alone lays down the LAW defining *what* is sin—but He decrees that each of us must decide for ourselves *whether* to sin. And so, CHOOSE YE THIS DAY WHOM YOU WILL SERVE! As Elijah said, "How long halt ye between two opinions? If The ETERNAL be God, *follow Him!*—but if the world and its customs and opinions, then follow the world." But, as God commanded, "CHOOSE LIFE!" And, of course, all of our brethren will! May God richly bless you all!

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RULE in the Church

(Continued from page 3)

and ministers in his political control decreed.

The one big disagreement that finally severed them totally from being any longer God's living Church, and started the "Philadelphia" Church, was the matter of God's holy days. They rejected this TRUTH. I remained firm in being "of the same mind IN THE LORD,"—not apart from the Lord. I state this to set the record straight.

GOD had chosen me and set me in His Church as His Minister. God was using me as His instrument in developing the "Philadelphia" Church. God has set HIS ministers to lead the people in TRUTH—to tell the people their SINS, which they cannot do unless they are inspired and empowered of God's Spirit to be able, under His guidance, to DETERMINE what is sin, and what is truth. This case of mine has no connection with lay members rejecting TRUTH defined by GOD thru His Ministers.

The true Church will "be of the SAME MIND one toward another," IN THE LORD—in His TRUTH, as inspired by His Spirit. (Rom. 12:16).

What is GOD'S WAY TO UNITY?

"Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, *that ye all speak the same thing*, and that there be NO DIVISIONS among you" [speaking *different* things, having disagreement on these points, MEANS *division!*—not unity]; "but that ye be perfectly joined together IN THE SAME MIND and in the same judgment." (1 Cor. 1:10).

There it is!

The Church is to be perfectly joined together—that's UNITY! But HOW?—"in the SAME MIND"—"all speaking the same thing." But it must be the RIGHT thing, and it must be the MIND OF CHRIST!

Now, I ask you, brethren, HOW can this be possible, when different minds see things in different ways. UNLESS GOD HAS PROVIDED A CENTRAL AUTHORITY, DIRECTLY INSPIRED AND LED OF CHRIST, WHICH CAN RIGHTLY APPLY THE PRINCIPLES OF GOD'S LAW IN DOUBTFUL INSTANCES WHERE MINDS LESS MATURE SPIRITUALLY CANNOT CLEARLY AGREE?

Did God Himself set any such central AUTHORITY in His Church? We shall see. You shall read it in your own Bible! Not my ideas—but GOD'S WORD!

Christ PREVENTS Division

What *is* the true Church of God? It is that collective body of conquered, Spirit-begotten children of God, in and thru which God, by His Spirit, carries on His mission on earth which He *started* in and thru the individual human body of Jesus. It has a WORK TO DO. It is the most important work on earth. The Church is God's instrument—His spiritual organism—which He uses to accomplish His purpose on earth for this time.

The Church—this BODY OF CHRIST—is composed of many human members, but it is ONE BODY, "firly joined together and compacted." Christ is the living HEAD of His Church, and in Spirit He is IN the Church. He guides it. He governs it! The Church is His organization—its members His staff. He cannot allow disagreement and divisions.

A house divided against itself cannot stand. Therefore Christ, of necessity, had to provide A WAY of preventing disagreement and divisions. *Unless* Christ set up machinery within His Church—a central AUTHORITY thru which HE, the living HEAD of the Church, may settle all differences and reveal all TRUTH, these disagreements which are bound to arise would become a *threat* to the stability of the Church and the very continuance of GOD'S WORK!

Christ *did* set up just such an authority!

Remember, every member starts out as "a babe in Christ." Some have grown to varying degrees of spiritual maturity not yet attained by others. Remember, too, God's Word does not always give an explicit and direct teaching on every point. Some passages are vague, hard to be understood—as Peter wrote that many of Paul's writings are. The unlearned and unstable often wrest these to their own destruction (II Pet. 3:16).

Yet bear in mind, *with emphasis*, it is GOD'S LAW, in His Word, that defines SIN. Not even the Apostle Paul was able to know, of his own mind or reason, apart from the Law, what was right or wrong *for him*. Man is not allowed to

decide, for himself, *what* is sin. GOD decides that—and reveals it by His Law. But, as stated above, God's LAW is a great over-all LAW OF SPIRITUAL PRINCIPLES! It must be defined, and obeyed, *according to its SPIRIT*. Its PRINCIPLES must be applied rightly, guided by the Holy Spirit, to many points not literally and specifically covered by its letter!

But, again, all members of the Church do not have ability *rightly* to apply the PRINCIPLES of the Law, aided by Biblical examples, in order to define what is or is not SIN in relation to some of these occasional isolated questions.

The very fact of *disagreement* among members demonstrates this fact. And it is *when* there is such disagreement—when questions are left undefined by CHRIST'S authority and threaten division in the Body—that the very machinery Christ set within His Church for defining such questions must be put into action.

When there is such disagreement among members—as we have already seen in the Church in the question of which day is the Passover—the 14th or the 15th Abib; which day is Pentecost—Monday, or Sunday; is the use of make-up a sin; THEN if individuals are left to decide for themselves, each has decided, for himself, WHAT is or is not SIN! But *only* GOD can decide and reveal to us WHAT is sin! Therefore it is when such occasions arise that we must resort to THE WAY Christ Himself established by which HE defines what is or is not sin in this matter. The individual member is left a free moral agent to decide WHETHER to accept it and OBEY, or to reject GOD'S LAW, as Christ by HIS WAY in the Church defines it, and to disobey.

But every member ought to TREMBLE before such a decision. For "if we SIN WILFULLY," after God has revealed the knowledge, "there remaineth no more sacrifice for sin, but a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall DEVOUR the adversaries." Such a one automatically puts himself out of God's Church and God's grace.

WHAT Is an ELDER?

The question becomes, then *what machinery*, or what *central authority*, has

Christ set up in His Church, by which HE defines for us—by His absolute AUTHORITY—what is or is not SIN in the case of questions not specifically covered by the letter of the Law?

To understand, we need to know WHY God has called and chosen ELDERS which He has set in His Church. All ministers, of whatever rank, are elders. An apostle is an elder. A pastor is an elder. An evangelist is an elder. Some elders have higher rank than others.

Remember, human minds, material and carnal until conversion, are not made spiritually perfect at once. It is a matter of GROWTH. In this process of spiritual growth, some minds develop in spiritual abilities and knowledge more rapidly than others. Some apply themselves more diligently—study harder—spend more time in prayer and study and meditation. Some have a higher degree of natural ability, greater depth, and God adds spiritual gifts according to our own natural ability (Mat. 25:15). Some have continued this process of spiritual-minded development over a longer span of years than others.

Do you realize, brethren, it is *these*, who are *most advanced*, SPIRITUALLY, that are spiritually OLDER than the others? They may be younger in physical years. But, spiritually speaking, they are the ELDERS in the Church, because they are spiritually OLDER. And it is these, not only older in spiritual knowledge, but in abilities for the work of the ministry, whom Christ has CHOSEN as His ministers! This is WHY God calls them the ELDERS!

And it is THESE, who form the *central authority*, or the instrument *within* the Church, thru whom CHRIST HIMSELF may REVEAL the true definition of HIS LAW, and SETTLE such disputes or differences of opinion.

A Headquarters Church

God has always had a headquarters Church. In apostolic days it was at Jerusalem. All the other churches and members scattered abroad looked to the apostles and elders at Jerusalem, who were led and directed by Christ, to settle every such doubtful point.

You are familiar, of course, with the dispute that arose in the church at Antioch. That disagreement threatened to

divide the Church. The question at issue was whether it was right or wrong to do certain things—what kind of conduct was required—whether it was sin—just like this cosmetic question. The headquarters Church at Jerusalem RULED on the question. Their ruling was not their own—they were led in it by the Holy Spirit. It was then *no longer a question!* It was thereafter BOUND IN HEAVEN! It became the LAW OF GOD. It was so accepted by the Church at Antioch. Had any individual member there disagreed—had any said, "I don't want any ministers at Jerusalem telling me that what I believe or think is wrong. I have just as much right to my views as they have to theirs!" that member would have been resisting the DECISION OF GOD, *bound in Heaven*, and would have been put out of the Church.

Yes, it may be true that the individual member has just as much right to HIS VIEWS as the ministers have to theirs. But when such a decision is rendered, it is NOT the personal views or ideas of the ministers—it is the revealed DECISION OF CHRIST, THE HEAD OF THE CHURCH! It becomes, then, a specific, definite "THUS SAITH THE LORD."

The one BIG POINT in *your life*—that which determines your ETERNITY—is the matter of TOTAL SUBMISSION TO THE AUTHORITY OF GOD! What is it that cuts man off from God? It is REBELLION against God's AUTHORITY!

Did God Put GOVERNMENT in His Church?

But, *if* there be any left who still ask the question, DID God put actual *government*, and RULE, in His Church?—did He actually invest His ministers with *authority*? or does God rule His children *only* individually and personally, thru the Bible ALONE, just as each individual sees it for himself?—here is the answer!

What about this thing of CHURCH GOVERNMENT? Did GOD put it there? Does GOD command us to be submissive to it? Five or six articles have been published in The GOOD NEWS proving that God did put government in His Church—that God rules us collectively, in and thru the Church, as well as individually.

Let's make this PLAIN, once and for all! It is indeed PLAIN in YOUR BIBLE!

First, then, in I Corinthians 12, we have the plain instruction about the spiritual gifts God has put within His Church. Verse 4, there are diversities of gifts, for different purposes and functions in the Church. Verse 5: there are differences of *administrations*.

What is an "administration?" It is the office of performing a function, operation, service. It is the GOVERNING, or EXECUTING function. We have our Administration building on the college campus—containing the offices of the executives who direct, manage, govern. When we speak of the Administration at Washington, D.C., we refer to the function of the President. And what is that administrative function? The ENFORCING of the LAWS of the government—laws already made—not the *making* of laws—the actual *governing!*

So, then, there are ADMINISTRATIONS—or executive, administrative, *governing* functions IN GOD'S CHURCH!

Verse 6: There are diversities of operations. That is, of activities being carried on. Now for the executing of these activities, these various operations, administrations, which become the WORK and ACTIVITY of God's Church, God gives to one the gift of wisdom, to another knowledge, to others, faith, to others gifts of healing, etc. Does this have anything to do with ruling, or government? Does one need *wisdom*, to be a wise and just ruler? Does one need knowledge or faith to govern, to judge, to make decisions? Most assuredly he does!

Notice verse 18: It is GOD, not man or the vote of members, who sets members in various functions and offices, *as it has pleased HIM*. All do not have the same office, operation, or administration. But what offices has God set in His Church?

"And GOD hath set some in the Church, first APOSTLES, secondarily *prophets*, thirdly *teachers* (including pastors), after that miracles, then gifts of healing, helps, GOVERNMENTS, diversities of tongues."

So God *did* set GOVERNMENTS in His Church. We will demonstrate that abundantly by other texts later.

But, are *all* apostles? No. Are *all* teachers? NO! Have all the gifts of healing? NO! Do all sit in office of govern-

ment? No. *God has SET some in His Church to govern.* And when you resist that government, YOU DISOBEY GOD, and that disobedience is SIN, the penalty of which is ETERNAL DEATH—*loss of salvation!*

We find these administrative offices also in Ephesians 4. Let's notice it carefully.

There is only ONE BODY—one true Church—verse 4. And *in* that one Church, "HE—GOD—gave some, *apostles*; and some, *prophets*; and some, *evangelists*; and some, *pastors*, and *teachers*:"—WHY?

What is the function of these offices:

"... *for the perfecting of the saints*," is mentioned first. How can the saints be perfected, if each sees vague and obscure points differently, each goes off a different way, controversy and division separates them and destroys unity and cooperation and LOVE? Can you see the need of UNITY—of discipline? Well, read on!

"... *for the work of the ministry*," is next mentioned as the function of these offices. The first commission in the work of the ministry is to proclaim the Gospel to the world as a witness. That's a gigantic task. In today's world, with the mass-communication facilities God has made available, it is actually BIG BUSINESS, and it cannot be efficiently operated without organization. And that, in turn, automatically calls for AUTHORITY—one at the top responsible for top-level decisions and policies, others under him as heads of departments, others under them in other supervisory operations. And all this requires government and discipline. Otherwise we would have confusion, utter failure.

Also part of the ministry is feeding the flock. This involves local church congregations. Here, also, there must be organization and discipline, or we have confusion. All this is made PLAIN by many other Scriptures we shall come to later.

"... *for the edifying of the body of Christ*," is the next function mentioned. HOW can apostles, evangelists, pastors, and preaching elders *edify*, or *instruct*, the congregations, if we are all divided on which date the Church should meet for Pentecost, or whether lip-stick is a sin, or whether physical circumcision is

required? If we are all divided, one comes to have one faith, another a different faith, and finally we have hundreds of sects and denominations. But WHY did God set these OFFICERS in His Church?

"... *TILL we all come in the UNITY of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man.*" Also read Rom. 10:13-17.

Yes, there it is—*government* is in the Church to bring ALL in the Church into UNITY, not into confusion and division. Unity in KNOWLEDGE! The knowledge of the Son of God is CHRIST'S knowledge.

Back in Antioch some thought it was CHRIST'S knowledge that all males should be circumcised—others believed that was NOT Christ's true knowledge. The Headquarters Church at Jerusalem *settled* it, HOW? By taking away free moral agency from those at Antioch? No! By *defining*, as led by GOD'S SPIRIT, what was Christ's true knowledge. This brought the Church into the UNITY of that knowledge, and saved division. This GOVERNMENT in the Church did not split up the Church—it UNIFIED it!

But Do These Officers Bear RULE?

But one hard to convince may still say, "Yes, but I don't believe those officers were put in the Church to RULE! I want to see that very word 'RULE' *in the Bible*, in connection with these officers."

All right—you shall see it! Read it in your own Bible!

Open your Bible to I Timothy 3. Notice the qualifications for the office of elder, or bishop, as it is here called. The terms elder and bishop are synonymous and interchangeably used in the New Testament. Remember, *all these* officials God set in His Church are ELDERS. Peter was an elder. Evangelists, pastors—all are elders, or bishops.

An elder, or bishop, then, must be (verse 4): "*one that RULETH well* his own house, having his children *in subjection* with all gravity, for if a man know not how to RULE his own house, how shall he take care of the Church of God?" That's PLAIN! He must be able to RULE!

God makes even plainer what He

means by saying, in I Tim. 5:17: "Let the elders that RULE well be counted worthy of double honor, *especially they who labor in the WORD and DOCTRINE.*" That is, those who RULE in questions of the WORD—questions about what the Bible says—and of DOCTRINE—of determining or defining the true MEANING of God's Word—defining DOCTRINE.

Notice Romans 12. In the Church are many members, but it is ONE BODY (verse 4). We are one Body in Christ (verse 5). We have various spiritual gifts (verse 6). Like I Cor. 12 and Eph. 4, here is instruction regarding the *administrations* in the Church. Now, (verse 8): "*be that RULETH, with diligence.*" In plainest language this says God has set some to RULE in the Church, and they should RULE with *diligence!*

Now look at I Thes. 5:12-13: "And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labor among you, *and are over you in the Lord* [bear RULE], and esteem them very highly in love, for their work's sake. *And be at peace* among yourselves." All of God's true *yielded* children will do that—the rebellious will not. That is *the way* to PEACE among ourselves. It is GOD'S WAY!

Paul Shows RULE in Church

The Epistles of Paul form a large part of the New Testament. They are *corrective*. They have to do with *problems* that arose in the Church, which Paul *settled with authority*. They are *administrative* letters. In them Paul shows plainly the *authority* vested in him as God's apostle. These letters of Paul show God's Church GOVERNMENT *in action!*

Notice this Bible *command*: "I beseech you, brethren, (ye know the house of Stephanas, that it is the first fruits [first converts] of Achaia, and that they have [devoted] themselves *to the ministry* of the saints), that *ye submit yourselves unto such.*" (I Cor. 16:15-16). Members at Corinth were commanded to SUBMIT to the authority vested in these ministers.

Here's the Bible command to Israelites in the Church: "Remember them that have the RULE over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God, whose faith follow." (Heb. 13:7).

Then again, "OBEY them that have the RULE over you, and *submit your-*

selvex: for they watch for your souls, as they must give account" of their RULE! (Heb. 13:17).

In writing to the Church at Corinth, Paul showed his authority in I Cor. 4:18-21: "Now some are puffed up, as though I would not come unto you. But I will come shortly, if the Lord will, and will know, not the speech of them that are puffed up, but the power. For the Kingdom of God is not in word, but in power. *What will ye? shall I come unto you with a rod*, or in love, and in the spirit of meekness?"

Continuing, I Cor. 5:1-2, 13: "It is commonly reported that there is fornication among you, and such fornication as is not so much as named among the Gentiles, that one should have his father's wife. And ye are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he that hath done this deed might be taken away from among you. For I, verily, as absent in body, but present in spirit, have judged already, as though I were present, concerning him that hath so done this deed . . . Therefore put away from among yourselves that wicked person."

There, brethren, is God's RULE in action, thru His chosen apostle! Is Jesus Christ THE SAME today? Does Christ RULE, in His Church, thru His apostles and ministers *in the same manner*, TODAY? He does! He's the SAME today!

Now brethren, IF we are members of the true Church of God, that same authority—that same RULE by CHRIST thru His chosen ministers, is in His Church today. If any do not wish to submit to GOD'S RULE, as God Himself has chosen to administer it—THRU CHRIST—thru His apostle and ministers—then they have not surrendered to GOD and His authority over them—they have not repented—they have not even made the very *first step* toward conversion, and they certainly are NOT members of the Body of Christ!

II Cor. 13:10: "I write this . . . *that when I come I may not have to be severe in my use of the AUTHORITY which the Lord has given me.*" (Revised Standard translation. Moffatt, the Numerics translation, and others, use the word AUTHORITY.)

II Cor. 10:8: "For though I should boast somewhat more of our AUTHORITY, which the Lord hath given us for

edification, and not for your destruction, I should not be ashamed. . . . But we will not boast of things without our measure, but according to the measure of the RULE which God hath distributed to us, a measure to reach even unto you."

Rule of CHRIST—not of Ministers!

Brethren, that ought to settle it!

Submission to authority is the basic theme of the Bible. You will find it when God first talked to man and instructed him, in Genesis 2. You will find it all thru Genesis and all the books of Moses. You find it as the central thread woven all thru the historic books of the Old Testament. You find it in Psalms, Proverbs and all the poetic books. You find it in all the prophets. You find it the dominant key-note in all that Jesus taught and preached in the four Gospel books. You find it the basic tenet of the Apostle Paul's inspired writings. You find it in James, Peter, John, Jude. You find it woven all thru the Book of Revelation, even unto the last chapter in all the Bible.

Voluntary submission to the rule of GOD, coupled with FAITH in Jesus Christ as Saviour—that is the WHOLE duty of this present life, working out the PURPOSE of life, and attaining to our true goal, being born into the Kingdom of God!

As *you*, even as an individual, are called to dedicate yourself to the Christian life, God has provided a *two-fold* Christian duty in order to develop you and prepare you for The KINGDOM OF GOD. First of all God lays on each of us his *part* in the *Work of GOD*—the mission of the Church. Secondly, you must, even apart from our collective mission, *overcome* the world and the self within you, *grow* in knowledge and grace by continuous Bible study, prayer, and experience, and endure in this way unto the end.

But the very first duty of life becomes, for each of us, our united work *together with Christ* in THE WORK OF GOD—the mission of the Church.

In this all-important work, the living CHRIST, as High Priest and HEAD of the Church, is actually IN His Church. Christ *directs* the work. The Church is His Body—His instrument—His organi-

zation. He is its HEAD!

Now how could the head of a large business organization run that business and accomplish its objective without RULE? How could the President of the United States run the government of the nation if department heads, or lesser employes in the federal government were allowed to form policies contrary to those set in the government from the top?

God is not the author of confusion. In HIS Body there must be UNITY—absolute accord—teamwork—all working together AS CHRIST DIRECTS AND LEADS.

And so God has placed GOVERNMENT in His Church. It is the government of GOD. It is government from the top down. God the Father is at the top. Christ does nothing of Himself—but He acts as the Father commands Him. And Christ, in turn RULES His Church. He rules it, first, thru His own chosen apostles, then next under them in rank thru evangelists, then pastors, then other elders.

But it is the rule of CHRIST—not of men. We ministers must submit to Christ's rule, the same as other members.

God's ministers are conscious, above all things, of their *subjection* to Christ's RULE over them. No man may be ordained into God's ministry unless he has shown and demonstrated his surrender to GOD, and to GOD'S RULE over his life and his actions. No man is ever placed in position to GIVE orders which must have come from above, until after he has demonstrated he is willing to *take* orders.

HOW the Church RULES on Disputed Questions

Now how does God's Church, today, actually arrive at a decision and make it a ruling, binding on the whole Church—and BOUND IN HEAVEN?

When there was a dispute in the Church at Antioch in the days of the original apostles, the question was *settled* thru God's Headquarters Church at Jerusalem. But those apostles and elders were mere *instruments* of CHRIST. Read it again, in the 15th chapter of Acts. Peter, given top rank over other apostles by Christ, actually was the instrument used to indicate the decision.

Notice HOW this decision came. Verse
(Please continue on page 22)

WHAT The Church Ruled on Make-up and WHY!

The real question that had to be determined by God's Word: "Is its use SIN?" Here is the answer . . . with surprise Scriptures you never realized were in the Bible, giving the definite, specific answer!

by Herbert W. Armstrong

THIS matter of the right or wrong of using make-up was becoming controversial. Some members had intense convictions one way, others just as decided beliefs the other way. Many were not sure. They were waiting for the Church to define the answer as a plain "*Thus saith the lord.*"

And so this make-up question *had to be settled!* To permit it to *remain* a question—a source of uncertainty, argument, generating strife and division—in God's Church could not be allowed.

WHY the Ruling Had to Be Made

What, then, was the real question involved?

The question was simply this: "Is the use of lip-stick and other facial make-up A SIN?"

"Is it a SIN?" some might ejaculate in surprise. "Why, I never thought of such a universal custom as being a SIN!"

Perhaps most have never thought of it in this light. Yet that was the real question, and the ministers of Jesus Christ are required to *know* what is sin.

God's ministers are commanded by God to show the people their SINS, to teach them also *in the right ways of God*, and to prevent division in the Church. We ministers had to *know*—we had to be SURE, and to be of one mind "speaking the same thing."

Who DECIDES What Is Sin?

The very first thing we all need to get settled once for all in our minds is this:

GOD DOES NOT ALLOW US TO DECIDE WHAT IS SIN! God does not allow you lay members to decide what is right or wrong for *you*, nor does He allow

His ministers to decide what is right for us, *or* for you!

GOD HIMSELF lays down the law! Sin is the transgression of GOD'S law, not our ideas or convictions. The Apostle Paul was not permitted to decide *what* was right or wrong for *him*. He plainly says, in holy Scripture, that had he done merely those things which *he thought* were right, he would have yielded to lust. He plainly wrote: "I had not known sin, but *by the Law*: for I had not known lust, except the Law had said, 'Thou shalt not covet.'" And that Law is the Spiritual Law—the Ten Commandments!

Brethren, is there any TRUTH more clear to us in God's true Church than the truth that *sin is the transgression of GOD'S LAW*? That's what sin *is!* Not the transgression of our ideas, our convictions, our beliefs, our consciences!

God permits no man to decide for himself WHAT is sin. God *does* allow each individual to decide WHETHER he will obey, or *whether* he will commit sin.

"But," some might exclaim, "I never thought of any connection between lip-stick and the Ten Commandments! Surely the Ten Commandments do not say anything about painting the lips or the face."

Perhaps you have a surprise coming. Just read on, and you shall see that God's Law is *all-inclusive*. It covers the WHOLE DUTY of man. It covers, in principle, *everything* that can be sin!

So what we needed to find out, in order to know whether the use of lip-stick and make-up is wrong, was just as simple as that! The only question was whether it transgresses GOD'S LAW! Is its use SIN? If it is, then it is plain enough to all that every member *must*

quit sinning! Whoever continues in sin, wilfully, after receiving the knowledge of the truth is *doomed to eternal DEATH!*

It is not enough to say, as one member wrote me: "I am willing to obey God in all things which I THINK are His will." *We* must obey what GOD SAYS is His will, and cease doing what GOD SAYS is sin.

Lip-Stick Not Mentioned By Name

The English word "lip-stick" is not used anywhere in any English translation or version of the Bible. Nor do we find the modern words "make-up" or "cosmetics." Most members have believed that the right or wrong of using make-up is not directly or specifically mentioned in the Scriptures.

Actually, God's Word *does* reveal *directly* and specifically whether this alteration of the appearance of the face is sin! This will come as quite a surprise to nearly every member. For not even the ministers realized this until, as instruments in the hands of CHRIST, we began making special study and research into this question. The reason is that it is not clearly translated, in our English versions, into the words that we use today.

But when we came before CHRIST, the living Head of the Church, beseeching Him in prayer to reveal HIS LAW as it applies to this point and to settle the question even as He settled the Antioch circumcision question thru His Headquarters Church at Jerusalem (Acts 15), then the truth was plainly revealed.

HOW is it possible that painting the lips, cheeks, or eyes could be either forbidden or approved by God's LAW? It's time we realize that the Spiritual Law

covers *every act* of right or wrong.

God's Law is a great inexorable over-all Law of SPIRITUAL PRINCIPLES! It is not merely ten literal and specific commands. It must be obeyed according to all the scope of its SPIRIT, as well as its literal letter.

The Principle of the Law

All the spiritual Law may be summed up in one word—LOVE. Love is a spiritual principle. As the *principle* of the law is applied, it enlarges into the *two* great laws—LOVE toward *God* and LOVE toward human *neighbor*. Love toward God, in turn, is enlarged into the first four of the Ten Commandments. And Love toward neighbor is enlarged into the last six of the Ten Commandments.

But Jesus showed us, in His earthly ministry, how He magnifies the law further, according to the application of its *principle*. To merely look upon a woman lustfully is to violate the spirit of the law against adultery. To merely *bate* a brother breaks the law against murder.

Now when it comes to this lip-stick matter, not many in the Church were sufficiently advanced and mature spiritually to know how to *apply* the SPIRIT or the PRINCIPLE of God's Law to this act of changing facial appearance by painting or cosmetics.

Yet the matter had to be decided. It threatened division in the Church. The ministers must be able to KNOW whether such a given act is sin, that we may show God's people their sins. Christ has set up a procedure in His Church by which HE defines and reveals, for the whole Church, what is sin according to HIS LAW!

CHRIST Acted, and Ruled

Jesus Christ RULES His Church from heaven, as our High Priest, or HEAD. He set up this machinery within the Church, at the very beginning (Acts 15), whereby He defines, thru those spiritually the ELDERS in His Headquarters Church, the right application of HIS LAW to any such given question.

God's Church is a HOLY Church. It must be presented to Christ a *glorious* Church, without spot or wrinkle spiritually. In it there must be no antagonisms, controversies or divisions. There

must be no sin because of ignorance of the Law. It must be a Church made up of completely yielded begotten children of GOD. It must be God's instrument for finishing His work on earth.

Almost the entire New Testament is devoted to THE WAY God handles and settles all such questions and disputes which may start to arise in His Body. God has set up HIS WAY to settle disputed questions, maintain peace and harmony, and preserve unity in love and in TRUTH. Thus we may be UNITED in the TRUTH—all speaking the same thing—of one mind—the *mind* of CHRIST!

And so in this case JESUS CHRIST ACTED! He revealed the truth. He defined His Law as it applies to the matter of lip-stick and make-up.

It is NO LONGER A QUESTION! *Jesus Christ has spoken!* By His process He has defined and settled the matter and revealed HIS RULING thru His Headquarters Church. It is now a plain "THUS SAITH THE LORD." *It is bound in Heaven!*

The only *question*, now, is *whether* each member will OBEY GOD'S LAW, thus now defined and revealed to His Church!

A Surprise Scripture

And so we come directly to a definite and positive declaration of Scripture. We shall then show how this direct teaching reflects the principle of God's spiritual LAW.

The Church is founded upon the prophets, as well as the apostles, with Jesus Christ the chief corner-Stone (Eph. 2:20). One of those foundation prophets is Isaiah. His message is for us today.

He begins by saying: "HEAR, O heavens, and give ear, O earth, for THE ETERNAL HATH SPOKEN!" (Isa. 1:2). He is speaking of our people, even today—ISRAEL! An ox knows his owner, but Israel does not seem to know or obey their GOD! We are a sinful nation—we have forsaken the Eternal. (Verses 3 and 4). God pleads with us: "Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Eternal; though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be white as snow . . . IF ye be willing and obedient." Here is the promise of remission of sins thru Christ. This refers to NEW Testament Israel—TODAY!

In the 2nd chapter God's Word to us thru Isaiah comes to the *last days* (verse 2). These first 4 verses refer to the millennium. Then the message returns to our present time, just prior to the coming of Christ. The House of Jacob—our people—are replenished from the east—pagan beliefs and customs. One of these, we shall see later, is facial make-up! (verse 6). Our land also is full of silver and gold, neither is there any end of our treasures (v.7). Yes, we are the wealthiest nation that ever existed. *This was NOT true of ancient Israel.*

But our land is also full of IDOLS—worshipping the things our own hands have manufactured and made! (Verse 8). It is the very *present*, when the DAY OF THE LORD is near (verse 12). God is soon going to abolish our idols, our pride and vanity, our sins (verses 17-18).

It continues into chapter 3.

Children will begin to boss parents and rule over them (verse 4). That is happening right now! Children are their oppressors, and WOMEN "wear the pants" (verse 12). They cause us to SIN, and lead us in WRONG PATHS.

Now verse 16: "Moreover the ETERNAL saith, because the daughters of Zion (U.S. and Britain) are haughty, and walk with stretched forth necks and *wanton eyes* . . . therefore the ETERNAL will smite with a scab the crown of the head of the daughters of Zion, . . ." and dire punishments for SIN follow.

Now what are "*wanton eyes*?" As this is translated into the English language you don't catch the real meaning inspired by God into the original Hebrew words at all!

Actually, when the meaning of the inspired *Hebrew* is examined, there is no one word in the English language to convey the intended meaning. And rather than use a whole sentence or two to express the inspired meaning, the translators have chosen this one word "*wanton*."

The English word they did use, "*wanton*," is defined by Webster as *unchaste, lewd, licentious, immoral*, etc. This expresses the spirit and character back of the act described, but not the method by which such lewdness and licentiousness is manifested. It seems to be about as near as the translators could



Here you see a picture of a painted limestone bust of the Egyptian Queen Nefertari, the wife of Akhnaton, who was the father-in-law of King Tut-Ank-Amon. The paint on this bust, preserved for nearly 3,000 years, shows the manner in which Egyptian women of note adorned themselves with cosmetics—plucked and redrawn eyebrows, shadowed eyes and painted lips. While visiting Egypt in 1956, Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong obtained the original full-color photograph.

get in rendering the Hebrew.

But let's understand the full and complete meaning of the Hebrew word. One thing the Commentaries do give us accurately is the technical meaning of Hebrew and Greek words.

Clarke Makes It Clear

First, notice the rendering of the Adam Clarke Commentary.

"Verse 16. *And wanton eyes*—'And

falsely setting off their eyes *with paint*.' Hebrew, *falsefying* their eyes."

Ah, NOW we begin to see the real intended inspired meaning!

REMEMBER—the custom of using PAINT to color and to change the looks of the face, to make it appear "prettier," originated in harlotry, as I will prove later. It was always used to seduce and lure men into LUST. In Bible times women painted their eyes, primarily—at

least the emphasis was then on the eyes, tho they also used some paint, frequently, on the cheeks and the lips. Some 40 years ago the emphasis was on the cheeks, tho some painted the eyes and the lips to a lesser degree. Today the emphasis is on the lips, tho to some extent women still paint, in lesser degree, the cheeks, and many the eyes.

The principle—the purpose—is the same, whether the painting emphasis is on the eyes, the cheeks, or the lips. WHAT it is, is just the same. WHERE it is placed may vary, with varying fads of the times. But it is all the same thing, so far as the principle of SIN is concerned.

Clarke further explains that this Hebrew word is closely associated with the noun "*sikra*" which the rabbis used for "*stibium*, the mineral which was commonly used in coloring the eyes . . . the Chaldee paraphrase explains it: *stibio linitis oculis*, 'with eyes dressed with stibium.' This fashion seems to have prevailed very generally among the Eastern people in ancient times; and they retain the very same to this day."

Actually, we saw a great deal of this on our recent visit to the Middle East.

From the "Critical and Experimental Commentary":

"16. and wanton eyes—Hebrew (*mesba-ququeroth*, from *shaquar*, to deceive.) 'deceiving with their eyes.' . . . *Lowth*, after the Chaldaic, 'falsely setting off the eyes with paint.' Women's eyelids in the East are often colored with stibium, or powder of lead."

These critical explanations make it plain that painting the face has, since ancient days, been intended to *falsify* the appearance of the face—to *deceive*! Women today may not like to admit it, but there can be no purpose in applying lip-stick or any kind of paint *except* to *change* the appearance of the face—and that very act means to **FALSIFY** the face—to **DECEIVE** those who see them as to what their real appearance actually is! The very **USE** of lip-stick or make-up, even tho a woman denies the motive in her heart, is to *change* the facial appearance—and this, in turn, is to *falsify*, and to *deceive*—which is not righteous or godly, but sinful.

Now from Lange's Commentary:

"The order of thought is as follows:

The luxurious *pride* of women, too, shall be humbled (ver. 16. 17). On ver. 16 sqq.—“The prophet here resumes the thread which had been dropped or broken at the close of ver. 12, and recurs to the undue predominance of female influence, but particularly to the prevalent excess of female luxury, not only as **SINFUL** in itself but as a chief cause of the violence and social disorder previously mentioned, and therefore to be **PUNISHED** by disease, widowhood, and shameful exposure.”

And so there, properly translated, is a **PLAIN SCRIPTURE** showing that the act of painting the face, (whether eyes, cheeks, or lips) is falsifying, intended to **DECEIVE**, an expression of **VANITY** which is the very basis of all sin, and therefore it becomes, with a plain “**THUS SAITH THE LORD,**” a **SIN!**

This, and the Scriptures that shall immediately follow, show that this almost universal custom, stimulated and kept alive in the interest of multi-million dollar profits by the big cosmetic manufacturers, is condemned by God Almighty as being a **SIN!**

HOW, and **WHY** it is a sin—**HOW** it violates the **SPIRIT OF THE LAW**—will be explained later in this article.

Where Make-Up Originated

Do you know where the use of make-up originated?

Actually the first “painted huzzy” was Semiramis, the original mother of harlots, human author and founder of the world’s religions and of abominations of the world.

Nationally, it came out of ancient Egypt. Nearly everything evil and sinful came out of Egypt. Egypt is used as the very **TYPE** of sin in the Scriptures.

When we were in Egypt this past spring we saw many of the statues and idols of ancient Egypt. Two things were most prominent in the statues of their ancient queens and the goddesses: the painting on their faces, which changed their natural appearance, and the thin-veiled gowns which exposed nudity underneath. They had changed themselves from a modest and virtuous appearance into one of sensuality.

Changing facial appearance by painting the face originated in harlotry. It was used originally *only* as a device of

harlots to attract men in a manner designed to break the 7th Commandment.

Its modern, popular and almost universal use today originated with the harlots of Paris. From there it travelled to the old red-light districts of San Francisco, Denver, New Orleans, Chicago, New York and other American cities. Then it was used by the street-walker prostitutes to attract and seduce men.

My wife remembers an incident that occurred when she was a little girl nine years old. Her father ran a small town general store. In the store she found two small packages of face-powder, one white, the other red. She began to apply some of the colored powder to her face. Her mother saw her, and quickly took the powder away from her.

“No, no! Loma,” said her mother. “You mustn’t ever put that on your face. Only the *bad* women use that!”

My mother remembers that she used to apply a little powder on her cheeks but doesn’t seem to remember at what time this custom started. But she does distinctly remember that her mother never once applied powder, paint, or any kind of cosmetic whatsoever to her face. She was a very virtuous and religious woman, and in her time “only the *bad* women” put paint or powder on their faces. My own mother, now past 90 years of age, very emphatically declares that no lip-stick ever touched her lips—a fact in which she takes great satisfaction.

The Encyclopedia Britannica says: “It is quite probable that cosmetics had their origin in the East, but it is necessary to turn to Egypt for the earliest records of these substances and their application.”

In the British Museum we found complete and elaborate “make-up” kits, beautifully carved unguent boxes in alabaster, ivory, or carved wood, dard, according to inscriptions, back to 3500 B.C. There were tiny ivory and wooden sticks and eye-lash brushes, combs, mirrors. Also materials for *dyeing the finger nails!* Even *that* custom came out of **EGYPT!**

According to the Britannica, the practice of facial subterfuge and deception by painting and make-up reached its zenith in the time of Cleopatra. The Britannica also states that the early inhabitants of Britain imported toilet articles *from the East*. In the passages from Isaiah cited above, chapter 2 and verse 6 says God is

forsaking and punishing the House of Jacob “because they be replenished from the East!” Yes, that’s where they got the make-up idea and materials!

Paint on the face in America was first used by the Indians, as “**WARPAINT.**” We regarded it as a heathen, savage custom! Yet our women have taken up the custom, copying from the harlots of Paris. The practice certainly did not originate from **GOD**, but from harlotry and heathenism. In 1770 the State of Pennsylvania passed a law that a marriage could be nullified if the wife had, in courtship, deceived and misled her prospective husband by having changed her appearance with make-up!

It Is BIG Business

The cosmetic industry has become one of America’s greatest industries. By the post-war year of 1919 it had risen to a volume of 82 million dollars. By 1925 it had mounted to \$147,000,000. But by 1955, the cosmetic industry spent in advertising to tempt the women into buying cosmetics **ONE MILLION more** dollars than their entire sales volume had been in 1925. Not including soap, but just *face-changing* cosmetics, the industry spent for advertising \$148,675,000! And according to the March 28 *New York Times*, American women in 1955 spent, to *change* the appearance of their faces (including perfumes), \$1,192,200,000!! That’s one **BILLION**, one hundred ninety-two **MILLION**, two hundred thousand dollars!

Perhaps most women do not realize, or won’t admit, the extent of their **VANITY** in wanting to make themselves prettier than they really are, *but the cosmetic manufacturers and their shrewd advertising men know!* The average American business cannot profitably spend more than ½ of 1% up to a maximum of 4% of sales volume in advertising. But apparently the cosmetic industry, due to female vanity, is able to spend 12½%, and make it pay! When male **GREED** cashes in on female **VANITY**, the result is fabulous profits for shrewd commercial interests!

Bible Examples

Jesus said we must *live by every Word of God*. God’s Holy Word teaches us with all *authority* **HOW TO LIVE!** We

find this teaching in direct commands, admonitions, and in recorded living examples.

God says: "Now all these things happened unto them (Old Testament experiences) for examples"—or, as better expressed in the Revised Standard Version: "*as a warning*, but they were written down for *our* instruction, upon whom the end of the age has come." (I Cor. 10:11).

God gives examples in the Bible of women who were righteous, meek, humble and obedient, and He also gives examples of women who were prostitutes—who were seductive and satanic influences on others.

And LISTEN!

In every single case where painting the face is mentioned in your Bible, GOD LABELS THE WOMAN A WHORE! Is that shocking? Yes, but TRUE! Painting the face is never once mentioned in connection with a virtuous woman! HOW does God label YOU? Every woman should ask herself that question.

Perhaps I have *seen* the oldest historic record of putting make-up on the face, on our recent visit to ancient Egypt. God uses Egypt as a TYPE of sin, especially in the lesson of Israel's deliverance from Egyptian bondage. Most of the pagan and sinful practices that befoul our western civilization today came out of Egypt.

In Egypt we saw many statues and paintings of ancient Egyptian women, and of their goddesses. Always their faces were painted.

But perhaps the oldest *written* records are found in the Bible.

First is the case of the Gentile daughter of a Zidonian King, Jezebel. King Ahab of Israel married her. God condemned this evil woman to a horrible death because of her great WHOREDOMS. Jezebel applied the "art" of make-up to her face to make herself *sexually attractive* in order to deceive and seduce men. God uses this vile woman as a type of the great *false church* (Rev. 2:20), who also is labeled in your Bible as a whore! Just as this original Jezebel painted her face to seduce men, so does this great collective woman deck herself out seductively, and attempt to *change her appearance* from her actual EVIL look, by deceiving the world into believing that she "looks" virtuous and pure and holy.



—Wide World Photo

Is this what YOU want to look like? Notice the make-up—the redrawn eyebrows—the painted lips and fingernails. WHY does this woman wear make-up? You guessed it!—she was taken into custody as a prostitute for breach of the vice laws of California! Is this the kind of woman you want to portray?

But notice the high-points of the story as it is in the Bible.

"In the thirty and eighth year of Asa king of Judah began Ahab the son of Omri to reign over Israel . . . And Ahab did evil in the sight of the Eternal above all that were before him. And it came to pass, as if it had been a light thing for him to walk in the sins of Jereboam, that he took to wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal king of the Zidonians (king of Sidon), and went and served Baal and worshipped him." (I Kings 16:30-31).

Later, Joram, son of Ahab and Jezebel, was reigning as king of Israel. With the king of Judah he went out against Jehu, whom God had appointed to succeed Joram as king.

"And it came to pass, when Joram saw Jehu, that he said, 'Is it peace, Jehu?' And he (Jehu) answered, 'What peace, so long as *the whoredoms of thy mother Jezebel* and her witchcrafts are so many?'" (II Ki. 9:22).

As Joram turned to flee, Jehu slew him.

Is It a "Light Thing?"

"And when Jehu was come to Jezreel, Jezebel heard of it; and *she painted her face*, and attired her head, and looked out at the window." (II Ki. 9:30). She was now making a desperate effort to seduce Jehu, lest he kill her. She resorted to all her wiles of harlotry, and lewdness.

WHY do women who profess to be

GOOD women resort to this same trick of deception to attract men today? WHY have modern women, *as if it were a light thing to walk in the sins of Jezebel*, made this an almost universal custom today? Will GOD'S women, "the LIGHT of the world,"—the only light remaining in this evil world—yield themselves "to be LIKE worldly women around them?"

From the very first historic records, *painting the face* has been an *integral part* of HARLOTRY, used to attract and seduce men! It was always part of the *equipment* of a harlot. That is a simple statement of FACT. It cannot be denied. The harlots of Paris use it. The whores of the old United States "red light" districts all used it. The street-walking prostitutes all used it *before* the professing "decent" women copied after these daughters of Jezebel.

Some women may say that "we don't use it for seductive purposes or as a device of harlotry today!" Of course not! But, in like manner I've heard preachers try to justify the pagan practices of observing Christmas by arguing, "But we don't use it for the purpose *they* did—for worshipping Baal. We have adopted their *custom* for the purpose of worshipping CHRIST."

But God says: "Thou shalt NOT enquire after their gods, saying, 'How did these nations serve their gods? even so will I do likewise.' Thou shalt NOT do so unto the Eternal thy God: for *every abomination to the Eternal, which He hateth*, have they done unto their gods; . . . Whatsoever I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it." (Deut. 12:30-32).

GOD COMMANDS US NOT TO FOLLOW THESE ABOMINABLE PRACTICES AND CUSTOMS USED IN PAGAN IDOLATRY AND HARLOTRY! Facial make-up is one of them! A woman may think she looks nice *in the sight of the world* with make-up. But how does she look *in God's sight*?

Abomination in God's Sight

It's true, we have been born in such a world, and grown up taking such things for granted as much as we take any article of normal clothing for granted, accepting it as a normal custom with never so much as a *thought* that there could be anything sinful about it.

I grew up, and so did most of you, taking SUNDAY for granted—and Christmas, New Years' revelry, Easter, and many other customs I supposed all good CHRISTIANS accepted and followed. I couldn't see, at first, where all these churches could be wrong. I grew up accepting this world as GOD'S world. It came as a shock and a bewildering disillusionment to finally realize that so MANY of these generally-accepted customs are EVIL, and plain ABOMINATIONS *in the sight of GOD*! It was difficult to be weaned from them.

But NOW I can see these things as through the eyes of GOD. When the true knowledge first came, the idea that pork, oysters, sea-foods were nutritiously unclean seemed ridiculous. We simply have to come to the knowledge that "there is a way that seemeth RIGHT unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of DEATH."

In the same manner, it may be difficult, at first, for many of you women in God's true Church to realize that make-up on the face is actually one of those things that is AN ABOMINATION in the sight of God—that its use is a SIN—a violation of GOD'S LAW, as I shall presently show! It may be difficult for one who has always taken these worldly customs for granted to realize that a woman who "looks NICE" to the world actually looks like a painted prostitute *in the sight of GOD*!

The fact is, even we ministers at first were hesitant to "go all the way" in rejecting this custom. In the summer and early fall of 1955 we honestly felt that there might be certain times and occasions when the light and moderate use of a little make-up might be permissible.

Do YOU Have False Fears?

I personally felt, for instance—and the other ministers then felt the same way—that if we were on shipboard where passengers are expected to "dress" for dinner, that a woman would attract attention to herself and appear freakish or fanatical without make-up. But by the time of our tour of the Holy Land and Europe this past spring and summer, when we boarded the *Queen Mary* for Europe, Mrs. Armstrong had come to realize that it was *not* in any sense necessary, but on the contrary would be

wrong. She was the first to see this—but now we ministers *know* that this is true. Not once did Mrs. Armstrong use any lip-stick or make-up. She suffered not the slightest embarrassment. No one, as far as we could see, so much as noticed it. She looked no less radiant—and she looked REAL and GENUINE, and WHOLESOME—and not artificial.

And actually, when we looked around to observe, we were surprised to notice that perhaps a third of the women in the *Queen Mary* dining room, although in evening dress, were not wearing lip-stick! Our son Garner Ted and his wife Shirley joined us in Europe in June. Shirley had the same experience on shipboard. The younger women suffer no more embarrassment than their mothers!

Pasadena is one of the most cultural cities in America. Many wealthy families, socially prominent, live here. And, surprising though it is, we have noticed, at the Pasadena Civic Auditorium during a concert, that perhaps one-third or more of these well-to-do women, dressed in expensive clothes and mink furs, do not wear make-up!

Many other women in the Church have had the same experience—including ministers' wives. Now that they are all weaned from it, they have discovered that their former FEARS of what people in the world would think of them were without foundation. Not one of them, so far as I know, would now even *think* of using "just a little," "modestly," on certain occasions. God's yielded and converted women, themselves, have come to see that what is SINFUL is *never* necessary, in any slight amount.

But if women of the world *would* cause embarrassment, that would not condone use of make-up in God's sight!

Is Sinning Moderately OK?

If this thing is sin, IT IS SIN—and God does not condone "sinning moderately." There are some things which, in moderation, are NOT sin—where it is only the *excessive use* that becomes sin—such as wine. The very PURPOSE of drinking a "little wine for thy stomach's sake," is good, not evil. But, as will be brought out later, the *very purpose* of painting and changing the appearance of the face is EVIL, and a *little* evil is still EVIL!

Perhaps God had a purpose in delay-

ing the writing of this article one whole year. We had never looked into this subject of make-up intensively and exhaustively until the summer of 1955, and it took even God's ministers some little time to completely UNlearn the attitude toward this universal worldly custom we had unconsciously absorbed. But study, research, prayer, and experience—being *willing* to be corrected—have yielded their fruit.

And so now it is time and the duty of God's ministers to "cry aloud and spare not"—to *lift up our voices*, and show God's people their SINS! As God reveals these things, GOD'S CHURCH MUST BE CLEANED UP! Those who know that The ETERNAL is God must now get over on GOD'S side, and do those things that are pleasing *in His sight*, and those who are HOSTILE and *of this world* may continue on the world's side, and do those things that are pleasing *in the sight of the world*.

This thing of painting the face is now labeled by Jesus Christ as a SIN! It is a transgression of GOD'S LAW, as I shall presently show.

When you are ill—or your children are sick, and you call for the elders of the Church to anoint and ask God to heal, REMEMBER that God says: "What things soever we ask, we receive of Him because we keep His Commandments and do those things that are *pleasing in His sight!*" (I John 3:22). This is strong talk, but the PLAGUES God soon is going to pour on the rebellious are going to be MUCH STRONGER—poured out *without mixture of mercy!*

Israel's Harlotry

As the harlot Jezebel was a type of the great MOTHER of harlots and ABOMINATIONS of the earth, so both Israel and Judah, the CHURCH of the Old Testament, played the whore, and symbolically "*painted their faces.*"

Listen to THE WORD OF GOD!

"This word from the Eternal came to me:"—quoting from Ezekiel 23, Moffatt translation. "Son of man, there were two women . . . when they were young, they played the harlot in Egypt, where men pressed their breasts and handled their virgin nipples. Their names were Ohola, the elder, and Oholibah, the younger. They became my wives and

bore sons and daughters (as for their names, Oholah is Samaria, Oholibah Jerusalem).

"But Ohola played the harlot, though she was my wife . . . and befouled herself with the idols of every man on whom she doted; she never ceased her harlotry since in Egypt men lay with her as a girl and handled her virgin nipples and had intercourse with her freely. So I handed her over to her lovers, to the Assyrians . . . They exposed her nakedness . . . and they slew her with the sword; so punishment was inflicted on her, till she became a WARNING TO WOMEN.

"Her sister Oholibah saw this, but she went further in depravity, in her lust and harlotry . . . I saw that she was befouling herself . . . but she carried her harlotry further; she saw men pictured upon walls, figures of Chaldeans drawn in vermilion . . . and when she saw them she doted upon them . . . Therefore, Oholibah—here is the Lord the Eternal's sentence—I will rouse your lovers against you . . . I will mass them all round you, the Babylonians, all the Chaldeans . . . they shall attack you . . . with a host of nations'" (type of the punishment *yet* to come on MODERN Israel for the SAME sins and abominations!) "' . . . and they shall sentence you; I will vent my jealous fury upon you, and let them deal with you fiercely. . . .

"'Since you forgot ME and flung ME aside, then suffer for your sensual harlot ways!' 'Son of man,' said the Eternal, 'arraign Ohola and Oholibah, and show them their detestable impieties. . . . They did this to me *also*; they polluted my sanctuary and *desecrated my sabbath* . . . And this is how they behaved within my temp'e; they actually sent for men who came from abroad, sent messengers to them! *And for them you* bathed yourself, you PAINTED YOUR EYES, you put on your ornaments, you sat on a handsome divan, with a table spread in front of it . . . and sounds of revelry arose!'" (Ezek. 23).

NOTICE THAT! Here God pictures Israel and Judah as harlot women. They have sent for *men*. In order to seduce these men, and lead them into adultery, they PAINTED THEIR FACES! This has always been the main equipment of harlots! It is the very instrument of harlotry.

God CONDEMNS the ACT as SIN—and shows plainly that this paint was applied FOR THE PURPOSE of seduction.

Now complete this blistering message from God to modern women today!

"This therefore is the Lord the ETERNAL'S sentence: Bring a host of folk against them, and hand them over to be maltreated and robbed! Let them be stoned and put to the sword . . . *that all women may TAKE WARNING and avoid YOUR sensual ways* . . . and so learn that I am the Lord the ETERNAL!"

How about it? Do you want to argue that God doesn't mean YOU—or that this does NOT apply to using make-up today? YOUR body is God's *temple* today, and if you defile it, God says He will destroy YOU!

IN EVERY CASE where make-up is mentioned in the Bible, *God labels the woman who uses it a WHORE!*

Always, its use is an attempt to *change the appearance of the face!* It is an attempt to make the face *appear* to be (a DECEPTION!) more beautiful than it is. Always in one way or another it is VANITY! Today it is also an instinctive human-nature *pull to conform to the ways of this world*—perhaps without realizing that this is in direct disobedience of God's command: "Be NOT CONFORMED to this world, but be ye TRANSFORMED by *the renewing* of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect WILL OF GOD!" (Rom. 12:2).

Whoring Judah

In the 4th Chapter of Jeremiah, God reveals the destruction to be poured out on Judah, as a result of her whoredoms.

God cries out to these unfaithful Jews: "O Jerusalem, wash thine heart from wickedness, that thou mayest be saved . . . For my people is foolish, they have not known me; they are sottish children, and they have none understanding: they are wise to do evil, but to do good they have no knowledge. . . . For thus hath the Eternal said, "The whole land shall be desolate . . . and when thou art spoiled, what wilt thou do? Though thou clothest thyself with crimson, though thou deckest thee with ornaments of gold, *though THOU RENTEST (distort) THY FACE WITH PAINTING*, in vain shalt thou make thyself fair; thy lovers will despise thee,

they will seek thy life" (Jer. 4:14, 22, 27, 30).

Here adulteress Judah is pictured as The ETERNAL'S wife, painting her face to seduce lovers into adultery.

And WHAT WAS THE ADULTERY OF ISRAEL AND JUDAH?

Why, precisely the very thing that causes women to use lip-stick and other make-up today! *They wanted to be like the other nations around them!* God said to Israel: "When . . . thou shalt say, 'I will set a king over me, like as all the nations that are about me . . .'"

(Deut. 17:14).

Again, "When thou art come into the land which the Eternal thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not learn to do after the ABOMINATIONS of those nations. . . . For all that do those things are AN ABOMINATION unto the Eternal." (Deut. 18:9, 12).

WHY Women Wear It

If other nations around them had not practiced these abominations, the Israelites would never have wanted to do them.

LIKEWISE, if the women of the world around you had never worn lipstick or make-up, *not a single woman in the Church would ever have wanted to wear it!*

THINK THAT OVER! No person can dispute that!

If the women of the world *never* wore it—IF they frowned on it and considered it bad taste, NO WOMAN IN OR OUT OF THE CHURCH WOULD WEAR IT!

It is put on the face for one or both of two general reasons: 1) to be *like the world* around you—to BE CONFORMED TO THIS WORLD, in direct DISOBEDIENCE of God's command; or else 2) "to look nice," as women express it, which means, simply, to CHANGE the appearance so as to make the face prettier than it naturally is—WHICH IS VANITY! Either is a violation of God's Law, and A SIN! Actually, the only reason a woman wishes to conform to the world is VANITY—*fearing* what the world will think, more than fearing GOD CARING more for the world and what it thinks than for GOD and what looks right IN HIS SIGHT!

A woman may try to REASON and ARGUE around it, but every woman knows in her heart this is THE TRUTH.

Every woman who has been CONQUERED by the Eternal God—who is yielded to HIM—who has repented and is converted—who HAS AND IS LED BY GOD'S HOLY SPIRIT—will admit this, and TURN FROM THIS SIN!

Back, now, to Isaiah 3.

"Don't Feel Dressed Without It"

"As for my people," says God, "children are their oppressors, and *women rule over them*. O my people, they which lead thee cause thee to err, and destroy THE WAY of thy paths." (Verse 12). Women, in other words, "wear the pants." Women have become haughty, full of VANITY, trying to put themselves above men.

And how? "Because the daughters of Zion are haughty, and walk with stretched forth necks (holding their heads high as they walk—Moffatt), and *wanton eyes* (falsely setting off their eyes with PAINT)" (Isa. 3:12, 16).

The Adam Clarke Commentary says, further, on this verse: "Her eye-lashes, which are long, and, according to the custom of the East, dressed with stibium (as we often read in the Holy Scriptures of the Hebrew women of old, *Jer. 4:30; Ezek. 23:40*) . . . 'But none of these ladies,' says Dr. Shaw, *Travels*, p. 294, 'take themselves to be completely dressed, till they have tinged their hair and edges of their eyelids with *alkahol*, the powder of lead ore . . .' Ezekiel chap. 23:40, uses the same word in the form of a verb, *cachalt eynayik*, 'thou didst dress thine eyes with alcohol'; which the *Septuagint* render 'thou didst dress thine eyes with stibium'; . . . compare II Kings 9:30; *Jer. 4:30*."

"Thus Saith the LORD"

And so critical examination of the original languages shows that ALL these Biblical passages, referring to Jezebel; to whoring Israel and Judah as Aholah and Aholibah; and to Judah, refer to the same identical PAINTING OF THE FACE that is *definitely, specifically, literally, condemned* as a SIN in Isaiah 3:16-17. Thus, when these Scriptures are considered together, we have FOUR Scriptures *definitely and positively condemning make-up on the face!*

This is a plain "THUS SAITH THE LORD!"

And did you notice that these pagan women of the East, condemned by God, do not feel completely dressed without their make-up on? *How many of our own modern women have said the same thing?* It's high time for GOD'S women to REPENT, and with God's help wean themselves from that kind of heathen feeling!

Other Scriptures, however, do indicate God's approval of certain ornamentation of dress, or even ear-rings, especially on what might be called a royal or regal occasion.

In Ezekiel 16 God symbolizes Israel as His bride—His queen. GOD is KING of all the universe. The Old Covenant is represented as a marriage agreement. Of Queen Israel, God says: "I clothed thee also with broided work, and shod thee with sealskin, and I girded thee about with fine linen, and I covered thee with silk. I decked thee also with ornaments, and I put bracelets upon thy hands, and a chain on thy neck. I put a jewel on thy forehead, and earrings in thine ears, and a beautiful crown upon thine head. Thus wast thou decked with gold and silver . . . and thou wast exceedingly beautiful, and thou didst prosper into a kingdom. And thy renown went forth among the heathen for thy beauty: for it was perfect through my comliness, which I had put upon thee, saith the Lord Eternal." (Ezek. 16:10-14).

Of course, this is figurative, not literal, and represents qualities of character, not physical decoration. But it mentions approvingly just about everything *except* falsefying the face with paint! NEVER is this facial deception mentioned in connection with a virtuous woman in the Bible.

Keep in mind, however, that this figurative description is that of God's QUEEN in royal and stately attire. This is not to be construed as God's approval of over-ornamentation under ordinary circumstances. God's teaching is modesty—the meek and quiet spirit!

But when Israel and Judah played the harlot and went after other "lovers" they are represented, *then*, as painting the face as a device of harlotry to seduce "lovers" into adulterous relationship.

Virtuous Women

But if God's Word labels these paint-

ed women of the world as ABOMINATIONS and WHORES, it also gives us descriptions of righteous, humble and virtuous women.

God's PRINCIPLE is that *real beauty* comes from WITHIN! Remember, GOD LOOKS ON THE HEART! Paint on the face will NEVER recommend you to God!

LISTEN! "Likewise, you wives, be submissive to your husbands . . . Let not yours be the *outward* adorning with braiding of hair, decoration of gold, and wearing of robes, but let it be the hidden person (INWARD ADORNING) of the *heart* with the imperishable jewel of a gentle and quiet spirit, which *in God's sight* (but not in the sight of the world) is very precious. So once the holy women who hoped in God used to adorn themselves and were submissive to their husbands." (I Peter 3:1, 3-5).

Ask yourself: Do you want to "look nice" *in the sight of GOD, or in the sight of the world—WHICH?*

Never Paint Over the Jewel

Now this Scripture in I Peter 3 is expressing a PRINCIPLE, rather than specific details. Actually there are other Scriptures showing that it is not wrong, under proper conditions, for a woman to wear ornaments modestly *on her clothes*, or even in her hair, or even to wear earrings. These, however, should be modest, never gaudy, or large, to attract undue attention.

The principle is that the REAL BEAUTY is IN THE HEART, and *shines out from the INSIDE!* If that is there—if the woman is meek, modest, humble, then to be dressed becomingly, and even with proper and modest decoration when the occasion warrants it, may be right and proper in God's sight. This merely puts a becoming and modest outward and pleasing setting around the REAL JEWEL, which is a humble spirit and contrite heart and virtuous character.

A jeweler does not paint over a *diamond*, but he does enhance its pure sparkle with appropriate setting!

But if it is done to *show off* the person in a spirit of vanity, then the motive of heart is evil, and the very same outward decoration, which might be approved when worn from chaste and righteous intentions, is put to a SINFUL use.

Modern Slang Shows WHY

On the other hand, applying paint to the face *changes and falsifies the appearance*, DECEIVES those who see it, and is ALWAYS pictured in connection with HARLOTRY in the Bible!

Today women in public places are heard excusing themselves thus: "I think I'll go into the powder room and improve on Mother Nature." "Mother Nature," of course, in reality is GOD!

Or, a common expression among girls today: "Let's fix our faces!" Or, "Wait till I put on my face, and I'll be right there!" Yes, they KNOW it means putting on a FALSE face! Sometimes women use the expression "*repair my face.*"

These slang expressions in common use show where their minds are—and what is the intent of the heart!

The very words "make-up" mean "*not my real face, but my MADE-UP face.*" To MAKE is to re-CREATE. God says: "Who art thou that *repliest against GOD?* Shall the thing formed say to Him that formed it, 'WHY has thou made me thus?'" (Rom. 9:20). Yet that is what women are replying AGAINST GOD when they *change and falsify* their faces!

Do you know the definition of the word "cosmetics?" It is from the Greek word "*kosmos*," which is the Greek word representing THIS WORLD and its ways, which God condemns!

Painting the face is condemned and labeled SIN in the Bible. It is used ONLY in VANITY or desire to be like the world, or to conform to the world, or to look "prettier" to the world.

NOWHERE did God tell men or women to cover up, or put paint on, their *faces*—but He does tell us to put clothes on our *bodies!* Proper and modest ornamentation on the *clothing* that covers the body is approved in many Scriptures, and can be done with humility of heart and purity of mind. This applies alike to men's neckties and women's scarves, handkerchiefs, or ornamental decorations on dresses.

GOD'S PRINCIPLE is that we must not put trust in outward appearance, as opposed to meekness of a subdued mind that is subject to God *in everything!*

Objections Examined

After the article appeared over a year

ago on lip-stick, three or four letters were received from women who *did not yet fully understand*, voicing objections to the Church ruling, or trying to present Scriptures approving lip-stick.

One woman felt she had found a Scripture approving facial make-up, in the Song of Solomon. She read chapter 3, verse 6, and jumped to the conclusion that this pictured the Bridegroom putting face-powder on his face.

Now in the first place, what has been ruled against by CHRIST thru His Church is *falsifying* the face, in a manner to change the appearance as a deception, by painting. Of course powder could be plastered on so thick as to change the appearance of the face, but unless so excessively used that it shows, there has been no prohibition of a little powder, used to dispel an oily or soapy shine on the face.

But above all, here is an example of the very REASON why Christ set up within His Church HIS WAY of making clear all disputed questions as to WHAT constitutes SIN. Here is a living example of the utter lack of qualification of the individual member to decide such points privately.

I quote from the Lange Commentary: "The contents place it beyond doubt that ch. 3:6-11 describes a bridal procession." It is *not* the "bridegroom."

Next, the Hebrew word for "powders"—"powders of the merchant"—is "*abaukau*" which means, according to the Hebrew-English lexicon, aromatic powder, very fine powder, dust-like and *volatile*. It is *not face-powder at all!* It is a combustible *incense* powder.

It is allegorically referring to the Church coming up to the Marriage with Christ. Solomon, in this instance, was the type of Christ. Typically it refers also to ancient Israel coming up out of the wilderness to the Old Testament marriage that made Israel a nation.

The verse reads: "Who is this that cometh out of the wilderness like pillars of smoke, perfumed with myrrh and frankincense, with all powders of the merchant?"

The Critical & Experimental Commentary says: "The '*who is this?*' in Hebrew is feminine, and must refer to the *Bride* riding in the Bridegroom's palanquin. *Pillars of smoke*: from the

perfumes burned round His bride. Image from Israel . . . marching through the desert with the pillar of smoke by day and fire by night, and the pillars of smoke ascending from the altars of incense and of atonement: so Jesus Christ's righteousness, atonement, and ever-living intercession."

From the Lange Commentary: "*Perfumed with myrrh and incense: The bride coming to her wedding or more particularly her sedan and her DRESS are filled with refreshing perfumes (Prov. 27:9),*" (where ointments and perfumes are approved). The "powders of the merchant" were the source of the perfumes and the smoke. *The perfumes were on the DRESS, not the face!*

Lange explains further that "She came perfumed with myrrh and frankincense, because myrrh was one of the principle ingredients in her HOLY OINTMENT (Ex. 30:22), and incense was offered constantly on the golden altar before the veil . . . and because frankincense is the type of prayer offered by Him as our priest and offered to Him as God. And she is perfumed with all the powders or spices of the merchant because all the glories of the ancient ritual are spiritualized in the Gospel."

This powder and perfume, then, is connected with the holy ointment, which, under severe penalty, the PEOPLE were forbidden to have or use. It was only for special sacred and holy occasion and use.

IN NO MANNER does this Scripture approve falsifying the face with make-up or lip-stick!

Perfume is not condemned in the Bible, but good taste decrees that it should be used *very* sparingly. A person saturated with strong perfume simply STINKS, and becomes offensive to others. The law of love to neighbor demands that IF used, it should be *very* lightly used. Many women cheapen themselves by vulgarly violating this rule.

Next, this woman jumped willingly to the erroneous conclusion that she had found lip-stick approved in the Song of Solomon 4:1. It reads: "Behold, thou art fair, my love . . . thy lips are like a thread of scarlet, and thy speech is comely." But if you read the WHOLE context, it becomes most plain that the speaker is referring to the NATURAL perfection of the "bride"—typical of the Bride of

Christ as She shall be presented to Him, as shown in Eph. 5:25-27: "Christ also loved the Church, and gave Himself for it; that He might sanctify and cleanse it (NOT DEFILE IT WITH FACE-PAINTING LIKE A HARLOT) . . . that He might present it to Himself a glorious Church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be *holy, and without blemish.*"

For example, this bride is spoken of in verse 2 thus: "Thy teeth are like a flock of sheep that are even shorn, which came up from the washing." It is referring to *natural*, and *perfectly-formed*, and *even* teeth, NOT to artificial or altered teeth. It was custom in the days this was written for the pagan nations of the middle-east to file off and sharpen their teeth in an effort to beautify them. But this Bride is pictured as *natural*, not artificial.

Her lips were *naturally* "like a thread of scarlet"—*not painted!*

IF these Scriptures in Song of Solomon did mean what this sister erroneously assumed, then it would be in direct contradiction with the other Scriptures I have already given.

Holding a Job

Another objection voiced by two or three women was expressed in the same letter, as follows:

"I was very much upset by the Church rule against make-up, since this puts me in rather an embarrassing position. I am holding a position . . . that places me constantly before the public . . . It is as necessary that I keep smart in appearance as it is that I think smart."

Some women are afraid of losing their jobs!

Now, dear women of the Church, let's just stop and *think* a moment. Yes, *let's THINK SMART!* How many MEN do you suppose have come to me with precisely the SAME OBJECTION about obeying God on another point—keeping God's SABBATH? Scores have come to me saying they are SURE they will lose their jobs. Wouldn't it be all OK with God for them to just wink their eyes at the Sabbath command, so they wouldn't lose their jobs? What do you women think?

Let me tell you their experience. I always say to such men: "Do NOT ask your boss *if* he will let you off on Saturdays.

Instead go to him and tell him that you are sorry if you are forced to inconvenience his operations, but you will not be able to work any more between Friday sunset and Saturday sunset. Tell him you would be glad to work Sundays, when it is so difficult to get men to work. But BE FIRM, and just announce that you WILL NOT be able to work any more on the Sabbath. Tell him it is your religion, and that you feel he is a fair and honest employer who would not want to interfere with a man's personal religion, or persecute him for it."

I always recommend such men to *pray* first, asking God to give them favor in the eyes of their employers.

Scores of men have felt absolutely SURE they would lose their jobs. But, in actual experience, nine in ten do *not* lose their jobs. They simply FEARED they would. And the other tenth find *better* ones!

Sure, God gives us TESTS of FAITH! Perhaps some of you women are going to have some TESTS OF FAITH! How about it—can you TRUST God to make it possible to OBEY Him? *That's part of the conditions to SALVATION!*

GOD WILL NOT COMPROMISE ONE IOTA!

Rather than compromise with SIN, God sent His own SON to pay the full penalty for us!

Experience Proves It!

I happen to know the experiences of a few women who have ceased to use make-up on jobs meeting the public. One was a dentist's assistant. It was necessary that *she* look smart! She stopped wearing all make-up. The dentist did speak to her about it. She explained to him why she had removed it. He didn't know how to answer, so he asked his wife what to do.

"Tell her to keep her make-up at the office, and put it on after arrival mornings, and wash it off before leaving in the evening," said the wife. "Her church people won't see it on her that way."

"I can't do that," said this woman firmly. "GOD would certainly see the make-up on my face, and since I know it is wrong, and displeasing to God, I shall not wear it."

Her employer was silenced by that. He never said any more about it.

Another wrote me that she was a ready-to-wear saleslady in a leading department store. She, too, had to "look smart." She, too, had to meet the public. She wore no lip-stick—used no make-up of any kind. Her boss did not fire her—because her sales continued to be the highest in the department, though all the other salesladies wore plenty of make-up.

I say to you women: "GOD sees you! Banish both fear and make-up, and TRUST GOD!"

The SPIRIT of the Law

Now let's understand WHY the Scriptures expounded in this article brand the use of lip-stick or other make-up as a SIN.

Sin is the transgression of the spiritual LAW. How can that law, summed up in the Ten Commandments, cover every possible act that is sin? The law does not say "Thou shalt not smoke." The Ten Commandments do not say "Thou shalt not be a drunkard." They do not say: "It is a SIN for a man to become an effeminate."

But YOUR BIBLE does say: "Be not deceived: neither . . . effeminate, nor . . . drunkards . . . shall inherit the Kingdom of God." (I Cor. 6:9-10). These things do not violate the letter, but the SPIRIT of the Law.

Paul speaks of God, "who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the SPIRIT giveth life." (II Cor. 3:6).

What is the SPIRIT of the Law? What is the SPIRIT OF GOD? It is, first of all, LOVE! Love is the fulfilling of the law. All the law is fulfilled by one word—LOVE!

Love is SELFLESSNESS. Love is giving, and sharing. Love is toward God and neighbor—AWAY from self. That is its underlying principle of RIGHTEOUSNESS.

What, then, is the underlying PRINCIPLE of SIN? It is the opposite of true love.

Sin is VANITY, first of all. The very root and core of human nature is VANITY! Vanity is SELF! Vanity expresses itself in many ways, and in different ways in different people.

Vanity expresses itself in lust, in greed, in resentment, hatred.

I used to wonder if Solomon really was the wisest man who ever lived, after all, when he said: "Vanity of vanities, saith the Preacher, vanity of vanities; ALL is vanity." (Eccl. 1:2). But when I came to understand the nature of vanity, and the many ways in which it expresses itself, I realized that Solomon was right, and those words were inspired by GOD!

Yes, "ALL Is Vanity"

Vanity is a sort of unrealized, undefined craving for the ADORATION of other people—an adoration that belongs to GOD. Vanity springs from an inherent feeling of inferiority, perhaps unrealized, and asserts itself in a natural effort to rise above that unpleasant inferior feeling by elevating the self above others, or by at least desiring to be "well thought of" by others.

This instinctive reaching out for adoration violates the first commandment, by making the SELF another god before—that is, prior to—higher than—the true GOD.

People do not, of course, stop to analyze this feeling and tendency in their natures. Yet VANITY is in our natures. VANITY is one of those things the Christian must CRUSH—must keep SUBDUED. If any man or woman says, "I am not vain. I have no vanity," that person just doesn't know himself or the nature that was born in him.

It is VANITY that makes people want to BELONG—to be ACCEPTED by a clique, group, club. It is the basis of "party spirit," and of competition. One of the fruits of the FLESH (violations of God's Law), as translated by Moffatt, is party spirit. This is the ingredient in human nature—the SINFUL ingredient—that makes people want to be like the people of the world around them—to BE CONFORMED to this world.

God commands, "be NOT conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind" to the will of GOD! (Rom. 12:2).

VANITY in the male, if the man has ambition, expresses itself often in the desire to appear important to other men. I knew a multimillionaire who always managed to get the best of a bargain—or else he didn't do business. At first I thought the dominating motivation of

his life was GREED. But I learned that it was just plain VANITY! This man worked and schemed to amass millions to impress others—to exalt himself above others—to put himself in place of GOD. Actually he was sick with inferiority. He devoted a lifetime to money-making, injuring others, in a vain effort to escape his inner sense of inferiority—an effort to "kid himself" out of it. Poor man! He was most unhappy!

Vanity in women may express itself in many ways, but the most common is the innate desire to be pretty. One woman who probably would deny that her use of make-up is an expression of this very VANITY said that she would rather be pretty than to have "brains and intelligence."

WHY Women Use Make-Up

The very principle of SIN—the SPIRIT of sin—then, is VANITY and its manifestations are self-desire, haughtiness, party-spirit, wanting to be like the people of the world around us, wanting to conform to the world and its customs, the desire to be admired, the desire to attract the opposite sex, the desire to make others jealous, the fear of being thought inferior or out of date or a non-conformist, and, of course, greed, lust, selfishness, envy, jealousy, and the thousand-and-one ways in which this SELF-nature expresses itself.

Now what is SIN? The expression of the innate, natural SELF, in any or several of these many ways is SIN! The violation of the letter of any of the Ten Commandments is merely the expression of this natural SELF in one or more of these many ways.

LOVE is the principle of obedience to the LAW. These manifold expressions of VANITY, or SELF, constitute the SPIRIT of transgression, or SIN.

Remember, a THING is not sin. Lip-stick, of itself, is not sin. Money is not, of itself, evil—but the love of it (which is actually LUST) is a root of all evil! The use of lip-stick in expressing vanity or conformity to the world is SIN!

Most women, when asked WHY they use lip-stick, will of course not confess: "I use it as an expression of VANITY," or "I use it to express an urge to be like the world."

(Please continue on page 23)

Unconverted Church Members?

Sometimes even God's people need to be AWAKENED to their real spiritual state! Here, in this reprinted article, is revealed the SHOCKING condition many of you are in.

by Roderick C. Meredith

PAINFUL AS it may be, much as we hate to admit it, God's ministers have come to realize that there are many individuals physically *among* God's people who are spiritually *not of* God's church. They are progressing toward a certain destination—the *lake of fire!*

This could easily include YOU!

Before you were baptized and began building a Christian character, you should have sat down to *count the cost*—as Jesus said in Luke 14:25-33. He said you were to love *God* more than *any relative*—even your own *wife*—and more than *your own life also* (verse 26). He concluded by saying, "So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not *all that he hath*, he cannot be my disciple" (verse 33).

Have you *really* forsaken ALL that you have? Do you really consider that your life no longer belongs to *you*, but to God—to do with as *He* wills?

There is no use "kidding" yourself. Some of you new converts—and some who have been *in among* God's people for *years and years* still have a CARNAL mind! It's time for even God's people to *wake up*. Now let me explain.

Like Corinthian Church

Among the strongest and most corrective epistles that the apostle Paul wrote were his two letters to the Corinthians. He addressed them as the "Church of God" (I Cor. 1:2), yet he said "there are *contentions* among you" (verse 11). Some were following one *man* instead of CHRIST. Others were following other *men*.

Because they liked *men's persons* instead of Christ, because they had a spirit of *contention* or *argument* about many things, and because they had not *fully SURRENDERED* to *God* and the guidance of His Spirit, Paul could not write to them as he would to fully converted, spiritually minded people. Instead, he

said, "And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto *spiritual*, but as unto *carnal*, even as unto *babes in Christ*" (I Cor. 3:1).

And that is the *exact condition* of some of you who now read what I write!

Many of you still look on things from the point of view of a CARNAL mind. You have seen much of the truth as a correct argument, and you have gone along with it and been baptized. But when a particular truth is applied to *you personally*, you often resist it and stick to your *own* way.

As many have indicated by their *actions*—which speak louder than words—they want to go along with God and His church "up to a point." And *what* is beyond that point that they are unwilling to give up?

The answer is SELF! That big part of *self* they still think is pretty good, after all, and that they never learned to *bate*, to REPENT of, and to BURY in baptism.

All this may be revealed when a situation arises where the human *self* has to be denied in order to obey God. Perhaps a couple has to split up in order to obey God's commandment against *adultery*. Maybe a man has to give up his life-long job in order to fully keep God's weekly *and annual sabbaths*.

It might be that someone in the church has been given an honor or position that *you* thought *you*—your *self*—should have. Or perhaps you *think* God's minister has "offended" you in some way.

Suddenly, your "spiritual" attitude *changes*—and we find that yours was only a *surface* conversion—at least *so far*—and that you have surrendered to God only *up to a point*. Then you forget about God's conditions of *total surrender*, and you began setting forth conditions that God and His Church will have to meet in order to keep in *your* good graces.

You will often begin to *accuse* one of God's ministers and perhaps compare him unfavorably with another minister. In your mind, and in your words, you will try to create *sides*. You will have the same *carnal*, contentious spirit that some of the people at Corinth had. You may begin to *judge* or *accuse* others—often God's minister—and forget the fact that *God is your JUDGE*, that *Christ* is the living *Head* of God's church, and that God's ministers are responsible to *Him*—not *you*, and that *He will take care of them!*

Real Examples

These attitudes just described are just a sample of the kind of *carnal* ways that some of YOU—perhaps without realizing it—have fallen into. Unless these attitudes are *changed*—REPENTED of—they will lead to *death* in the *lake of fire*.

And we in God's ministry KNOW that many of you dear brethren whom we *love very much* are in such a spiritual state *at this very moment*. Our job is to *warn* you—to help you CHANGE before it's *too late*.

Following are some examples of the *carnal* minded attitude some of *you* have. Read these carefully and apply them to *yourself*—not to the other fellow.

As Paul wrote the people in God's *visible* church at Corinth: "Examine *yourselves*, whether *ye* be in the faith; prove *your own selves*. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?" (II Cor. 13:5.)

A very common fault in many brethren, particularly those who are older and have absorbed more of *this world's* religions, is that they tend to keep their *own* standard of right and wrong—and view everything from that standpoint. Often they tend to look down upon others in the church who don't go by their own *human* moral code. They forget

that sin is the transgression of *God's revealed law*—not *human* ideas and imagination.

WHY?

Isn't it because you have never fully *surrendered* your *will* to God. Isn't it because you are stubbornly hanging on to part of your old SELF—perhaps the *religious* part, the part you still think is *pretty good*, the part you never *crucified* and *BURIED* with Christ in baptism? (Romans 6:3-6.)

Do you realize that one in the attitude I have described is setting himself up as the *judge* of Jesus Christ and condemning the *perfect life* that Christ led?

Anyone in that attitude is *rejecting* the perfect *example* that Jesus set for us. Perhaps without realizing it, he is setting himself up as wiser than GOD ALMIGHTY.

Compare with Christ

Too many people forget that *Christ* set the only *perfect example*, and that we should compare our ideas with *His* teaching and *His* example before we condemn others. The truth of the matter is that Jesus—if he were now living in the flesh—would be a *great disappointment* to many so-called "Christians" today, for He would not follow *their* ideas at all.

Jesus said that man should *LIVE by every word of God* (Luke 4:4). You'd better find your ideas in the clear teachings and examples of the Bible before you try to impose them on others.

Some people have grown bitter or have gone off into sin because they looked to *human* examples. Many times I have heard the remark, "Well, if one of the *ministers* can do *that* (what *they* may *think* is wrong), then I can surely do *this*" (what *God* says is *SIN*).

Have you ever heard talk like that? It matters not whether or not the minister might be setting a *perfect example* in every case, you are to *obey* GOD and to follow *Christ's* example. Compare yourself with *Him*.

God's People Carnal?

Using the real or imagined faults of others as an excuse for *your SIN* is a practice that will lead to your *condemnation*. It is the attitude of a *CARNAL* mind.

Many of you are going to wonder if people in *God's church* could ever be *carnal*.

The point to remember is that God's true church is a *spiritual* organism, not a visible, fleshly body of people. It is composed of the begotten sons of God—those who are *LED* by the Spirit of God (Rom. 8:14).

But God's true sons, meeting together to carry out the mission of His church, have *always* had among them some who were *not fully converted*—who were *CARNAL*-minded. And it seems that even of those who were really converted, some would always fall away.

As mentioned before, Paul addresses First Corinthians to the "church of God" at Corinth. Yet he immediately shows that some of the *physical* members of the group were *CARNAL* (I Cor. 3:1).

Paul could also see the *carnal* tendency even in some of the *elders* at Ephesus, and he warned: "Also of *your own selves* shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them" (Acts 20:30).

The Parable of the Ten Virgins

In the parable of the ten virgins (Mat. 25:1-13), Jesus showed the *FEARFUL* condition God's people will be in when He returns!

Notice that *all* of the virgins (Christians) started out with oil in their lamps. But the *wise* virgins took extra oil. They took *extra* pains to continually receive more of God's Spirit, symbolized by the oil.

But the unwise virgins didn't *grow* spiritually. They were *self-satisfied* and complacent—perhaps *spiritually proud*. They weren't *hungering* and *thirsting* for righteousness. They thought they would "get by all right."

When they came to enter into the marriage supper, the Lord said: "I KNOW YOU NOT."

They had run out of *oil*—out of *God's Spirit*! They hadn't been *growing* spiritually. They still had to be regarded as *CARNAL*-minded — as "babes in Christ" (I Cor. 3:1).

Yes, there have *always* been the *two distinct* classes of people *within* the *visible* church of God. One is going into the kingdom. The other is not.

Where do YOU stand in God's sight?

Carnal Principle

Each one of you had better "examine" yourself in the light of these facts. It matters not how long you *think* you have been converted—*this means you!*

Remember that we are commanded to *GROW* in grace and knowledge (II Peter 3:18). You must continually drink in *more* of God's Spirit to *grow*—and to become *spiritually* minded.

A *spiritual* mind will be willing to *admit error* and *change*. It will *grow* into *new truth*.

Spiritual-minded people *love* God's law, and "NOTHING shall offend them" (Psalms 119:165). They will not be continually getting their "feelings" hurt by God's minister or by others, and they will *not love this present worldly system* (James 4:4).

On the other hand, the *carnal*-minded person is easily upset by anything and everybody. He is not looking to Christ—but to *men's persons*. Naturally he will find fault.

He is always quick to "stumble" on *any* real or imagined stumbling-block, because instead of *growing*—he has remained a *spiritual "babe"* with a *carnal* mind.

He will accuse and find fault especially with God's work and His ministers—and will try to *find his way around the law of God and the government of God* in the Church.

In his presence, a converted person usually senses that he must be careful to avoid an "argument" or "hurt feelings." The *carnal* mind is stubborn, unyielding, selfish.

Paul wrote: "The *carnal* mind is *enmity* against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh (*carnal minded*) cannot please God" (Romans 8:7-8).

And what is the fate of such individuals?

"For to be *carnally minded* is *DEATH*" (Verse 6).

May God help *all* of you to honestly "examine yourselves" and *repent* and *grow* where God's word shows you *must*.

Make sure you are *really* in God's Church.

Christ Did Put Authority and RULE in His Church

(Continued from page 8)

6, the apostles and elders at Jerusalem came together to consider the matter. Verse 7, there was first much "disputing." This should be translated "discussion." The Greek word, used nowhere else in the Bible, is "*suzetesis*," defined as "*a joint seeking*."

Then Peter rose up. Notice how GOD's hand is shown: "GOD made choice among us" . . . "and GOD . . . bare them witness, giving them (Gentiles) the Holy Spirit;" . . . "Now therefore, why tempt ye GOD, to put a yoke upon the neck of the disciples?" Peter pointed only to *the will of GOD!*

Then James, pastor of the Headquarters Church, made the decision official and BINDING on earth, as Peter had made plain it was in heaven. He said: "Simeon (Peter) hath declared how GOD did visit the Gentiles . . . and to this agree the words of the prophets (appeal to GOD's Word) . . . Wherefore my sentence is . . ." thereupon stating the official decision.

When God's apostle and ministers come together today to consider a matter in question, the procedure is the same. First there is the appeal to God to reveal HIS will, and guide us that the decision will be HIS, not ours. Then there is the discussion. This is an earnest *seeking for all the facts* bearing on the question.

Quite often, in our own minds, we feel that the decision is going to be just the opposite of what it finally turns out to be, under God's guidance. When we came together to learn and decide whether to continue the policy of establishing grade and high schools, or whether to close up the one then already started at Gladewater, during the first hour or two of the discussion nearly all of us believed the decision was going to be to close up the one school and never establish another. But after adjourning to pray over it further and sleep over it, we came together the next day and it was clearly revealed to all that God has given His Church responsibility to feed the flock—and that this includes the children.

In *every* instance where God's minis-

ters in this Philadelphia era of the Church have come together to make a ruling, our minds have been put in complete accord. There is no voting. But if there were a secret ballot, it would be found that God has led us and made us unanimously of one mind. In no sense do I, as the senior ranking minister, impose any decision of mine on the other ministers. In every instance the decision has been as much their definite conviction as mine.

There has never been a dissenting voice—never a doubt in any of our minds in regard to the final decision. This very fact is proof that it is *the mind of Christ*, thru the Holy Spirit. It is proof that this is GOD'S Church—that it is led, not by the will of men, but RULED and directed by GOD. The final ruling is *not ours*—IT IS GOD'S.

Therefore the final ruling becomes a definite, specific "THUS SAITH THE LORD." It becomes LAW! On these questions, such as the use of make-up, where the Bible is sufficiently vague and lacking in direct specific teaching that lay members disagree, God's Headquarters Church DEFINES the Law of God, as it covers this case by the very PRINCIPLE of the Law—by its SPIRIT, where it had not previously been covered by its letter. Once so defined, it becomes a definite, specific "THUS SAITH THE LORD" on the point.

Jesus Christ plainly said to His ministers in His Headquarters Church: "Whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." However, it must be, and is, a ruling that comes actually *from Christ*, the Head of the Church. CHRIST RULES HIS CHURCH!

It is never a matter of God's ministers deciding what we, as humans, think is right, and then imposing *our* beliefs or views on the other members. It is a matter of GOD, thru Jesus Christ, *leading* thru His Holy Spirit those in the Church that are the ELDERS to understand what is GOD'S LAW on the question. It is always the LAW OF GOD, *as that Law*

has existed from the beginning, and as that law applies to the specific question, that is the ruling. That's WHY it is bound in heaven! All that we are led to pronounce and rule in such an event is what *has been* God's Law on the point from Creation.

Is CHRIST Able to Rule?

The government in the Church is the government of GOD, thru Christ, the living HEAD of the Church. God's ministers *are* yielded, submissive to GOD's will.

We ministers know that we serve a dynamic, living, all-powerful supernatural GOD! We *fear* to disobey, or to fail to be submissive. We *know* well what would happen to us if we should ever permit self-will to sway us in any decision. CHRIST is the HEAD of this Church, and it is CHRIST'S responsibility, *not yours*, to use His supernatural miracle-working POWER, if necessary, to see that HIS decision is faithfully rendered.

You don't need to play detective to find out whether we ministers are honest, impartial, wholly submissive to GOD'S will and guidance when we come together to render a decision. *That's* CHRIST'S *responsibility*. Do you think He is capable of handling it? We *know* He is! Christ RULES His Church. He RULES *us!*

HOW FAR Does Church Rule Extend?

Finally, if there still be any suspicious of Christ's ability to rule, or to control His ministers thru whom He rules, such a one might ask: "Well, where is this thing of defining sin, or ruling on such questions, going to stop?"

The answer is that it is the function of God's Headquarters Church to render such a definition and ruling *only* when those questions arise which actually begin to *threaten* to divide the Church. When that happens, God's ministers have an obligation to meet together and appeal to our Head, Christ, *to settle the issue* according to HIS will, before it can spread into actual open division.

Brethren, it is because we did not as yet ourselves fully comprehend this working of GOD'S GOVERNMENT in His Church, and because no such authority was exercised in the parent church at Eugene, Oregon, that a division came

about which did split the Church there. Several whom we loved and had served in love for years turned bitterly against us and left the Church. **THAT MUST NEVER HAPPEN AGAIN.** If some one trouble-maker appears, bent on attracting a following and dividing the Church with some wrong doctrine or idea, we shall obey God's Word in the exercise of His government, and *mark that person*, and, as Paul commanded in I Cor. 5:13, "put away from ourselves that wicked person."

Does God's **RULE** in His Church give ministers authority to intervene even in affairs of the *personal life* of members? The answer is, **YES**, but of course *rarely*, and only in extreme cases where this is necessary. Paul said, "this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should they eat. For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies." (II Thes. 3:10-11). That is a command that the Church is to command such to work, and if they do not, to take from them all aid given by the Church to help feed them.

God's ministers are required to use wisdom and judgment, and they are never going to interfere in private lives unless there is a **BIBLE** reason.

Where Else Will You Go?

If we ministers are not God's own chosen elders in His true Church, and *under His Control* in the administration of His government in the Church, then how do we account for the tremendous **FRUITS** borne by this work, and the overwhelming **BLESSINGS** lavished on us by God?

One, unhappily no longer in the fellowship of God's begotten children, says: "I agree with all you teach, *except* in this matter of Church government, and the ruling on lip-stick." Well then, do you know of some *other* Church which believes all these **TRUTHS**, and is fulfilling the prophecy of Mat. 24:14 carrying out the Commission of Christ to all the world—preaching the **TRUE GOSPEL**—where the sick are being miraculously *healed*—bearing all these **FRUITS** of the true Church, and which also approves of painted faces and operates without any government?

There was a time, during Jesus' earth-

ly ministry, when "many of His disciples went back, and walked no more with Him." Then Jesus turned to His chosen twelve, and said: "Will ye also go away?"

How about *you*? Will you withdraw from God's true Church, because God does not allow you to decide **WHAT** to obey—because the **LAW** comes from **GOD**, even applications of it from God thru His **CHURCH**? Or will you answer, as did Peter:

"Lord, *to whom shall we go?* **THOU** hast the words of eternal life."

Yes, *to whom*, then—or to **WHAT CHURCH**—shall you go? *Where else*, today, do you find the words of **Eternal Life**—the **TRUE GOSPEL** proclaimed in **POWER** around the world—the sick being healed, lives being changed and made *like God*?

It does seem to those of us on the **INSIDE**, enjoying the **WARMTH** of God's love, and the joys of His blessings, that it must be a mighty dreary, cold, empty, and spiritually **LONELY** life on the *out-*

side—with no place to turn—no other ministers to call as God commands when you or your children are sick—no place but the pagan hostile **WORLD** to find fellowship!

What is it that cuts men off from God? It is **REBELLION**—and that alone! Rebellion against **GOD'S** authority! How may such be *reconciled* to God—*restored* to His fellowship and that of His **CHURCH**? By **REPENTANCE**, and **FAITH** in **CHRIST** as Saviour—by praying as David did in the 51st Psalm—asking God very humbly to have mercy and forgive—to renew a *right spirit* within—to restore the Holy Spirit, and the **JOY** of God's salvation. Then shall such a one be restored into the fellowship of Christ—and of His **CHURCH**!

May God help every one of us to **UNDERSTAND**, and to **HUMBLE** ourselves before God—to remove all wanting our own way—all **VANITY** and contrary spirit!—and fill us with His **LOVE**, that we may enjoy permanently that **RARE** blessing of dwelling together in **UNITY**!

WHAT the Church Ruled on Make-up and WHY?

(Continued from page 19)

No, most women will say: "I wear it to look nice"—or "to avoid offense." They **SAY** it in words that sound harmless. But **GOD KNOWS YOUR HEARTS** better than you do—and **HE** knows that the heart of women, as well as men, is "DECEITFUL *above all things*, and desperately wicked." And He asks: "Who can know it?" (Jer. 17:9). Yes, the inner intents of the heart often *deceive* its owner.

TO WHOM does this woman wish to "look nice?"—to **GOD**? No, for to **GOD** *she looks like a painted, artificial PROSTITUTE!*

TO WHOM do you wish to "look nice?" "Well," the average woman might reply, "to other people."

Yes, but to *what* other people? To the people of **GOD**—the Church brethren? No, because they are obedient to God—they have stopped using it—they have *the mind of Christ* and see you as **HE** does!

You see, when we pin it down, the woman who wears it "to look nice" is trying to look nice to **THE WORLD**! She is trying to *conform to this world*—to be **LIKE** the world—and *God brands this as a SIN!*—Romans 12:2.

Women do **NOT** have to be like the world in ways that transgress the spirit of God's Law! They do **NOT** have to wear lip-stick or other make-up, any more than men have to break the Sabbath!

Worldliness is conforming to the world in ways that transgress the letter or the spirit of God's Law. Wearing make-up is worldliness—and **THE BIBLE** brands worldliness as **SIN**!

Yes, it is either **VANITY**, or it is conforming to the world! It is **SIN**!

And God's people must put away their sins.

CHRIST had to shed His precious **BLOOD**—give His wonderful, perfect **LIFE**—*because many of you women have*

been guilty of committing this SIN! That's the price HE paid to CLEANSE you of this habit!

Your Decision

There is so much more that could be said on this subject that I could go on and on and fill 100 pages! But I think *this is enough!* Every woman who wants that deceitfulness and wickedness removed from her heart is going to remove that physical colored dirt from her face, once and for all!

Those yielded to the CHRIST who paid such a PRICE for this very cleansing will need no more. Those not so yielded would not repent and let the precious blood of Christ cleanse them, and their faces, though I write ten thousand pages! God lays down the LAW. God tells us

WHAT is sin, and He tells us that this vain use of facial make-up *is* SIN!

But God leaves it to YOU to decide *whether* to obey! You are a free moral agent. That decision is now YOUR RESPONSIBILITY! What are *you* going to do with it?

COMING AGAIN —

the regular issue of The GOOD NEWS rolls off the press!

WE HAVE just closed one of the most fruitful years in the history of this work. We have clear historical records of the condition of God's work, through human instruments, going back as far as 400 years. *There has never been*, in all that time, a period of such blessing.

Brethren, God's work is growing like the proverbial grain of mustard seed!

This past year alone God has raised up seven new churches in the United States and one in England. This is a time of rejoicing!

In addition to the new churches, we now have the largest student body at Ambassador College that we have ever had—105 students. We have acquired additional properties sufficient to take care of the much needed expansion for years to come. Each year we have an increase of qualified men and women graduating and being used in this great work of God's Church. Elders are being ordained, ministers are being ordained, and evangelistic campaigns are going forth with the true message of the Kingdom of God to the major cities of America and England.

God has called and has had baptized into His Church an increase of new members this past year of over 15%. All of these new members will now be receiving the GOOD NEWS magazine.

We had hoped that our supply of back issues of The GOOD NEWS magazine would be sufficient to send each new member at least a few copies. But our supply has been exhausted and we were not able to send back copies to

more than two-thirds of the new members.

In our efforts to get the PLAIN TRUTH magazine out each month this past year (incidentally, this was our first year to publish The PLAIN TRUTH magazine for every month without a combined issue since this gospel publishing work began), and with the increased drain on Mr. Armstrong's time we have limited the publication of The GOOD NEWS.

Now! Once again we are coming into position where we can publish a regular issue of The GOOD NEWS. This is the first of an anticipated long series of regular publications of this magazine for the members of His Church.

For those of you who have missed out on the supply of back issues, take comfort in the knowledge that *you will* receive this magazine from this time forward. Nor have you lost out on the back issues entirely. All of the most vital and the most important articles, that have been published in The GOOD NEWS, *will be rewritten for you* in these new issues.

Remember your part in God's Work consists of constant prayer and support in tithes and offerings. Remember to pray that God will make it possible for The GOOD NEWS magazine to come off the press regularly. This is the only way many of you brethren have access to the knowledge of what God is revealing for His Church in these last days.

They need your prayers. We need your prayers—God's Church is a Church dependent wholly on His—God's—answers to our prayers.

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