

THE TRUTH ABOUT “THE PLAIN TRUTH” OR “THE REAL TRUTH”

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David C. Pack and brothers, colleagues....
The Restored Church of God, and publications such as:
“The World to Come” presented by David C. Pack,
“The True Church”, and
“The True Jesus Christ Unknown to Christianity”

Dear David,

I have always admired and I give thanks to God today for the good work done by you and your church since its beginnings. I was first drawn to and subscribed to the magazine “The Plain Truth” in the 1970’s during my youth. From those early years I wondered how it was that this good work seemed somehow blinded to other good work done in the world in and through other good servants of the divine Word of God. God's answer to me continues to be found in Luke 9:46-56.

As it was then, so it is now, and Jesus knew our human limits would continue to hinder us into the future from recognizing the whole picture of God's work in people of faith all over the globe in every generation. So He tells us as He told his apostles to resist the temptation to see ourselves as the pure ones, the only ones to possess the truth; since Jesus alone is "the truth, the way, and the life." John 14:6

Jesus proclaimed good news of repentance requiring a change of ideas, beliefs, and life. Just as Judas and later others in Peter and Paul's time professed to be believers and followers of Jesus but had not let the Word of God in Jesus transform them - they had resisted repentance - so too in our day. I can see from the history of your church that you have had the same experience of these things. The simple fact that members turn away from a church does not invalidate the church itself, nor make the Jesus they profess a false Jesus Christ different from the One to whom the Gospels testify, nor does their delay in letting the Word of God bring them to repentance and complete change of life completely invalidate their membership until they turn away from the Lord by word and deed. “A bruised reed he will not break, and a smouldering wick he will not snuff out, till he leads justice to victory.” Matthew 12:20

Jesus did promise to exercise his authority into the future through his apostles and necessarily through their successors, and in every generation the faith in the true Jesus has struggled against those resisting repentance and obedience to this authority of Jesus in pastors who lead, teach, and rebuke out of love for the faithful. In fact, all those individuals and churches that have turned their back on the authority exercised by the Lord in Peter and his successors have not been able to avoid the “splintering effect” and the multiplication of churches or remaking and restorations of churches.

Your literature also contains a freewheeling interpretation of what took place in the early generations and centuries of the Church of Jesus Christ. It was intentional on the part of those early Christians to take hold of the empty rituals and beliefs of their pagan contemporaries and put them at the service of the one true God revealed by Jesus. Having come to know and love the one true Jesus Christ, the only Saviour of the world sent by God, they turned from the death of their previous life of sin and disorder and wanted to make visible to the whole society that the pagan ways were empty at best and devil worship at worst. So they abolished the pagan rituals and as light fills the darkness gave their place to the Gospel practices observed since apostolic times. It was the end of the Roman persecutions that allowed the Christian Church – and there was only one – to practice its faith openly.

Moreover, churches that refer to tradition are not by that very fact discarding the divine Word of God; so I must draw the conclusion that you are misled by your sources on which you base your wholesale judgement of churches that do employ tradition. Tradition after all is only something that can happen beyond the initial generation of those who have the original experience.

For all of us, the original generation was that of the apostles and other disciples who knew Jesus and had the personal experience of his life and ministry, teaching and miracles, passion, death, and resurrection. For you, there is another original generation, that of Herbert W. Armstrong and those who knew him and were his co-workers. You have experienced for yourselves the need of developing a tradition in order to remember, preserve, and pass on this knowledge of him and of his teaching.

So tradition is not an insult to the divine Word of God, but the living body of human experience in which soil the Holy Spirit inspired the divine Word to be heard, spoken and written down in order to pass it on to people of other generations. As G. K. Chesterton put it,

"Tradition means giving votes to the most obscure of all classes, our ancestors. It is the democracy of the dead. Tradition refuses to submit to the small and arrogant oligarchy of those who merely happen to be walking about."

[G. K. Chesterton](#), Orthodoxy, English author & mystery novelist (1874 - 1936)

Sincerely, and for the glory of God in our time,

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In house links by the Restored Church of God, formerly Worldwide Church of God, Global Church of God, Living Church of God –

The Restored Church of God home page:

<http://www.thercg.org/home.html>

Christians don't believe in the true Jesus Christ unless they live transformed Christian lives:

<http://www.thercg.org/books/ttjc.html#ch19>

The True Church :

http://www.realtruth.org/wtc_008_081219.html

The Life of Herbert W. Armstrong:

<http://www.thercg.org/books/hwahlipp.html>

Objective or critical views of the Restored Church of God, formerly the Worldwide Church of God, Global Church of God, Living Church of God –

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Worldwide_Church_of_God

<http://www.cogwriter.com/rcg.htm>

<http://ezinearticles.com/?David-Pack-and-the-Restored-Church-of-God&id=199134>