

WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD NEGLECT OF WIFE
WORLD HEADQUARTERS NEGLECT OF FAMILY
PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG
PRESIDENT and PASTOR

January 25, 1970

To all Ministers and Elders,

GREETINGS:

The most profitable and enjoyable Ministers' Conference we have ever held has just concluded. It was also the largest, with many ministers from all parts of the world attending.

In the wake of it, the following letter came to my desk, although it was written January 7th:

"I have had the pleasure of meeting a number of your people and hearing you and some of your ministers. I have a lot of admiration for you all and feel that you are doing a wonderful work. May I please call one thing to your attention. Please take a really good look at the young wives of your congregation; that is, the ones with three or more children. They all look so run down and tired, I feel sorry for them. They are, as far as I see, trying to do all the things required of them. Is there any way you can approach this problem and reduce some of their responsibilities? Are their husbands being too demanding or domineering, along with family and school, and social activities? I do not know the answer, but have prayed about it. Please give this your kind consideration. ... Thank you sincerely,"

The woman signed a fictitious name. Apparently she referred to the local headquarters congregation. But I have discussed this with an Evangelist still here, and he feels the comment is justified and true -- not only of young wives of local members, but also of young wives of many ministers.

* I want to remind you of it, not only in regard to the younger wives in your congregations, but also in regard to your own wives.

Actually, many of the wives of visiting ministers -- mostly former students of Ambassador College -- looked harried and tired during the Conference. In college, it seems the great ambition of many girls is to become the wife of a minister. In college they get in constant exercise, then they marry, bear children and get little or no exercise.

First of all, are you ministers neglecting your wives and children? I know how easy it is for a minister to become so preoccupied with his ministerial duties that he almost totally neglects his wife and children. He forgets that the wife is the weaker vessel. He gives her no help. It becomes solely her responsibility to take care of the children, the home, the duties of a minister's wife, and still be an inspiring HELP to her husband -- while he gives her no help and little attention except, perhaps, as a sex outlet.

✓ A wife needs some help from her husband. It should not be completely one-sided -- she gives him all the help, he gives her none. She needs companionship -- conversation with her husband. You've all heard me say many times that Mrs. Armstrong was half of my ministry. I talked over things with her. I valued her suggestions and wisdom. We planned things together. We shared our work for God together. I know that every wife is not the type to share in all the problems and planning in her husband's ministry as Mrs. Armstrong did -- but every wife needs to share companionship and conversation with her husband.

✓ And EVERY child needs a FATHER! Little girls need a father as well as boys. They need a father's companionship and attention. Part of the duties of your ministry is to devote a reasonable amount of your time and YOURSELF to your children. Other ministerial duties are not more important so that you devote yourself entirely to them and neglect your family.

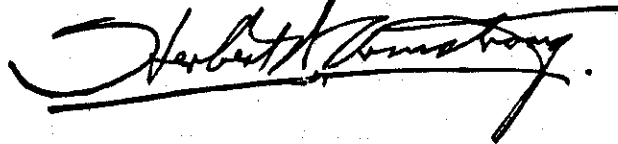
I don't think you need more detailed instruction from me. I don't think that whatever neglect does exist is caused by lack of knowledge and know-how, but by plain oversight and neglect.

And how about your wife's clothes? I did speak to the ministers at the Conference on the need to keep up personal appearance and neat and sharp grooming, as far as finances allow. Back in the days when I had only one suit to my name, I kept it pressed -- I pressed it myself at least two or three times a week. But you should keep your wife as well-groomed as yourself -- always, of course, within your means. I have wanted our Evangelist-rank ministers to be able to keep their wives reasonably well-dressed, even to having a mink stole or cape for evening wear, and on occasion have helped some with an extra bonus check. We can't do that for everybody, and few of below Evangelist-rank can afford that, but a woman can look very nice and well-groomed with far less costly clothes.

I suggest that you take special notice of the younger wives in your congregations, and perhaps, if their husbands

are apparently neglectful, you might remind them in a sermon. When God instructs us, "Husbands, LOVE your wives," He means far more than mere kissing and sex love -- he means giving them the attention and help they need. He means get on the giving side, not mere getting. He means OUTGOING CONCERN for them. Perhaps some of you need to stop and consider whether you are obeying that command. Let's try not to come short in any of God's instructions on Christian living.

Much love to you all, in Jesus' name,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Herbert H. Armstrong", written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath.