

The Plain Truth
Archetypes and Paradigms
Presented by Greg Albrecht

1. **"The Last Witness"**
2. **"If Only the Nations Would Keep the Law"**
3. **Christology**
4. **"True Christians"**
5. **Proof-texting**
6. **Inclusive Language**

1. **"The Last Witness"** This approach begins with the premise that everything in the world is a mess. So far, so good. As a result, we give a nation its "last witness." Logically, then, we are witnessing to all nations, telling them to repent. And our job is much like that of an Old Testament prophet.

However, the thought continues that we know they probably won't repent. So what we are basically saying is: "Here it is. You probably won't obey, but we have done our part and may now wash our hands of it. We'll just wait for Christ to come back and clean the whole mess up."

We no longer hold to this approach or archetype. We believe that individuals are our target audience, not nations. We need to focus on people, believing that they can and do repent. We also need to focus on what we can do now, as Christians, to help them along. After all, in order for a nation to repent, the people must be involved at some stage. This "last witness" archetype also leads to our familiar conclusion, "Christ will return, establish the kingdom, and everything will be OK."

We need to help our readers understand why they need to repent and to desire reconciliation with God.

Incomplete/Incorrect	Preferred
<p>"The whole world is now in a time of grave crisis and is rapidly approaching a condition of total chaos—we are now in the crisis period at the close of this age!"</p> <p><i>Old Correspondence Course, Lesson 1</i></p>	<p>"Let's remember that God has <i>not only</i> called all his people to personal salvation, but also to do a <i>job</i>—to preach and teach the good news of repentance, forgiveness of sins and salvation through Jesus Christ, the gospel of his kingdom—which is here now in part <i>in</i> the Church, but yet to come in <i>fullness</i> at Christ's return! (See Luke 24:45-47, Acts 8:12, 28:30-31.)"</p> <p><i>Pastor General's Report, April 9, 1991</i></p> <p>"The Christian life is a life that <i>reaches out</i> to help others. As the Holy Spirit works in us, we are moved to action, <i>right</i> action toward others and toward God."</p> <p><i>Pastor General's Report, April 9, 1991</i></p>

Incomplete/Incorrect	Preferred
<p>"For decades on the 'World Tomorrow' program, and in the Plain Truth magazine, God's prophecies have been shouted to our people—that we are going to have such total drought and disease epidemics that it will take one third of our people! And, unless our people as a nation wake up and repent of these SINS, we shall then be invaded, and once more taken captive as slaves. You may scoff. You may ignore. But not for long! In the near future it will strike! You won't scoff then!"</p> <p><i>Which Day Is the Christian Sabbath?</i></p>	<p>"God loves his creation (John 3:16). From the foundation of the world he purposed to forgive sin—to restore humanity's relationship with him and to restore relationships between fellow human beings. 'All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation' (II Corinthians 5:18-19)."</p> <p><i>Pastor General's Report, August 27, 1991</i></p>

2. **"If Only The Nations Would Keep The Law"** This approach theorizes that "if only the nations were keeping the law, the world would be a perfect place." It sees our role as that of a "watchman" whose duty is merely to warn, and to do no more.

But Jesus did not just come so that everyone, including the nations, could keep the law more perfectly. He came to save the world from sin and to impute his righteousness to those he would call. No human, or nation, can keep the law perfectly. Paul even went so far as to say that the law was a curse to him, because he could not keep it.

Yes, we should be doing our best to follow God's lead, but even if everyone followed God's law perfectly, that would not bring salvation or the kingdom to the earth. Our only hope is to be saved, redeemed, reconciled, forgiven, justified through Jesus Christ as God, King and Redeemer.

Incomplete/Incorrect	Preferred
<p>"The law of God is the way to peace, happiness and joy. It is one of God's greatest gifts to mankind. It was given to make man happy, to lead him into the full, abundant life, and to lead him into eternal life. All the evil in the world has been caused by the breaking of God's great laws."</p> <p><i>Old Correspondence Course, Lesson 12</i></p>	<p>"However, it is a common mistake to assume, 'If everyone would just keep the Ten Commandments, what a nice world we would have.' Christians should consider that the Ten Commandments do not require kindness, mercy, compassion, generosity, sacrifice for others, impartiality, patience or love. Nor do the Ten Commandments specifically forbid conceit, envy, hatred, rage or selfish ambition.</p> <p>"The Ten Commandments are important, but they are not enough. Jesus warned the Pharisees, who were strict legalists: 'Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of dead men's bones and everything unclean. In the same way, on the outside you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness' (Matthew 23:27-28)."</p> <p><i>Coworker Letter, May 27, 1992</i></p>

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<p>"Humanity as a whole has rejected its loving Creator. We have discarded His laws, which, if kept, would produce every good anyone could desire. Now God must intervene in the world to shake and awaken man from spiritual ignorance."</p> <p><i>The Good News</i>, April 1986</p>	<p>"<u>People need more than just to be told to keep the Ten Commandments.</u> They need to know that God gave his Son to die for their sins, and that they can receive the gift of the Holy Spirit and eternal life through faith in him (1 Corinthians 15:3-4; Ephesians 2:8). That is why Jesus gave the Church, in Matthew 28:19-20, the commission to 'make disciples of all nations,' that is, to lead people to repentance and forgiveness of sins through faith in the Son of God, Jesus Christ, so they can be born anew as children of God. This goes hand in hand with 'teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you,' because it is only through the transforming power of the Holy Spirit that believers can be saved, and that they can obey Jesus' commands to love God and their neighbor (Mark 12:30-31). Christians obey the Ten Commandments and exhibit the fruit of the Holy Spirit."</p> <p><i>Coworker Letter</i>, May 27, 1992</p>
<p>"God has given the PCG a watchman responsibility. God commands us to hear this word and WARN Israel. It's not a time to restore all things or preach the Gospel around the world. It's a time to warn the WCG and Israel."</p> <p><i>The Philadelphia Trumpet</i>, April 1992</p>	<p>"Jesus commanded us to be ready for his return. He did not command us to figure out when he would return. He told us we must always be ready, <i>because</i> we will not know when. In [Matthew 24] verse 42, he tells us to watch. The reason? Because we do not know the hour. By watching, we will always be ready....</p> <p>"Next in Matthew 25 comes the powerful picture of the second coming with Christ seated on the throne of judgment. What is his standard for dividing the righteous from the wicked? Read Matthew 25:31-46 again. This is the key to being prepared for Jesus' return. This is the basis for 'watching.' "</p> <p><i>Pastor General's Report</i>, December 3, 1991</p>

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<p>"God has now revealed to me a deeper understanding of the book of Ezekiel. The watchman of Ezekiel has a special job to do. He must watch and warn Israel. His job is not to save them—only to warn them."</p> <p><i>The Philadelphia Trumpet, April 1992</i></p>	<p>"It is good to hope and pray that the end of this age will come soon. But because of an unbalanced focus on one part of the gospel, some in the Church began unconsciously to overlook the misery and sorrow of warfare and disaster, seeing instead merely the soon coming of Christ to deliver us from our troubles. The horrible conditions in this world were seen by some simply as the just punishment for sin. Our commission was seen by some as merely to warn, but not to 'offer a cup of cold water.'</p> <p>"Paul's admonition, 'As we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers' (Galatians 6:10), fell into the background. Some could not understand why the Church should offer help to suffering or unfortunate people. After all, didn't Christ just command us to warn? Some felt, 'Why should we get involved in helping people who are suffering, especially since they are only suffering because of their own sins?' "</p> <p><i>Pastor General's Report, November 19, 1991</i></p>

3. **Christology** This is actually a sub-point to #2. Instead of pointing people primarily to the law, we need to point them to Christ. We need to emphasize the role and nature of Jesus Christ. We need to see the Sabbath and Holy Days in the light of Christ, rather than seeing Christ in the light of the Sabbath and Holy Days. It should go without saying, but Jesus Christ is central to Christianity.

Incomplete/Incorrect	Preferred
<p>"Then the Feast of Unleavened Bread, which immediately follows the Passover, reminds us that we must strive to put all sins OUT of our lives. This festival pictures putting the leaven of sin away from us, and our renewed resolve to live in harmony with God's law henceforth. Thus we are to rededicate our lives to continual spiritual growth—overcoming the remaining leaven of sin in our lives, and the sins that all Christians occasionally commit."</p> <p><i>Old Correspondence Course, Lesson 12</i></p>	<p>"And since seven is God's special number signifying completion and perfection, the seven days of the Feast of Unleavened Bread picture the sinless state of converted Christians after they have been reconciled to God by the shed blood of Jesus Christ (Eph. 2:12-13)."</p> <p><i>Interim Correspondence Course, Lesson 11</i></p>
	<p>"They are memorials of God's great acts of salvation in history, symbols of the power of God, and types of the anticipated future fulfillment of God's plan of salvation. For the Christian, the festivals and Holy Days are annual celebrations of God's power, love and saving grace."</p> <p><i>Interim Correspondence Course, Lesson 11</i></p>
	<p>"Our observance of the festivals must certainly not omit the great supernatural events of God's deliverance of his people Israel in the Old Testament, but we must realize that those miracles served to foreshadow the incomparably greater miracles of salvation through Jesus Christ.... For Christians, the festivals are no longer Old Testament Holy Days. They have been transformed in meaning to teach us about the gospel—God's past, present and future work in Jesus Christ for the salvation of the whole world."</p> <p><i>Pastor General's Report, April 21, 1992</i></p>

Incomplete/Incorrect	Preferred
	<p data-bbox="791 305 1464 570">"As we assemble together on these deeply significant occasions to worship and glorify the God of our salvation, let's remember that Jesus Christ is the substance, the essence, the real meaning behind them. He is the Author and Finisher of our faith and, as his brothers and sisters, all we do should revolve around him."</p> <p data-bbox="791 603 1336 645"><i>Pastor General's Report, April 21, 1992</i></p>

4. **"True" Christians** "True" Christians vs. the rest of the "Christian" world. Often becomes "us" vs. "them."

Past/Present Illustrations	
Instead Of:	Use:
<p>"False religionists"</p> <p>"Professing Christianity"</p> <p>"So-called Christians"</p> <p>"Christians, falsely so called"</p> <p>"Religions of the world"</p> <p>"Converted Christians"</p> <p>"Pagan religions"</p> <p>"The world is in total ignorance"</p> <p>"Churches of Satan"</p> <p>"Most churches today"</p> <p>"Science, so called"</p> <p>"Education, so called"</p>	<p>"Christianity"</p> <p>"Christians"</p> <p>"Mainstream Christianity"</p> <p>"Jesus' disciples"</p> <p>"Many are yet unaware"</p> <p>"Many do not understand"</p> <p>"Many have not yet had an opportunity"</p>

Incomplete/Incorrect	Preferred
<p>"This world has a god—a false god—Satan the devil! He pretends to be 'an angel of light' (II Cor. 11:4). He has his religious organizations. Not all are Buddhists, Shintoists, Taoists, Confucianists.</p> <p>"Many have appropriated the very name 'Christian,' whose ministers, says your Bible, actually are Satan's ministers: 'And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness' (II Cor. 11:14-15)."</p> <p><i>Which Day Is the Christian Sabbath?</i></p>	<p>"Is having a point of understanding what makes us Christians, or is it that we are actually <i>led</i> by the Spirit that dwells in us?"</p> <p><i>Pastor General's Report, March 5, 1991</i></p>

Incomplete/Incorrect	Preferred
<p>"Because of their false pagan and unscriptural doctrine about what 'salvation' is."</p> <p><i>What Will You Be Doing in the Next Life?</i></p>	<p>"Stress the right response to God's love and mercy—love, honor, worship and obedience toward our supreme Father and faithfulness in the new life to which he has called us, which means maintaining right relationships within our families and toward our neighbors."</p> <p><i>Pastor General's Report, March 5, 1991</i></p>
<p>"People do not realize this, but their natural minds are HOSTILE against God! They do not want to hear about God! The things of God are foolishness to them. Those inoculated with higher education (MAN'S KNOWLEDGE) in their smug vanity feel superior, and look with disdain on the things or knowledge of God!"</p> <p><i>Never Before Understood</i></p>	<p>"The Feast brings into sharp focus the true meaning of our calling. It reminds us of the universal extent of God's love and the truth of the brotherhood of all mankind as potential heirs of eternal life as children of God."</p> <p><i>Pastor General's Report, September 10, 1991</i></p>

Incomplete/Incorrect	Preferred
<p>"This CAUSE has been utterly overlooked by modern science. It is unknown in modern higher education. It has been carelessly glossed over by even the traditional Christian religion, and is unknown to other religions.</p> <p>"This matter of basic CAUSES has eluded the knowledge production of man. It has never been understood by modern science. It has not been recognized by education. Religion has remained in ignorance of this mystery of the ages! Yet it has been faithfully recorded and preserved for us who will to UNDERSTAND!"</p> <p><i>Never Before Understood</i></p>	<p>"The true Christian is learning, when being led by Christ, to make love a continuing and permanent way of life, not just an occasional act of kindness. He or she is learning to think like Jesus, and is becoming a new person, the old person having been buried at baptism. And the love of God motivates the new person to live by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God."</p> <p><i>The Plain Truth, July 1991</i></p>
<p>"Higher education contemptuously ignores, without any consideration whatsoever, the biblical truths revealing man's presence on the earth and the causes of the present state of civilization. Education in the civilized world today has become entirely materialistic.... Higher education remain in utter ignorance of the mystery of mankind and of human civilization."</p> <p><i>Mystery of the Ages</i></p>	
<p>"Did you realize that there is one religious body which lays claim to being the sole infallible authority? It claims the Bible 'is not a sufficient guide to heaven.' It claims, through its own church leaders, that it, by its own authority, substituted Sunday for the Sabbath."</p> <p><i>Which Day Is the Christian Sabbath?</i></p>	
<p>"But before A.D. 70 that message was SUPPRESSED by the fast-rising FALSE church and was never again proclaimed to the world until God started proclaiming it over radio through me, first in October, 1933."</p> <p><i>Youth 86, January</i></p>	

5. **Proof-texting** The practice of selecting a scripture to match your idea. Once a thesis has been developed, a scripture is inserted to add credence or credibility to a point. This is fine—if the scripture means what one says it means. But often, this is simply carelessness or even abuse to the scripture—because the scripture has nothing to do with what we say it does. Proof-texting can also be the act of "splicing" two or more scriptures together, scriptures otherwise unrelated, to make them "prove" a point we wish to make. (See example of Proverbs 18:24 on following page.)

Instead of proof-texting, set up the quote. Add several sentences as an introduction or conclusion to the scripture being read. These sentences should identify a number of things about the verse including historical context, to whom the writer was writing, the specific issue being addressed, etc. Setting up the quote helps keep the writer and the speaker honest.

Proverbs 18:24
Proof texting

KING JAMES:

"A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly."

NEW KING JAMES:

"A man who has friends (1) must himself be friendly" *Marginal note: (1) "be broken in pieces"*

NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION:

[We have recently "endorsed" using this version] "A man of many companions may come to ruin"

NEW REVISED STANDARD VERSION: (Life Application Bible)

"Some friends play at friendship"

Comment: Loneliness is everywhere. Many people feel cut off and alienated from others. Being in a crowd just makes people more aware of their isolation. We all need friends who will stick close, listen, care, and offer help when it is needed—in good times and in bad. It is better to have one such friend than dozens of superficial acquaintances. Instead of wishing you could find a true friend, seek to become one. There are people who need your friendship. Ask God to reveal them to you, and then take on the challenge of being a true friend.

SONCINO BIBLE COMMENTARY:

"The first word, *ish*, means 'a man,' and the phrase 'a man of friends' signifies one who indiscriminately multiplies his friends... This type of friendship is referred to in the passage, 'There is a friend that is a companion at the table, and he will not continue in the day of thy affliction' (Ecclesiasticus 6:10)."

TYNDALE OLD TESTAMENT COMMENTARIES:

"The first line reads literally 'A man of friends [is] to be shattered.' The verb is a play on the Hebrew for 'to make friends' (found in 22:24); but it is not the same word, as AV ('must shew himself friendly') and RSV would prefer. (RSV reads: 'There are friends who pretend to be friends.') The RV gives the most probable sense of the Hebrew text: 'He that maketh many friends (doeth it) to his own destruction. But the Hebrew is very cryptic, and there is a case for reading the opening word (cf. RSV) not a 'a-man-of,' but as 'there-are' (a very small consonantal difference): 'There are friends to (one's) undoing.'"

EXPOSITOR'S BIBLE COMMENTARY

"It is better to have one good, faithful friend than numerous unreliable ones...The Hebrew is difficult. It means 'for being crushed' or 'to be shattered' but not 'to show oneself friendly' (cf. KJV). The idea may be that there are friends to one's undoing."

CONCLUSION—WE MUST DO OUR HOMEWORK. WE MUST AVOID PROOF-TEXTING AND USING THE BIBLE TO PROVE OUR ALREADY DECIDED-UPON THESIS. AND, WE MUST REMEMBER...WE HAVE ALL BEEN GUILTY!

SOME COMMON ERRORS IN BIBLE INTERPRETATION

■ Not reading the whole context.

Example: "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them," Ephesians 2:8-10.

Example: See attached article from the October, 1991, Plain Truth.

■ Not understanding the literary genre.

Example: Reading the Proverbs, which are statements of general wisdom, as absolute laws that apply to every situation. Proverbs 15:25 ("The Lord will destroy the house of the proud, but He will establish the boundary of the widow.") is generally true in most cases over the long run. But things in this world don't always work out that way. Failing to understand the literary genre can lead to confusion and doubt because this verse obviously contradicts experience in many cases.

■ Not understanding the historical setting.

Example: Exodus 21:24 ("Eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot") describes an Old Testament administration of justice designed to bring control to a strong-willed, physical nation that was prone to violence and crime. The statement should not be applied literally in 20th-century child rearing or in response to accidents, etc.

Example: Deuteronomy 22:5 ("A woman shall not wear anything that pertains to a man, nor shall a man put on a woman's garment, for all who do so are an abomination to the Lord your God.") prohibits a masquerade that would seem to reverse the natural order. That is, distinction between male and female dress is prescribed. But the primary application of this verse referred to religious and cultic practices of Canaan, specifically in the worship of Astarte. Thus, the verse clearly states that cross-dressing, dressing in drag, is prohibited even under the cloak of religion. But while the verse labels transvestites as a dysfunction, it says nothing about a woman wearing jeans to work in the yard, ride a horse, go shopping, etc. In fact, it does not give a list of the places where a woman can wear jeans and places she cannot.

■ Starting from a premise, rather than starting with the Scriptures.

This means going to a concordance to find scriptures that seem to agree with some position you want to take, rather than studying the Scriptures to see what they say is important and basing your message on that. Example: The Church has realized that the Bible makes no direct statement on the use of cosmetics by women, other than general admonitions to modesty, appropriateness, and pleasing God. The fact that Jezebel painted her face no more disallows the use of makeup than the fact that she also wore clothing disallows the wearing of clothes.

■ "Luckydipping."

This means praying for divine guidance and then letting the Bible drop open to reveal what you think is a direct message to you. Example: A certain person, on his first luckydip, read that Judas "went and hanged himself" (Matthew 27:5). On the second luckydip he read, "Go and do likewise" (Luke 10:37). Exasperated, he tried again and found the command, "What you do, do quickly" (John 13:27).

SUMMARY OF "PRACTICAL RULES FOR BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION"

(Chapter 4 of *Knowing Scripture*, by R.C. Sproul, Inter Varsity Press, Downer's Grove, Illinois, 1977.)

RULE 1: The Bible Is to Be Read Like Any Other Book

The Bible is, of course, different from any other book in that it is inspired and infallible. But for matters of interpretation the Bible does not take on some special magic that changes basic literary patterns of interpretation. In the Bible a verb is a verb and a noun is a noun, just as in any other book. Let the Bible mean what it says. Pray for enlightenment. Ask God to help you overcome preconceived ideas.

RULE 2: Read the Bible Existentially

Not to be confused with the modern "existential" method of interpreting Scripture whereby the words of Scripture are taken out of their historical context for subjective meaning. Another way to phrase this rule is: **Use the empathetic method.** In other words, get passionately and personally involved in what you read. Try to "crawl into the skin" of the characters you are reading about. Try to understand, for example, *why* Paul wrote what he did about the role of women.

RULE 3: Historical Narratives Are to Be Interpreted by the Didactic

Didactic literature teaches or explains, such as does much of the Epistles. An example of this rule: David's adultery. From the didactic portions of Scripture we understand that we should *not* follow David's conduct described in the narrative.

Under this rule comes the subject of "phenomenological language," especially in historical narratives. This is language that describes things as they appear to the naked eye. For example, saying the sun rises or sets. The didactic portions do not state that the earth is the center of the solar system. The biblical narratives should not be read as scientific textbooks.

RULE 4: The Implicit Is to Be Interpreted by the Explicit

When an implication is drawn that is contradictory to what is explicitly stated, the implication must be rejected. Closely related to the rule of interpreting the implicit by the explicit is the rule to interpret the obscure in light of the clear, not vice versa.

RULE 5: Determine Carefully the Meaning of Words

Consider etymology and customary usage of a word. Use valuable in-depth helps such as Kittell's *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament*.

RULE 6: Note the Presence of Parallelisms in the Bible

Three basic types: *Synonymous parallelism* (occurs when different lines or parts of a passage present the same thought in a slightly altered manner of expression—Proverbs 19:5); *Antithetic parallelism* (occurs when the two parts are set in contrast to each other—Proverbs 13:1); *Synthetic parallelism* (occurs when the first part of the passage creates a sense of expectation that is completed by the second part—Psalms 92:9).

RULE 7: Note the Difference Between Proverb and Law

Proverbs express practical truisms, wisdom for godly living. They do not reflect moral laws that are to be applied absolutely to every conceivable life situation. Proverbs 26:4-5 (answering a fool according to his folly) illustrates clearly how proverbs can be contradictory if taken as absolutes with no exceptions.

RULE 8: Observe the Difference Between the Spirit and the Letter of the Law

Jesus taught that the law has a wider application than its letter. He did not set the spirit over against the letter or substitute the spirit for the letter, but he adds the spirit to the letter. Christians are to note both.

RULE 9: Be Careful with Parables

A parable is not a riddle. It was meant to be understood, at least by those who were open to it. We mustn't assume every parable is an allegory with each detail having a specific "spiritual" meaning. The safest and probably most accurate way to treat parables is to look for one basic central point in each. Some, such as the prodigal son, obviously have more than one point. Some are extended similes; others are comparative stories; others have an obvious moral application. Use of several commentaries will be helpful here.

RULE 10: Be Careful with Predictive Prophecy

This is an area of much abuse with interpretations ranging from the skeptical, naturalistic method that virtually eliminates predictive prophecy to the wild, bizarre method that sees in every contemporary event a "clear" fulfillment of a biblical prophecy. We should not insist that every detail of biblical prophecy must be fulfilled to the letter, leaving no room for symbolic predictions or predictions that have a broader scope of meaning. In interpreting prophetic images, seek the general meaning of such images in the Bible itself. Approach prophecy carefully with a sober attitude.

6. Inclusive Language

Incomplete/Incorrect	Preferred
<p>"MAN</p> <p>Man was made mortal, in the image of God. God formed him of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, endowing him with mental and spiritual faculties. He was given dominion over all the earth, and the freedom to choose whether to obey his Creator. Because he chose sin, man was alienated from God and can be reconciled only through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Man's destiny is to inherit eternal life in the kingdom of God. (Genesis 1:26-28, 2:7, 16-17, Romans 5:12-21)"</p> <p><i>Statement of Beliefs of the Worldwide Church of God (1991 edition)</i></p>	<p>"HUMANITY</p> <p><u>Humanity</u> was made mortal, <u>male and female</u>, and in the image of God, endowed with mental and spiritual faculties. God formed the first man, Adam, of the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life. <u>He formed the first woman</u>, Eve, from Adam's own body. <u>They</u> were given dominion over all the earth, and the freedom to choose whether to obey <u>their</u> Creator. Because <u>they</u> chose sin, <u>they and their</u> descendants became alienated from God and can be reconciled only through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. The destiny of <u>human beings</u> is to inherit eternal life in the kingdom of God. (Genesis 1:26-28, 2:7, 22, Romans 5:9-21)"</p> <p><i>Statement of Beliefs of the Worldwide Church of God (1992 edition)</i></p>

Instead Of:	Use:
man, mankind	humanity, people, human beings, humankind
the common man	the average person, the ordinary citizen
manhood	maturity, adulthood
spokesman	spokesperson
chairman	chairperson, the chair
forefathers	forerunner, ancestors, precursors

Source: *A Christian Writer's Manual of Style*, Zondervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids, Michigan, 1988.

III. **Exploring the Word of God:** (Section provided by Jim Herst)

IV. Booklets

- A. Booklet Master Plan
 - i. why we publish new and edited booklets (some of it is based on the phraseology already covered by Mr. Feazell)
- B. List of promotable literature
 - i. import of the LCR
- C. Booklet format
 - i. booklets are now consistent in format
 - a. new cover
 - b. WCG seal on back cover
 - ii. some pamphlet-sized booklets
 - iii. public-service brochures
- D. Policy of the Church is that when literature is approved by the MRT, it needn't be "beefed up" by the international offices.