

Bible study

WILL RESURRECTED SONS & DAUGHTERS OF GOD DIE AGAIN?

By C White

When resurrected into God's Kingdom, will we inherit life eternal, or die again? If we create new human life on other planets in other galaxies, will we die for them as Christ for us? Does the Bible offer any clues? What did Herbert W Armstrong teach on this issue?

In one of the most neglected books produced by the original Worldwide Church of God, *The Incredible Human Potential*, we find taught that one of the duties and pleasures of resurrected Christians will be to create new life on planets in an otherwise dead and lifeless universe:

“... scriptures indicate we shall impart life to billions and billions of dead planets, as life has been imparted to this earth. We shall create, as God directs and instructs. We shall rule through all eternity!” (*Incredible Human Potential*, page 33).

It has been further thought that amongst this new life we would create humans, granting them eternal life upon qualification – a process that would go on forever in a Kingdom that is always expanding (Is 9:7). From this has developed an undercurrent of thought, albeit a very small undercurrent, that at some future time, resurrected children of God, being Divine themselves, will need to die for their human creations much like Christ died for us, given that humans, even without Satan deluding them, would still fall short of the mark or sin. What did Herbert W Armstrong write to indicate this or otherwise? Once again we turn to the *Incredible Human Potential*:

“... God knew the inevitability that Satan would tempt the first created man to disbelieve God and commit sin. If the super archangel and all his angels had been led into rebellion, how much more certain that man, made lower than the angels, would also sin!

... Since God delegated the actual making of man to the Word, He, when physically born as a human being, for the purpose of death, would, in that death, be giving a life of greater value than the sum total of all human lives – since He was their maker ... He in the person of Christ, would be able to avoid sinning. Then He, who never sinned, although tempted in all points just like the rest of us humans, in death could pay in our stead the penalty we have incurred.” (*Incredible Human Potential*, pages 67-8).

But, you cannot find anything in the writings of Herbert Armstrong, of the Church, statements by most ministers or in sermons, even faintly suggesting that we would die for our human creations like Christ did.

Why not?

Resurrected Children of God – to die once again?

Some members have indeed speculated that we, as God-Beings, would go down to other planets and die for created humans, as part of the means to purify them of sins and thus to enable eternal life to be granted to them. Tkach used this as an excuse to change the doctrine (as outlined in the *Worldwide News* back around 1992) to 'God's family' or 'God has a family' instead of the Biblical 'God is a Family'. Whilst indeed God has a family, God should be, more importantly, described as the 'God Family'.

Given that Christ is the supreme Creator, Who began the Father's creation of the universe, all further creations by us, would fall under the ambit of Him as the original Creator and Creator of creators (us). As such, we, that become Creators, being created ourselves, will not have to die for human creations (if any) that would fall short of the mark (ie sin). Christ's shed blood, as the Creator, covers all creation into eternity. It follows there is no need for us to die for our creation, should we undertake tasks such as creation, in the Kingdom.

Whilst some contend with the belief that our destiny is to become Creators, by virtue of being born into the God Family and being of the same order or type as God, we inherit creative capacity. As HWA said, what of the lifeless universe out there – this is hardly conjecture. As further proof, humans are even now little creators, whether that be at home, in projects, as architects, engineers and such like. Humans are already creators; how much more the born children of God!

No more sin and suffering

We know that Satan and the demons would be put away for all eternity, I doubt if there will be gross evil anymore. But, if we were to create humans, even without the influence of Satan, they would still fall short of the mark, but hardly anything to the extent of the world we live in today. Christ's blood would cover them too.

Finally, if we were to go down to our planet, we would have to endure another physical life, pain, temptation etc. Aren't we promised that pain and suffering will be no more?:

Rev 21:4 And God will wipe away all tears from their eyes. And there will be no more death, nor mourning, nor crying out, nor will there be any more pain; for the first things passed away.

This given this, why go through all of that human pain, suffering and death again? Doesn't make sense especially when one considers what a huge risk this would be. For if we did slip up or sinned after becoming human again, that would be it! - And another God-Being would have to come down and die for us. What if we didn't make it? Where would this end? Could we set it up so that we go through the motions of temptation etc, but unable to sin, as some (wrongfully) think Christ did? Then if so, why bother and why pretend?

To me it is sensible and logical that there would be no need for us to die for our creations. For the original Creator, Jesus Christ, as gone through all of that, for everyone, for all eternity. He has covered ALL sin for ALL eternity.

Therefore, whilst what the original Worldwide Church of God taught is Biblical and sound, the surrounding speculation by a few, is not.

Finally, whilst some may blame Herbert Armstrong for the silly speculation of others, I note the following:

1. These are normally persons who are anti-HWA anyway, seeking any excuse to have a go at him;
2. He never said anything like the speculators did, on any occasion;
3. Most of his 'speculations' from time-to-time were soundly based on the Bible anyway and which I don't have any problem with.

It is high time that the lies about Herbert W Armstrong ceased and the truth was spread abroad for a change.

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