



STATEMENT DA190

## **ARMSTRONGISM, THE WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD, THE CHURCH OF GOD INTERNATIONAL**

The term "Armstrongism" is generally used to refer to the religious movement founded by Herbert W. Armstrong, who died in 1986. The two principal organized groups which are part of this movement are the Worldwide Church of God (WWCG), based in Pasadena, California, and the Church of God International (CGI), based in Tyler, Texas. The WWCG is the original body, while the CGI was founded by Herbert's son Garner Ted Armstrong as a rival sect. Both groups adhere to roughly the same doctrinal beliefs, which are directly opposed to orthodox Christian teaching. Both groups deny the Trinity, the personality of the Holy Spirit, the eternal punishment of the wicked, and other basic biblical doctrines. Both groups are also well known for their teaching of Anglo-Israelism, their insistence on observance of a Saturday sabbath, and their condemnation of Christmas and Easter.

CRI has a variety of materials available on Armstrongism. A lengthy chapter on the subject may be found in Dr. Walter Martin's book *Kingdom of the Cults*, as well as a shorter chapter on Armstrongism in his book *Martin Speaks Out on the Cults*. The chapter from *Kingdom of the Cults* is available as a separate pamphlet entitled *Herbert W. Armstrong & the Worldwide Church of God*. He has also produced a cassette tape on the subject, called "Herbert W. Armstrong and the Worldwide Church of God" (C-043), which is also available in a cassette album entitled "World of the Cults, Vol. 1" (C-018). All of these materials may be ordered from CRI using the CRI Resource List.

In addition, a couple of articles from the *Christian Research Journal* relate to this subject. One is a critique of Herbert W. Armstrong's last book, *Mystery of the Ages* (DA-200), in which Armstrong set out a fairly systematic exposition of his doctrine. The other is an article entitled, "Ye Are Gods? Orthodox and Heretical Perspectives on the Deification of Man" (DD-100), which clearly explains why Armstrong's teachings that human beings can become members of "the God family" is heretical. These items can be requested free of charge from CRI. Other materials are also available on the specific doctrinal issues raised by Armstrongism (e.g., the Trinity, the sabbath, Christmas, etc.).

Finally, there are two resources for further information on Armstrongism that we especially recommend. The first is a Christian individual by the name of J.L.F. Buchner, who appears to be the foremost evangelical authority on Armstrongism. You can write to him at P.O. Box 108, Milperra NSW 2214, Australia. The second is an organization called The Ambassador Report. Its critique of Armstrongism is not specifically Christian, but it is a helpful resource especially for ex-members of either the WWCG or the CGI. Their address is P.O. Box 4068, Pasadena, CA 91106.

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