

The **ROBERT GROVE TESTIMONY**, first in 1990, and then in 1999 when he created the *man-made religious organization*, “**Robert A. Grove Ministries.**”
by Jack W. Langford

There was a time when Robert Grove was very conscientious about people believing “*the truth*” regarding their testimony of NOT having created “*any man-made religious organization*” to operate under or through. This testimony is exemplified by a handout that Robert wrote in 1990 and distributed to all concerned people inquiring about their testimony (a copy is attached to this letter). This testimony is entitled “**GOOD NEWS**” (*Fall/Winter 1990 #1*). On the first page Robert explained that people just feel “***we are not telling the truth***” when we tell them who we are, i.e., the “*church which is Christ’s body*” (pg. 2), and nothing else.

On page one Robert further explained, “*unless we find authorization for doing something in a name other than His name we shouldn’t do it, because it is not a good work (II Tim. 3:16,17 & Philip. 1:10).*” Furthermore, Robert added, “*to supplement God’s instructions or to ignore God’s instructions will cause us to grieve the Holy Spirit, to lose rewards for eternity, and to be ashamed when we give answer to God for our conduct (Eph. 4:30; I Cor. 3:11-15; II Tim. 2:15).*” (Emphasis mine, J.L.)

On page two Robert states that God does not “*give us instructions for forming a religious organization, in fact He condemns such organization.*” Robert goes on to say, “*it would be a sin for us to ‘start a church,’ name a church, or join people to an organization called a church (Rom. 14:23 & 10:17).*”

Of course, Robert has now, as of 1999, **compromised** these truths by forming man-made religious organizations called “*Ministries*” which are, in fact, a part of a church, or called “*para-church*” (church support) organizations by the IRS. These religious organizations are incorporated on the very same basis as most man-made churches today—on a simple board of directors corporation basis—and without the “formal membership” encumbrances. These man-made religious organizations are all given their own **distinctive identifying names** after the particular minister involved. Obviously, there is absolutely NO authorization from the Word of God to do this! The Word of God Robert Grove was going by in 1990 did not suddenly change in 1999!

On page two Robert goes on to say, “*For these reasons when we tell people we are not sponsored by any man-made organization we are honestly telling the truth.*” Of course, at the time Robert wrote this he was telling “*the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth!*” However, since 1999, for Robert to make the same profession, that “*they are not creating any man-made religious organizations,*” would be a blatant LIE! And this is precisely what Robert is telling the public, on the back of his tracts, on the internet, and even to various congregations.

It is important to note, that in support of Robert’s affirmation that he was telling “*the truth*” in 1990, he quotes from the “Tax Case” testimony in 1961-2. At that time the IRS lawyers wanted us to form any kind of a religious organization corporation,

specifically “Ministries,” and Robert quotes them as saying, “*we could call them anything as long as we incorporated*” (page two, 3rd par.).

By our specific rejection of incorporating “Ministry” religious organizations, we were propelled into the beautiful testimony of the “Tax Case” that we are only functioning as members of “*the church which is Christ’s body.*” Robert quotes from the Tax Case on page 2 of that paper. At that time we refused to religiously incorporate with the State. We contended that we were already incorporated by Jesus Christ as “the church which is His body.” This, of course, included the ministry. This Divine corporation bears the singular name of The Lord Jesus Christ, and all that we ministered and did was in His name according to Col. 3:17. Consequently, Robert was telling “*The truth*” in 1990. He concluded his handout by saying, “*If you would like to meet Christians who are meeting separated from man-made religion, please give us a call.*”

However, in 1999 Robert formed a man-made religious organization called “*Robert A. Grove Ministries*” corporation. So, as of 1999, Robert is no longer “*telling The Truth*” that he was telling in 1990. In fact, today, according to their incorporation documentation, all of the ministry—including Bible studies, sermons, seminars, family ministry, counseling, camps, funerals and weddings—are all done by the man-made religious corporation and in the name of this and that “Ministry.” In addition, all the local church funds are handled by the same “Ministries.” In addition, much of the properties are owned by the same “Ministries.” In other words, many of the various local churches are actually functioning under the man-made Religious Organizations called “Ministries.” These would truthfully be recognized as “Ministry Churches” which are quite popular in Christendom today

What is worst of all is the sectarian attitude (choosy spirit) Robert and the other ministers manifest when they are faced with these realities. They act pious, as if there is no difference whatsoever!

Whatever happened to “the truth”? Well, “*The Truth*” today is that they do not *advertise* these corporations! In fact, most of the local congregations don’t even realize what they really are nor what has actually happened. The new language is, “*This is simply the way we handle money today.*” Nor will they openly say that they have built “man-made Religious Organizations.” After I pressed hard, Jeff Grove, in the presence of at least ten responsible men finally said, “Five years ago I created a ‘man-made Religious Organization,’ but I am not going to use that terminology because of the connotation of the words.” When I stood up publicly in the congregation and said that Jeff had built a “man-made Religious Organization” the congregation was so shocked that I was told to sit down, and later that if I did not retract that charge I would be marked to be avoided. Since the statement was absolutely true, there was no way I could retract it and was indeed, marked by the congregation to be avoided. Jeff and others could have stated to the congregation, “Jack told the truth,” but they elected to pretend otherwise.

“Nor will they allow any “open discussion” of the subject by me or any one else who is knowledgeable. Whatever happened to “The TRUTH”???”

This is Illustrated a Second Time when Robert wrote: *Thoughts for the Benefit of Those Who Would Share In a Ministry of Music*

This is a handout pamphlet that was circulated throughout all the assemblies. It contained excellent exhortations concerning those who have a gift in music to be using carefulness to not follow the worldly professionalism of modern day, *man-made religion* in producing Christian music. The warnings Robert gave were sober and needed, lest we fall into the trap of following some of the shallow carnalities of so-called “Christian Music,” some of which sounds more like semi-rock concert styles. However, the manner in which Robert couched his exhortations caught my attention. Note the following statements: (I underline & italicize key statements I want you to take note of—J.L.)

- 1.) “I believe that if we are not aware of and obedient to the apostle Paul’s exhortation ‘**COME OUT...BE SEPARATE...TOUCH NOT...**’ the unclean thing, we will ‘mingle’ and ‘learn,’ to the ultimate destruction of our efforts to walk outside *man made religion*. I hope to do what I can to educate all of us to ‘**COME OUT...BE SEPARATE...TOUCH NOT the unclean thing**’ (2 Cor. 6:17).” (pg. 2).
- 2.) “To the degree we don’t back up and obey God’s command, ‘**COME OUT ...BE SEPARATE...,TOUCH NOT...**,’ our testimony of separation from *man made religion* and unto Jesus Christ the Head of the Church, we should expect that we, like Israel of old, will go back into *the bondage out of which our fathers came...This is really scary to me.*” (pg. 3).
- 3.) “I believe the time is ripe to address again across the country what I see as almost totally ignoring the exhortation referred to above, ‘**COME OUT... BE SEPARATE...TOUCH NOT...**’ particularly when it comes to religious entertainment.”
- 4.) “I hope this will be a wakeup call for some to realize that we have drifted much further than we realize toward going *back to Egypt (the religious world).*”

Robert is herein accurately making the application of the principle in II Cor. 6:17 of “**Not touching the unclean thing**” to “man made religion.” Robert actually makes reference to “*man-made religion*” three times in this paper; to “*man organized steeple-House religion*” once; to “*religious entertainment*” once; and to “*the religious world*” once. Now Robert thinks this trend is “*scary.*” **If this is “scary,” what about Robert, himself, going down to “Egypt,” and forming a “MAN-MADE RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATION” called “Robert Grove Ministries” and functioning over all the saints through that man-made religious organization, and taking all of the funds he receives and channeling them into that “man-made religious organization???”**

When I wrote to Robert about my concern for his lack of “**SEPARATION**” from **man-made religion**, he didn’t act “scared” at all. He finally admitted in writing that he had created a “man-made religious organization.” Yet I was eventually marked to be avoided for making the truthful accusation public. I had the very same concern that Robert had, with the difference being, that what some Christians have done in the realm of music pales to insignificance when compared with what Robert has done with his creation of a “**man-made religious incorporation.**”