

**Unity**

**in**

**Separation**

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**Unity in Separation**  
**Where is Babylon Now?**  
**Should Non-trinitarians Remain Members of Trinitarian Churches?**

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## Introduction

When God's people become aware that the trinity is not the One True God of the Bible, should they remain in trinitarian churches, joined in worship with Trinitarians? Should they join in the worship of the trinitarian god by singing hymns, saying "amen" in prayers to the trinitarian god and in celebrating the Lord's Supper with trinitarian ceremonies? Should they be undercover agents, giving a pretence that they hold to the church's fundamental principles, when in reality they reject the central doctrine of the faith – the doctrine that describes who God is?

Clearly trinitarian people who worship the trinity in ignorance are not the reason for any separation. God's people need not separate or become exclusive from the company of their trinitarian friends for fear of spiritual 'contamination.' Jesus did not teach such a doctrine, but He did instruct John to write a final warning to God's people to separate and come out of Babylon.

Revelation 18:4

"And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. "

Separation from false religious organisations is a very different concept to separation or exclusivity from those who are worshipping God to the best of their knowledge. A love for God prevents His people from joining in with pagan ceremonies – i.e. being 'unequally yoked' in worship; but He does not condone 'exclusiveness' or 'holier than thou' attitudes toward those who need to be warned of doctrinal errors.

4 Spiritual Gifts, p 295

*"Notwithstanding the wide-spread declension of faith and piety in the churches, the Lord still has honest children among them; and before his judgments shall be visited upon the earth, many ministers and laymembers will separate from these bodies, and gladly receive the special truths for this time. The enemy of souls desires to hinder this work, and before the time shall come for such a movement, he will arouse what appears to be great religious interest in the churches. They will exult that God is working marvelously for them, when the work is that of another spirit. Under a religious guise, Satan will spread his influence over the land. He hopes to deceive many by leading them to think that God is still with the churches. p. 295, Para. 2, [4SP].*

Clearly there is a time to separate from those who determinedly reject God's commandments – and such a separation is a matter of physical and eternal life and death.

This study begins by identifying the church of God. Ellen White comments concerning the church not being "Babylon" are investigated. Biblical examples of separation are studied and comparisons made with present day situations. Some experiences of the Seventh-day Adventist pioneers are reviewed and the outcome of their failure to separate (when Ellen White advised), noted. Possible strategies for evangelism of trinitarian churches are outlined and the consequences of separation discussed in the conclusion.

## Identifying the Church of God

Acts 20:28

“Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.”

4. The church of God was purchased with the blood of Christ.

1 Corinthians 1:2

“Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours.”

2. The church of God are those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus and are as such are His saints, wherever they are in the world.

1 Corinthians 10:32-33; 11:1

“Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God: Even as I please all men in all things, not seeking mine own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved. Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.”

1. The church of God is consists of followers of Christ.

1 Corinthians 15:9

For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

Galatians 1: 13, 14

“For ye have heard of my conversation in time past in the Jews' religion, how that beyond measure I persecuted the church of God, and wasted it: 14 And profited in the Jews' religion above many my equals in mine own nation, being more exceedingly zealous of the traditions of my fathers.”

2. The church of God consists of people who leave an apostate system, which was once pure, but which then clung to traditions and to the doctrines of men and for this stand, experienced persecution.

1 Timothy 3:2-5

“A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach; 3 Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous; 4 One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; 5 (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?)

2 Corinthians 1:21-24

“Now he which stablisheth us with you in Christ, and hath anointed us, is God; 22 Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts. 23 Moreover I call God for a record upon my soul, that to spare you I came not as yet unto Corinth. 24 Not for that we have dominion over your faith, but are helpers of your joy: for by faith ye stand.”

3. The church of God – the group of God’s commandment-keeping, spiritually renewed people - is to be taken care of by converted helpers, called elders and deacons, who are especially chosen by God for the purpose of assisting the believers (the church) to grow in faith. Such helpers are to be males who are of good character, well versed in scriptural knowledge, which they use to give care to the people of God. This is not to say that women are not ordained by God to fill positions in the church, but just that God has chosen men and women to fill different roles in His group of followers.

Matthew 18:17, 18 (speaking of someone in the group, found in open sin)  
“And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as a heathen man and a publican. 18 Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”

Galatians 6:1

“Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.”

4. The church of God – that is the group of converted commandment keepers - is authorised by God to make judgements concerning open sin that might occur in the group. Unrepentant open sin is to be rebuked in a spirit of meekness – gently - by the converted, loving, guiding helpers that God has placed in teaching positions to care for the people of God.

2 John 1:9, 10

“Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. 10 If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed:”

2 Corinthians 6:14-17

“Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? 15 And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? 16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 17 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,

5. The church of God – His group of commandment keeping converted people – must be careful that strange doctrines do not gain entrance into their faith, which is centred in Jesus Christ. The church of God will have no desire to enter into **unity** with unbelievers in personal, social or business relationships that would prevent or hamper them from being able to worship the One True God. This does not mean that God's people will not have friendships and associations with others. In social situations, Christians will pattern their relationships after Christ's example. Jesus fellowshiped with His disciples, and was yoked with them, in the worship of the One True God; but He mixed with and witnessed to sinners, publicans and prostitutes and drew them to His Father through His love. Christ's example demonstrates the principle of being united with those of like faith, and of witnessing to those who are not yet worshippers of the One True God. Just as Christ's strongest witnessing tool was His character which revealed His undying love for sinners, so it is through Christians' loving characters that the strongest witness will be given. Though God's people will not plan to become 'yoked' with unbelievers (eg desire marriage with a person who does not worship the One True God) they will not desire to be hermits or recluses - 'too holy' to mix with 'worldlings.' Concerning religious unity, God's people will not desire to be united in communion (worship) with those who reject the gospel of the Father and the Son, but will be motivated to obey the command to be separate from false worship ceremonies. Those who have not had opportunity to learn about the Father and His Son must be reached, but not by forming binding relationships with unbelievers and rejectors of the gospel.

1 Corinthians 10:20-22

“But I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to God: and I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils. 21 Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils: ye cannot be partakers of the Lord's table, and of the table of devils. 22 Do we provoke the Lord to jealousy? are we stronger than he?”

6. The church of God – His group of commandment keeping converted people – are prohibited from participating in “holy communion” services with those who have rejected the gospel truth about God and His Son. ie. those who worship the god of the trinity.

Ellen White comments:

Acts of the Apostles, p 11

“The church is God's fortress. His city of refuge, which He holds in a revolted world. Any betrayal of the church is treachery to Him who has bought mankind with the blood of His only-begotten Son. **From the beginning, faithful souls have constituted the church on earth.** In every age the Lord has had His watchmen, who have borne a faithful testimony to the generation in which they lived. These sentinels gave the message of warning; and when they were called to lay off their armour, others took up the work. God brought these witnesses into covenant relation with Himself, uniting the church on earth with the church in heaven. He has sent forth His angels to minister to His church, and the gates of hell have not been able to prevail against His people.

Carlyle B. Haynes, *When A Man Dies*, p 9

***“Others would have us believe that the Church is the source or authority, particularly in matters of theology. They are WRONG! The Church is the product of truth. It does not originate it. It came into being by accepting divine revelations. It is not the source of that revelation. Truth goes beyond the Church, it is antecedent to it.”***

God's true church can be seen to be composed of ***individuals*** who safeguard the true gospel. This group of people keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus i.e. They have the Father's name or character written in their foreheads (Rev 14; Rev 12). God's church is not any organisational structure, although God's people are organised by His spirit to take the gospel to the world.



## The Ship Will Go Through

We know through Bible prophecy that the early SDA church was indeed God's designated channel of truth, raised up in 1844 to be the depositories of His special truth.

General Conference Daily Bulletins, 29 January, 1893 p 5

"We have many duties to perform, because we have been made the depositories of sacred truth to be given to the world in all its beauty and glory."

The SDA church was given the precious truth about the Father and His only begotten Son and the identity of the Holy Spirit. The common belief in SDA circles today is that "the church organisation is going through" and their advice is to "stay on the ship" – the "SDA organisational ship" because it is going through to the heavenly harbour.

Is this belief Scriptural? This paper examines the Biblical evidence of what constitutes God's true church and what constitutes Babylon.

## What is Babylon?

Jesus instructed John in vision as to what constituted Babylon.

Revelation 13:11-17.

"And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon. (12) And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and **causeth** the earth and them which dwell therein **to worship** the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. (13) And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, (14) And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live. (15) And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed. (16) And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: (17) And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name."

John's vision demonstrates that Babylon is a religious body which holds to dangerous false doctrines about God. Babylon ultimately utilises political power to employ force in an effort to coerce 'all' to worship a false god, according to their false doctrines.

Force is employed by a political system. Worship is a religious act.

Forced worship is a combination of religion and the secular politics. Such a system is described in the Bible as an 'image to the beast.'

Revelation 13:14, 15

"And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell

on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live. (15) And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.”

Babylon pressures the government to make an image to the beast. This new power would contain the elements of both religion **and** politics. An organisation that utilises these amalgamated elements constitutes part of the new system of which Babylon is a part. The principle of force which is controlled by Babylon, is in complete opposition to the royal law of liberty which the One True God grants to His people – the freedom to worship as their conscience dictates.

John's testimony continues to expose Babylon.

Revelation 18:2, 3; 19:2

“And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird. (3) For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies....(19.2) For true and righteous are his judgments: for he (God) hath judged the great whore, which did corrupt the earth with her fornication, and hath avenged the blood of his servants at her hand.”

John again describes the vision where it can be seen that Babylon (i.e. a religious system that upholds false doctrines) joins itself in political union with kings and merchants in order to persecute those who refuse to worship a false god.

Ellen White also notes that Babylon, a system of false religion.

Review and Herald, 12 September, 1893 p 12

“It is our individual duty to walk humbly with God. We are not to seek any strange, new message. We are not to think that the chosen ones of God who are trying to walk in the light, compose Babylon. **The fallen denominational churches are Babylon. Babylon has been fostering poisonous doctrines, the wine of error. This wine of error is made up of false doctrines**, such as the natural immortality of the soul, the eternal torment of the wicked, the denial of the pre-existence of Christ prior to his birth in Bethlehem, and advocating and exalting the first day of the week above God's holy, sanctified day. These and kindred errors are presented to the world by the various, churches, and thus the Scriptures are fulfilled that say, 'For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.' It is a wrath which is created by false doctrines, and when kings and presidents drink this wine of the wrath of her fornication, they are stirred with anger against those who will not come into harmony with the false and Satanic heresies which exalt the false Sabbath, and lead men to trample under foot God's memorial.”

Great Controversy, 1888 p 382-383

“Babylon is said to be "the mother of harlots." By her daughters must be symbolized **churches that cling to her doctrines and traditions**, and follow her example of sacrificing the truth and the approval of God, **in order to form**

an unlawful alliance with the world. The message of Revelation 14 announcing the fall of Babylon, must apply to religious bodies that were once pure and have become corrupt. Since this message follows the warning of the Judgment, it must be given in the last days, therefore it cannot refer to the Romish Church, for that church has been in a fallen condition for many centuries. Furthermore, in the eighteenth chapter of the Revelation, in a message which is yet future, the people of God are called upon to come out of Babylon. According to this scripture, many of God's people must still be in Babylon. And in what religious bodies are the greater part of the followers of Christ now to be found? Without doubt, in the various churches professing the Protestant faith.”

Ellen White prophesied that “in a message which is yet still future,” apostate churches (Babylon) will form an unlawful alliance/union with the world (forming the image to the beast) and persecute God's people at the end of prophetic time, through that *image to the beast system*.

Review and Herald, 12 September, 1893, p 19, 20

**"God has a church upon the earth, who are his chosen people, who keep his commandments.** He is leading, not stray off-shoots, not one here and one there, but a people. The truth is a sanctifying power; but the church militant is not the church triumphant. There are tares among the wheat. 'Wilt thou then that we gather them up?' was the question of the servant; but the master answered, 'Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them.' The gospel net draws not only good fish, but bad ones as well, and the Lord only knows who are his. (20) It is our individual duty to walk humbly with God. We are not to seek any strange, new message. We are not to think that the chosen ones of God who are trying to walk in the light, compose Babylon. The fallen denominational churches are Babylon. Babylon has been fostering poisonous doctrines, the wine of error. This wine of error is made up of false doctrines, such as the natural immortality of the soul, the eternal torment of the wicked, the denial of the pre-existence of Christ prior to his birth in Bethlehem, and advocating and exalting the first day of the week above God's holy, sanctified day<sup>1</sup>. These and kindred errors are presented to the world by the various, churches, and thus the Scriptures are fulfilled that say, 'For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.' It is a wrath which is created by false doctrines, and when kings and presidents drink this wine of the wrath of her fornication, they are stirred with anger against those who will not come into harmony with the false and Satanic heresies which exalt the false Sabbath, and lead men to trample under foot God's memorial.”

Review and Herald, 12 September, p 21

"Fallen angels upon earth form confederations with evil men. In this age antichrist will appear as the true Christ, and then the law of God (religion) will be fully made void in the nations (politics) of our world. Rebellion against God's holy law will be fully ripe. But the true leader of all this rebellion is Satan clothed as an angel of light. Men will be deceived and will exalt him to the place of God, and deify him (worship). But Omnipotence will interpose, and to the apostate churches that unite (a union) in the exaltation of Satan<sup>2</sup>, the

1 View the video 'the Catholic Procession' or review the book ' the Confessions of a Nomad' where the SDA church advocates Sunday saredness or read summary later in this article.

2 The SDA church organisation has officially united with the world in the World Council of Churches as an associate member with voting rights. The SDA organisation has also

**sentence will go forth, 'Therefore shall her plagues come in one day,** death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong is the Lord God who judgeth her.'"

Is the Seventh-day Adventist church part of Babylon?

Ellen White made three statements in August-September of 1893 on this subject.

Review and Herald, 29 August, 1893

**"God has a people in which all heaven is interested, and they are the one object on earth dear to the heart of God.** Let every one who reads these words give them thorough consideration; for in the name of Jesus I would press them home upon every soul. When any one arises, either among us or outside of us, who is burdened with a message **which declares that the people of God<sup>3</sup> are numbered with Babylon,** and claims that the loud cry is a call to come out of her, you may know that he is not bearing the message of truth."

Ellen White's testimony is of course correct. In 1893 the SDA church had ***not***:

- formed an unlawful alliance with the other churches;
- united politically with the governments;
- imbibed the doctrines of devils;
- used political force to compel others to render worship in accordance with certain of their doctrines or to suffer punitive consequences.

Review and Herald, 22 August, 1893

"For years I have borne my testimony to the effect that when any one arises claiming to have great light, and yet advocating the tearing down of that which **the Lord** through his human agents has been building up, they are greatly deceived, and are not working along the lines where Christ is working. Those who assert that the Seventh-day Adventist churches constitute Babylon, or any part of Babylon, might better stay at home. **Let them stop and consider what is the message to be proclaimed at this time<sup>4</sup>.** In place of working with divine agencies to prepare a people to stand in the day of the Lord, they have taken their stand with him who is an accuser of the brethren, who accuses them before God day and night. Satanic agencies have been moved from beneath, and they have inspired men **to unite in a confederacy of evil<sup>5</sup>,** that they may perplex, harass, and cause the people of God great distress.

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united in worshipping the god of the trinity and indeed this was the only theological requirement necessary for any church to join the World Council of Churches.

3 God's church IS His people who are keeping and proclaiming the 10 commandments.

4 The Biblical version of the three angels' messages are in short: "Fear God (not the trinity) and give glory to Him -by keeping His commandments. Babylon is fallen. Come out of **her** MY people so you are not destroyed with Babylon. However, the current SDA church does not hold this truth anymore. Roy Adams, SDA Associate Editor, in Adventist Review, 2 May, 1991, p 10 states: "*And we could go on if space permitted – to mention **the World Council of Churches'... accentuation of the Holy Spirit and the Eucharist. All of these emphases fit into the ambit of the three angels' messages....***" "The Eucharist, turning the communion bread into the literal body of Christ." (also available at [www.seventh-day.org/sda\\_apostasy.htm](http://www.seventh-day.org/sda_apostasy.htm) - 101k cache of [http://www.seventh-day.org/sda\\_apostasy.htm](http://www.seventh-day.org/sda_apostasy.htm) as retrieved on 30 Aug 2004 09:27:40 GMT).

5 The SDA church organisation has officially united with the world in the World Council of Churches as an associate member with voting rights. The SDA organisation has also united in worshipping the god of the trinity and indeed this was the only theological requirement necessary for any church to join the World Council of Churches.

The whole world is to be stirred with enmity against Seventh-day Adventists, because they will not yield homage to the papacy<sup>6</sup>, by honoring Sunday<sup>7</sup>, the institution of this anti-Christian power. It is the purpose of Satan to cause them to be blotted from the earth, in order that his supremacy of the world may not be disputed. The scene of Satan's accusation was presented before the prophet. He says, "He showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the Lord, and Satan standing at his right hand to resist him." Jesus is our great High Priest in heaven. And what is he doing?--He is making intercession and atonement for his people who believe in him. Through his imputed righteousness, they are accepted of God, as those who are manifesting to the world that they acknowledge allegiance to God, keeping all his commandments... I wish that all who claim to believe present truth, would think seriously of the wonderful things presented in this chapter. However weak and compassed with infirmity the people of God may be, those who turn from disloyalty to God in this wicked and perverse generation, and come back to their allegiance, standing to vindicate the holy law of God, making up the breach made by the man of sin under the direction of Satan, will be accounted the children of God, and through the righteousness of Christ will stand perfect before God. Truth will not always lie in the dust to be trampled under foot of men. It will be magnified and made honorable; it will yet arise and shine forth in all its natural luster, and will stand fast forever and ever."

Review and Herald, 12 September, **1893**, p14

"My brother, I learn that you are taking the position that the Seventh-day Adventist Church is Babylon, and that all that would be saved must come out of her. You are not the only man whom the enemy has deceived in this matter. For the last forty years, one man after another has arisen, claiming that the Lord has sent him with the same message; but let me tell you, as I have told them, that this message you are proclaiming, is one of the Satanic delusions designed to create confusion among the churches. My brother, you are certainly off the track. The second angel's message was to go to Babylon [the churches] proclaiming her downfall, and calling the people to come out of her. **This same message is to be proclaimed the second time<sup>8</sup>.**"

We know that in 1893 the Seventh-day Adventist Church was not Babylon. That organisation still upheld the 10 commandments and especially that of the One True God of heaven, in spite of the other fallen Protestant churches which denied this truth and joined with the Roman Catholic church in the worship of the god of the trinity. Neither had the pioneer SDA church aligned itself with the political powers of the world. The church organisation did not accept government aid and as an organisation, they did not 'take their enemies to law.' Ellen White noted that this pure organisation, free from the traditions and doctrines of the papacy, could not be Babylon nor even considered to be part of Babylon.

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6 The SDA church has given homage to the papacy by worshipping its god (the trinity) – *the doctrine on which all the other of the (Roman Catholic) church's doctrines are based.* (Catholic Handbook p 11).

7 View the video 'the Catholic Procession' or review the book ' the Confessions of a Nomad' where the SDA church advocates Sunday saredness or read summary later in this article.

8 In the 1888 version of the Great Controversy, p 382, 383, the second call to come out of Babylon was stated to be "in a message that was yet future." This definitely referred to another coming out "after the passing of time" in 1844.

However the last sentence in Ellen White's preceding statement raises some important questions which this study will attempt to investigate.

Ellen White stated in Review and Herald, 12 September, **1893**, p14

*"The second angel's message was to go to Babylon [the churches] proclaiming her downfall, and calling the people to come out of her.*

***This same message is to be proclaimed the second time<sup>9</sup>.***"

- What is the **present** condition of the SDA church organisation?
- Is the SDA church **today**, part of Babylon?
- And when was the message to "come out," to be proclaimed for the **second** time?

### **Is Another Coming Out Prophesied?**

Ellen White, Ms. Rel. 1216, pp. 5-6

"I was confirmed in all that I had stated in Minneapolis, that a reformation must go through the churches. Reforms must be made, for spiritual weakness and blindness were upon the people who had been blessed with great light and precious opportunities and privileges. As reformers they had come out of the denominational churches, but they now act a part similar to that which the churches acted. We hoped that there would not be the necessity for another coming out.<sup>10</sup>"

(EGW Notebook Leaflets, page 99 MS 166 1898)

"Those who claim to believe the truth do not possess that power that God would bestow upon them if they really believed, and were striving for conformity to His image. **The church is in the Laodicean state. The presence of God is not in her midst.**"

Testimonies to Ministers, p 409

"**Many** will stand **in our pulpits** with the torch of false prophecy in their hands kindled from the hellish torch of **Satan**."

5 Testimonies for the Church, p 217

"The church has turned back from following Christ her Leader and is steadily retreating toward Egypt."

8 Testimonies for the Church, p 247

"In the balances of the sanctuary the Seventh-day Adventist church is to be weighed. She will be judged by the privileges and advantages that she has had. If her spiritual experience does not correspond to the advantages that Christ, at infinite cost, has bestowed on her, if the blessings conferred have not qualified her to do the work entrusted to her, on her will be pronounced the sentence: 'Found wanting.' By the light bestowed, the opportunities given, will she be judged."

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9 In the 1888 version of the Great Controversy, p 382, 383, the second call to come out of Babylon was stated to be "in a message that was yet future." This definitely referred to another coming out "after the passing of time" in 1844.

10 In the 1888 version of the Great Controversy, p 382, 383, the second call to come out of Babylon was stated to be "in a message that was yet future." This definitely referred to another coming out "after the passing of time" in 1844.

5 Testimonies for the Church, p 83

**“The church cannot measure itself by the world nor by the opinion of men nor by what she once was.** Her faith and her position in the world as they are now are, must be compared with what they would have been if her course had been continually onward and upward. The church will be weighed in the balances of the sanctuary. **If her moral character and spiritual state do not correspond with the benefits and blessings God has conferred upon her, she will be found wanting.”**

6 Bible Commentary p 1065

“Many among God's people will become the worst persecutors of the faithful.”

Ellen White's statements are indeed alarming and appear to contradict her earlier messages that the Seventh-day Adventist church is NOT Babylon and the mind-set that the church could never become Babylon.

However, the prophet's statements are all perfectly inspired by God, but just as in Revelation 3, the church of Philadelphia and the church of Laodicea represent different time periods and situations in which God's people live, so Ellen White's messages to the SDA church also apply to the church at different time periods of its history.

## **Is the Current SDA Organisation Part of Babylon?**

Has the SDA church today become a daughter of the harlot?

Has the SDA church **officially** adopted and does it officially advocate false doctrines, doctrines which Jesus calls, 'the doctrines of devils' and 'the wine of Babylon?'

Considering the points Ellen White highlights (in Great Controversy, 1888 p 382, 383), was the SDA church once pure?

Yes. Why?

Because its doctrines were pure. In 1893, the SDA church's organisation had boldly cast off the impure doctrines and traditions of Rome e.g. the trinity, infant baptism, immortality of the soul, Sunday sacredness, eternally burning hell, salvation by works.

Has the SDA organisation NOW become corrupt by embracing and then clinging to the traditions and doctrines of Rome - just as did the other apostate protestant churches in 1844?

Consider **some** of the evidence.<sup>11</sup>

The Seventh-day Adventist Church officially:

- denied the Father and Son through the doctrine of the trinity;
  - joined (united with) and supports the World Council of Churches (WCC);
  - published material advocating Sunday sacredness;
  - declared that the Eucharist, the WCC and focus on the (trinitarian) Holy Spirit to be part of the 3 angels' messages;
  - would not permit James White, Uriah Smith or other non-trinitarian SDA founders to be part of the modern NEW SDA organisation.<sup>12</sup>
- 
- **Officially voted to adopt the doctrine of the trinity in 1980;**
  - **Joined and Supports the World Council of Churches**

There is 'too much evidence' to refute the claim that the SDA Church is a member of the World Council of Churches; regularly supports the WCC financially; and has voting rights. (Refer letter from the National Council of Churches of Christ, January 13, 1965, from Wilbur C. Parry, Associate General Secretary; American Opinion, January, 1982, p 11; Directory of Christian Councils, published by the World Council of Churches, 1985).

<http://www.lightministries.com/sda/booklets/id123.htm>

- **Published Material Advocating Sunday Sacredness**

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11 Refer to the Appendix for more details of what the SDA and Roman Catholic organisations have in common doctrinally.

12 *"Most of the founders of Seventh-day Adventism would not be able to join the church today if they had to subscribe to the demoniation's Fundamental Beliefs. More specifically, most would not be able to agree to belief number 2, which deals with the doctrine of the Trinity"* (George Knight, Ministry Magazine, Oct 1993, p 10).



The Seventh-day Adventist church as an organisation, **currently**, officially worships [the trinity](#) on the 7th day Sabbath.

Will the organisation always uphold the 7th-day of the week as the Sabbath of the Creator? It appears that Ellen White has prophesied that the organisation will promote Sunday worship when persecution is employed to force worship on Sunday to honour the God of the trinity.

Ellen White was shown however, that God's people – as distinct from the SDA organisation – will continue to keep all the commandments of God and worship Him on the 7<sup>th</sup> day Sabbath.<sup>13</sup>

Consider the alarming situation that the SDA leadership relatively recently published a book that advocates Sunday sacredness.

*"The Ministerial Association of the General Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church published in 1998, **"Confessions of a Nomad: What We Learned in Sinai's Shadow.** The book was authored by Carolyn Shealy Self and William L. Self and the **copyright is held by the Ministerial Association of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.** Originally the book was published in 1983 by the Peachtree Publishers. Apparently the **Ministerial Association received the permission to reprint it, with editorial modifications, because its says: 'All copy has been reset and repaginated. Several short portions have been edited to conserve space'**" (p. 2) (S. Bacchiocci).*

[http://www.biblicalperspectives.com/endtimeissues/eti\\_50.html](http://www.biblicalperspectives.com/endtimeissues/eti_50.html)

On pages 118,119, the book states:

*"He gave a holy day. This holy day is significant. It was a day of rejoicing, a gift of good, a day of no work. The word 'Sabbath' does not mean seven; it means cessation, the quitting of work. God did something new and real for them in the Easter experience, so they would have the Sabbath, and so they would gather together as the Christian sect on Sunday morning and celebrate the resurrection. Sunday is the day that gives you strength to work the six days in front of you. The Sabbath is from sundown to sundown, but Sunday is from midnight to midnight. The Sabbath is a day of rest, but Sunday is a day of worship. The Sabbath has a penalty to it, if you break it; Sunday has no penalty, except that you shortchange yourself. The Christian draws his strength from Sunday. It's a time to let God talk to the inner man...The Christians took the value of the Hebrew Sabbath and added to it the great joy of the Christian resurrection. We have a*

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<sup>13</sup>The following references to Ellen White's writings, might indicate that the SDA organisation will eventually succumb to keeping Sunday as the Sabbath.

EZEKIEL 9, ORIGINAL 1884; GC 281-2; GC 615, 448; PK 184, 605; TM 373, 473; 2SM 385; EW 37; 5T 136, 463, 80-2, 690; 4T 246; 6T 17; 3SM 395; TM 62; PP 191, 608; 7T 141; 9T 16; RH 1:158, 194; AA 431-2; 8T 119; DA 398; 2T 452; 5T 294; EV 361; 5T 463, 77, 81, 450, 526.  
<http://hometown.aol.com/char777/conspiracy.html>

**marriage<sup>14</sup> of the two in the Christian community.** The commandment said, "Remember the Sabbath day so we come together as the body of Christ and remember what God has done. It's a sacrament. Worship and Bible study makes Sunday a day when the soul is rekindled as well as a day when the body is rested. You'll have thousands of Sundays in your adult life. How will you spend them?"  
<http://www.remnantofgod.org/GCSDA-art46.ht>

Several other doctrines appear to have been adopted officially into the SDA church, from the fallen churches (Babylon) taking the place of the church's original and pure doctrines. The following doctrines have been altered from their original interpretations.

- the message of righteousness by faith;
- the understanding of Christian perfection;
- the nature of Christ;
- the two Adams
- the doctrine of the One True God

The most serious official doctrine received from Babylon is that doctrine which insists on the breaking of the 'greatest' commandment (Matthew 22:36-38).<sup>15</sup>

The adoption of the doctrine of the trinity appears to be the fulfillment of Jeremiah's sad prediction within the Seventh-day Adventist church. The church has 'changed gods.'

Jeremiah 2:11

"Hath a nation changed their gods, which are yet no gods? but my people have changed their glory for that which doth not profit."

- **Declared that the Eucharist, the WCC and focus on the (trinitarian) Holy Spirit to be part of the 3 angels' messages;**

Roy Adams, SDA Associate Editor, in Adventist Review, 2 May, 1991, p 10 *"And we could go on if space permitted – to mention **the World Council of Churches'... accentuation of the Holy Spirit and the Eucharist. All of these emphases fit into the ambit of the three angels' messages....**"* *"The Eucharist, turning the communion bread into the literal body of Christ."* (also available at [www.seventh-day.org/sda\\_apostasy.htm](http://www.seventh-day.org/sda_apostasy.htm) - 101k cache of [http://www.seventh-day.org/sda\\_apostasy.htm](http://www.seventh-day.org/sda_apostasy.htm) as retrieved on 30 Aug 2004 09:27:40 GMT).

- **Would not permit James White, Uriah Smith or other non-trinitarian SDA founders to be part of the new SDA organisation**

George Knight, Ministry Magazine, Oct 1993, p 10

*"Most of the founders of Seventh-day Adventism would not be able to join the church today if they had to subscribe to the demoniation's Fundamental Beliefs. More specifically, most would not be able to agree to belief number 2, which deals with the doctrine of the Trinity."*

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14 A marriage is a **union**

15 Matthew 22:36-38 "Master, which is the great commandment in the law? (37) Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. (38) This is the first and great commandment."

## **Assisting the Formation of the Image to the Beast?**

Most alarming is the situation in which it appears that the Seventh-day Adventist organisation have also made preparations to assist in the formation of the image to the beast.

- **Using political power of the state to enforce its religious views**

*"The General Conference Corporation of Seventh-day Adventists, not the General Conference Seventh-day Adventist church, has trademarked their name "Seventh-day Adventist" (registered No. 1,177,185). This Corporation has non-religious holdings, such as hospitals, insurance businesses, book stores, schools, lumber mills, printing plants, etc. and also churches. They claim that the purposes of their trademark is to protect their good name; but it includes more than this. That is why their Corporation has added these words to their registered trademark: 'conducting religious observances and missionary service (under) class 42 (U.S. cl. 100).'" <http://creation-7th-day-adventist-church.org/tmwars.html>*

The General Conference Corporation of Seventh-day Adventists has already successfully prosecuted several churches, including those which adhered to the foundational doctrines of the SDA church, but which desired to be work independently from the General Conference Corporation of Seventh-day Adventists. Refer to: <http://creation-7th-day-adventist-church.org/tmwars.html> Sadly some churches have been forced to disband and their worship places abandoned.

An example of the Corporation's legal action can be seen in the case of the Kaiua-Kona church in Hawaii which was ordered to disband and any worship items which bore the name Seventh-day Adventist, was ordered to be delivered up to the Corporation to be destroyed.<sup>16</sup>

*Ellen White, 3 Selected Messages, p 299*

*"When troubles arise in the church we should not go for help to lawyers not of our faith . . . They show that they have chosen the world as their judge, . . . Christ is crucified afresh, and put to open shame."*

*8 Testimonies for the Church, p 69*

*"Matters have been presented before me that have filled my soul with keen anguish. I saw men linking up arm in arm with lawyers, but God was not in their company. Having many ideas regarding the work, they go to the lawyers for help to carry out their plans. I am commissioned to say to such that they are not moving under the inspiration of the Spirit of God. 'Is it not because there is not a God in Israel, that ye go to inquire of Beelzebub the god of Ekron?' 2 Kings 1:3. Men in responsible positions are uniting with those in the church and out of the church, whose counsel is misleading."*

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<sup>16</sup> **Ordered by S Roger D. Foley in Honolulu,, Judge of the Above-Entitled Court on 30 November, 1987 "to deliver up to Plaintiff for destruction all labels, signs, prints, advertising materials, literature, packages, wrappers and other materials in the possession or custody of the Defendants, or any of them, or under their control, bearing the term "SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST", or is a simulation reproduction, counterfeit, copy, colorable imitation, abbreviation (including, without limitation, the abbreviation "SDA" and colorable imitations of "SDA"), or other designation thereof, and all plates, molds, matrices and other means of making the same;"**

The current legal situation reveals that *The General Conference Corporation of Seventh-day Adventists* is relying on government/political power to prevent people from worshipping God according to the **original** principles of *the Seventh-day Adventist church*. Instead, the **Corporation** – a legal business entity - has been empowered by the government, to persecute those organisations who wish to continue to be recognised as adhering to the Seventh-day Adventist FAITH, and to practice that faith, though their groups are disconnected from and non-supportive of the General Conference **Corporation** of Seventh-day Adventists.

The trend toward employing legal/political power in religious matters is alarming, but even more so when one considers that the *The General Conference Corporation of Seventh-day Adventists* 'enjoys' tax-exempt status; a fact which demonstrates, along with its various government grants for education etc, that it is in a sense 'joined to' or at least answerable to the government. A recent news bulletin in the Los Angeles Times demonstrates the tax-exempt connection.

Los Angeles Times, 18 July, 2006, reported by Stephen Clark

**IRS: Some Churches too Political, July 18, 2006**

IRS Warns Churches to Stay Neutral on Politics

*Opponents of the policy say that by threatening groups' tax-exempt status, the government is interfering with their 1st Amendment rights. The Internal Revenue Service is warning churches and nonprofits that improper campaigning in the upcoming political season could endanger their tax-exempt status. The agency also launched a program to expedite investigations into claims of improper campaigning, prompting an advocacy group to charge this month that the program could restrict the free speech of nonprofit groups and churches. Such investigations came to light last year when the IRS warned All Saints Church in Pasadena that it was reviewing the Episcopal church's tax-exempt status because a priest criticized the Iraq war shortly before the 2004 presidential election. Church leaders say they have no intention of scaling back their criticism of the war. The IRS' new enforcement program — **the Political Activity Compliance Initiative** — was first announced in February .... to more than 15,000 tax-exempt organizations, numerous church denominations and tax preparers....'While the vast majority of charities and churches do not engage in politicking, an increasing number did take part in prohibited activities in the 2004 election cycle,' IRS Commissioner Mark W. Everson said in a statement. 'The rule against political campaign **intervention** by charities and churches is long established. We are stepping up our efforts to enforce it.' The IRS has investigated more than 200 organizations nationwide since 2004. Of the 62 cases with violations, three lost their nonprofit status (none were churches) and 59 received warning letters. Some of those that were warned also were ordered to pay an excise tax....the agency said it has more than 100 cases pending — 40 of them churches. An advocacy group's report criticizing the IRS enforcement program predicts a chilling effect on free speech and accuses the agency of using vague standards and lacking deadlines to complete inquiries. ....The*

*code bans nonprofits from 'participating or intervening' for 'any candidate for public office.' That includes endorsements, donations and fundraising. But nonprofits are allowed to speak out on issues of public interest as long as 'a substantial part of the organization's activities is not intended to influence legislation.'...Lois G. Lerner, director of the IRS' exempt organizations division, counters that the agency is only enforcing the law."*

In relection of the preceding report, consider the situation which might arise if a certain organisation endeavoured to announce the identity of the Antichrist power - or to uphold the commandment that forbids murder, as in a war situation. Would such utterances be punishable by the government? Would they be interpreted as being of a political nature, or even treasonous? What about the allegiance the church are 'requested' to supply to the government in times of public crises? <sup>17</sup>

Alex Jones, the media-man who produced "9-11, the Road to Tyranny" and other controversial DVDs, has reported the following information concerning ministers' roles in times of national emergency. The article is available for download from Alex Jones' infowars website. [http://www.infowars.com/images2/ps/pastor\\_fema\\_docs.pdf](http://www.infowars.com/images2/ps/pastor_fema_docs.pdf)

The article was apparently given to SDA Conference (and other) ministers, but one SDA minister's copy somehow was conveyed to Alex Jones. Alex Jones then posted the article on his website and if it is authentic, reveals some disturbing information about FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency). It appears that FEMA is instructing ministers to preach Romans 13 to their congregations i.e. that the congregations must obey government directions in times of emergencies. If you check [www.themeofthebible.com](http://www.themeofthebible.com) select "The Assassination of God's Character" you will find that the late pope John Paul 2<sup>nd</sup> quoted this passage of Scripture also in response to the terrorist attacks.

Statements by Pope John Paul II on the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

**Question:** "Is there anything in scripture that indicates the authority of government includes punishing the guilty or protecting the innocent?"

Pope John Paul II's **Answer:**

"Romans 13:3-4 "For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Do you wish to have no fear of the authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive its approval; for it is God's servant for your good. But if you do what is wrong, you should be afraid, for the authority does not bear the sword in vain! It is the servant of God to execute wrath on the wrongdoer. " NRSV, see NAB [http://landru.i-link-2.net/shnyves/wlegitimate\\_defense.htm](http://landru.i-link-2.net/shnyves/wlegitimate_defense.htm)

Ellen White, in the Great Controversy prophesied events that are on the verge of occurring.

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<sup>17</sup> Refer to appendix to read article from Federal Emergency Management Agency to USA to ministers

Great Controversy, p 592

**"Ministers who deny the obligation of the divine law will present from the pulpit the duty of yielding obedience to the civil authorities as ordained of God.** In legislative halls and courts of justice, commandment keepers will be misrepresented and condemned. A false coloring will be given to their words; the worst construction will be put upon their motives."

Extracts from the Alex Jones' article are reproduced here.

Pator Revere (name changed)

A Pastor has come forward to blow the whistle FEMA

Wed May 31, 2006 00:37

"A Pastor has come forward to blow the whistle on a nationwide FEMA program which is training Pastors and other religious representatives to become secret police enforcers who teach their congregations to "obey the government" in preparation for a declaration of martial law, property and firearm seizures, and forced relocation. This program is a nationwide initiative and a literal Soviet model whereby the churches are being systematically infiltrated by government volunteers and used as conduits for martial law training and conditioning. The Pastor was told that over 13,000 counties were already on board. FEMA related to the Pastors that quarantines, martial law and forced relocation were a problem for state authorities when enforcing federal mandates due to the "cowboy mentality" of citizens standing up for their property and second amendment rights as well as farmers defending their crops and livestock from seizure. It was stressed that the Pastors needed to preach subservience to the authorities ahead of time in preparation for the round-ups and to make it clear to the congregation that "this is for their own good." Pastors were asked to make a pledge or an affirmation during the meeting to fulfil the roles ascribed to them by FEMA. They were given assurances that they would be covered by full compensation in the event of resisters injuring them during property seizures and round-ups....Pastor Revere outlined the plan to carry out mass vaccination and enforced drugging programs in times of crisis such as a bird flu outbreak.... Which roads to close off after martial law was declared had also already been mapped out.... FEMA and other Disaster Agencies (NVOAD in particular: [www.nvoad.org](http://www.nvoad.org) ) are training volunteers in a "Peer to Peer" program. That program trains people to assist FEMA in a neighborhood setting--teams reach out to neighbors in a declared emergency and 'get their neighbors to obey authorities'. According to our spokesman, ministers will be especially helpful because 'you guys and gals can use Romans 13' (Main Page - Monday, 06/05/06).<sup>18</sup>

This situation, where the church becomes the servant of the government, certainly appears to be a genuine concern for God's people.

Ellen White did not prophesy that the Seventh-day Adventist **organisation** (the corporate **structure**) would "go through" (or continue) to the second coming of Jesus. In fact, she states the sad possibility that if false doctrines are officially cherished, the structure **would** be 'swept away.'

Battle Creek Letters p 81; 1 Selected Messages, p 204, 205

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<sup>18</sup> Recall Ellen White's warning

“The enemy of souls has sought to bring in the supposition that a great reformation was to take place among Seventh-day Adventists, and that *this reformation would consist in giving up the doctrines which stand as the pillars of our faith*, and engaging in a process of reorganization. Were this reformation to take place what would result? *The principles of truth that God in His wisdom has given to the remnant church would be discarded. Our religion would be changed. The fundamental principles that have sustained the work for the last fifty years would be accounted as error.* A new organization would be established. Books of a new order would be written. A system of intellectual philosophy would be introduced. The founders of this system would go into the cities, and do a wonderful work. The Sabbath, of course would be lightly regarded, as also the God who created it. Nothing would be allowed to stand in the way of the new movement. The leaders would teach that virtue is better than vice, but God being removed *they would place their dependence on human power*, which, without God, is worthless. *Their foundation would be build on the sand, and storm and tempest would sweep away the structure.*”

The evidence appears to reveal that the SDA organisation has:

- adopted false doctrines from the fallen churches (the wine of Babylon);
- formed an unlawful alliance with the other fallen churches (Babylon);
- united politically with governments or legal/political powers; and
- used political force to compel others to render worship in accordance with certain of their doctrines or suffer punitive consequences.

### Questions:

Is the One True God directing His people to:

- worship a false god, the trinity - or to worship the Creator;
- unite with and support the World Council of churches – or to be separate from them?
- to imbibe the doctrines of Rome - or to expose them as error?
- to alter the foundational truth of the pioneer church – or to stand for truth though the heavens fall?
- to sit in church pews (seats) and worship the god of the papacy with the those who scorn the truth that was once recognised as the fundamental principles of faith of the SDA church - or to worship together with believers in the One True God?
- to use force to control how people worship God?

Clearly the SDA organisation has become part of Babylon, drinking the wine of Babylon and heading along the road to forming an image to the beast with the rest of the Babylonian system.

Psalm 1:1

“Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.”

## Yoking Together with Babylon or Witnessing to Victims of Babylon?

It was recently witnessed that the precious message of the One True God, which was received by the pioneer SDA church, scorned by the current SDA organisation's leaders.<sup>19</sup>

2 Corinthians 6:14-18

“Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? (15) And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? (16) And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. (17) Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, (18) And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.”

Perhaps some are of the opinion that God's true commandment-keeping people will be able to witness to others by attending Trinitarian (apostate) worship ceremonies, hoping to convert the unconverted and to convince the unconvinced, by bringing knowledge to the ignorant. But are we instructed to worship in pagan temples? Are we instructed to appear to be united with unbelievers? Does God give us the option to appear to unite with them in worship of the god of the trinity? And those who are beginning to uphold the 'holy Sunday' sabbath day of the papacy?<sup>20</sup>

If so, where are the Bible texts to admonish us to do so? Where are the Biblical examples?

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19 See “the Full Story” interviews and meeting report between the SDA Greater Sydney Conference and the Sydney-based non-trinitarian group Restitution Ministries  
<http://www.acts321.org/>

20 Refer to this article, section Sunday sacredness



## **God Commands Separation in Worship from Unbelievers:**

In 2 Corinthians 6:14 -18, God commands His followers to “Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.”

### **There are only two groups of worshippers recognised by God:**

- **worshippers of God and;**
- **worshippers of Satan.**

Matthew 6:24

“No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.”

Matthew 12:30

“He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad.”

So it has always been through the great controversy.

Deuteronomy 4:3, 4

“Your eyes have seen what the LORD did because of Baalpeor: for all the men that followed Baalpeor, the LORD thy God hath destroyed them from among you. But ye that did cleave unto the LORD your God are alive every one of you this day.”

Joshua 24:15

“And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”

Separation from worldliness, separation from idol worship, separation from pagan worship ceremonies, has **always** been required of God's people.

Leviticus 15:31

“Thus shall ye separate the children of Israel from their uncleanness; that they die not in their uncleanness, when they defile my tabernacle that is among them.”

Numbers 6:8 (re Nazarite vow)

“All the days of his separation he is holy unto the LORD.”

Numbers 16:21 (re: Korah's rebellion)

“Separate yourselves from among this congregation, that I may consume them in a moment.”

Deuteronomy 29:24-27

“Even all nations shall say, Wherefore hath the LORD done thus unto this land? what meaneth the heat of this great anger? Then men shall say, Because they have forsaken the covenant of the LORD God of their fathers, which he made with them when he brought them forth out of the land of Egypt: For they went and served other gods, and worshipped them, gods whom they knew not, and whom he had not given unto them: And the anger of the LORD was kindled against this land, to bring upon it all the curses that are written in this book:”

1 Kings 8:53 (Solomon’s prayer at the dedication of the temple)

“For thou didst separate them from among all the people of the earth, to be thine inheritance, as thou spakest by the hand of Moses thy servant, when thou broughtest our fathers out of Egypt, O Lord GOD.”

Ezra 10:11

“Now therefore make confession unto the LORD God of your fathers, and do his pleasure: and separate yourselves from the people of the land, and from the strange wives.”

Ezekiel 44:10 15 (worshipping with pagans condemned)

And the Levites that are gone away far from me, when Israel went astray, which went astray away from me after their idols; they shall even bear their iniquity. 11 Yet they shall be ministers in my sanctuary, having charge at the gates of the house, and ministering to the house: they shall slay the burnt offering and the sacrifice for the people, and they shall stand before them to minister unto them. 12 Because they ministered unto them before their idols, and caused the house of Israel to fall into iniquity; therefore have I lifted up mine hand against them, saith the Lord GOD, and they shall bear their iniquity. 13 And they shall not come near unto me, to do the office of a priest unto me, nor to come near to any of my holy things, in the most holy place: but they shall bear their shame, and their abominations which they have committed. 14 But I will make them keepers of the charge of the house, for all the service thereof, and for all that shall be done therein. 15 But the priests the Levites, the sons of Zadok, that kept the charge of my sanctuary when the children of Israel went astray from me, they shall come near to me to minister unto me, and they shall stand before me to offer unto me the fat and the blood, saith the Lord GOD:”

## **1. The Three Young Men Face the Death Penalty**

Daniel 3:8 -12

“Wherefore at that time certain Chaldeans came near, and accused the Jews. 9 They spake and said to the king Nebuchadnezzar, O king, live for ever. 10 Thou, O king, hast made a decree, that every man that shall hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and dulcimer, and all kinds of music, shall fall down and worship the golden image: 11 And whoso falleth not down and worshippeth, that he should be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace. 12 There are certain Jews whom thou hast set over the affairs of the province of Babylon, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego; these men, O king, have not regarded thee: they serve not thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.”

## Questions

Would it have been sinless for Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego to have bowed to the image, but prayed to the God of heaven, explaining the issue to the Father that they really were not worshipping Nebuchadnezzar's gods, but were just permitting it to appear that way – given the present life/death situation with which they were faced? Would God have been honoured by that deceptive response? No.

If Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego HAD bowed down to the image, it would have appeared that they were obeying the king's command to serve his pagan gods and that they were worshipping the pagan gods via the image to which they were bowing. The three young Hebrew men dared to separate themselves from the many thousands of the pagan worshippers surrounding them. Imagine the sarcasm, the taunts and the logical reasoning that went on around them as they became the focus of the king's wrath. "A dead Jew can't convert the Chaldeans/Babylonian pagans." You can't witness when you're dead." "Just bow down for now. You can pretend to be worshipping the idol, but really you could pray to your own God." "God doesn't want us to put our lives in danger. That would be suicide." And then there'd be the sarcasm – "Well, if you're that stupid, you deserve to die." And the obscenities...

But Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego understood God meant for them to keep His commandments to worship only Him. They understood that the commandment involved the abstinence from the appearance of evil – to give the appearance of worshipping another god would be to sin. That command therefore required separation from pagan worshippers. The 3 men stood up, stood out and were identified as worshippers of the One True God of heaven. Their physical stance was then confirmed verbally to the pagan king. Their verbal confirmation resulted in the death penalty being executed upon them.

Daniel 3:14, 18

"Nebuchadnezzar spake and said unto them, Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, do not ye serve my gods, nor worship the golden image which I have set up? 18 .....be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up."

The 3 men took some steps in their travel toward the death penalty. These steps were necessary in order to result of obedience to God's commandments.

1. **Dedication to God** – the men purposed in their hearts to serve God and keep His commandments which meant they also simultaneously decided not to worship any other god for worship of other gods was outlawed by the first four commandments;
2. **Separation from apostate Jews and pagan worshippers;** (they stood publicly for truth despite their minority of numbers and the death decree penalty)
3. **Interrogation by pagan worshippers;** (they suffered unjust legal system that ignored their right of religious liberty); and
4. **Execution** - Death penalty executed by pagan worshippers (they suffered the death penalty – but were miraculously saved from death).

## 2. Abraham and Lot

Abraham was called OUT of Ur of the Chaldees (Babylon) into the Promised Land. He was not commanded to remain in Babylon to convert those who had rejected truth. Abraham's father's family had known the true God, but had returned to idol worship. Lot was brought up in Abraham's household and he learned about the One True God. It was through Lot's choice to reverse the separation and to join again in close association with the heathen citizens of Sodom, that caused his family's loss of property and of his wife's life.

## 3. Joseph

Likewise, Abraham's grandson Joseph determined in his heart that when he was sold as a slave in Egypt, that he would not worship the pagan gods of that land. He made this decision before his feet even touched Egyptian soil.

Education, p 52

“In the crisis of his life, when making that terrible journey from his childhood home in Canaan to the bondage which awaited him in Egypt, looking for the last time on the hills that hid the tents of his kindred, **Joseph remembered his father's God. He remembered the lessons of his childhood, and his soul thrilled with the resolve to prove himself true--ever to act as became a subject of the King of heaven.**”

Patriarchs and Prophets, p 214

“Arriving in Egypt, Joseph was sold to Potiphar, captain of the king's guard, in whose service he remained for ten years. He was here exposed to temptations of no ordinary character. He was in the midst of idolatry. The worship of false gods was surrounded by all the pomp of royalty, supported by the wealth and culture of the most highly civilized nation then in existence. **Yet Joseph preserved his simplicity and his fidelity to God.** The sights and sounds of vice were all about him, but he was as one who saw and heard not. His thoughts were not permitted to linger upon forbidden subjects. The desire to gain the favour of the Egyptians could not cause him to conceal his principles. **Had he attempted to do this, he would have been overcome by temptation; but he was not ashamed of the religion of his fathers, and he made no effort to hide the fact that he was a worshipper of Jehovah.**”

## 4. Elijah – Standing for God

The Bible (and Ellen White) describe the message that will bring in the latter rain - the Elijah message. This is the call to return to the worship of the One True God. It is the three angel's messages and the fourth angel of Revelation 18, gives the message again.

Elijah preached the truth amidst words of rebuke to the entire apostate church while it had gathered on Mt Carmel. It was a one-off meeting, not the institution of a united, combined weekly worship service between pagans and the worshippers of the One True God.

God had ordained this **one-off “show-down.”**

3 Testimonies for the Church, p 281 (in reference to Elijah on Mt Carmel)

“God has directed this trial and has prepared confusion for the **authors** of idolatry and a signal triumph for His name.”

Mt Carmel **had** previously been the site where, stationed high upon a ridge, was God's holy altar, but the priests of Baal (the religious leadership, the authors of idolatry) had torn it down and erected their own altars upon which they committed abominations in that previously sacred place.

3 Testimonies for the Church, p 279

“The people assemble upon Mount Carmel, a place of beauty when the dew and rain fall upon it causing it to flourish; but now its beauty is languishing under the curse of God. Upon this mount, which was the excellency of groves and flowers, Baal's prophets had erected altars for their pagan worship. **This mountain was conspicuous; it overlooked the surrounding countries and was in sight of a large portion of the kingdom. As God had been signally dishonored by the idolatrous worship carried on here, Elijah chose this as the most conspicuous place for the display of God's power and to vindicate His honor.** “

3 Testimonies for the Church, p 280

“Elijah fastens his eyes upon the highest ridge of mountains where **had** stood the altar of Jehovah when the mountain was covered with flourishing trees and flowers. The blight of God is now upon it; all the desolation of Israel is in full view of the neglected, **torn-down altar of Jehovah**, and in sight are the altars of Baal. Ahab stands at the head of the priests of Baal, and all wait in anxious, fearful expectation for the words of Elijah.”

Note that the altar of the **ONE** True God (singular) is broken down. In its place are altars to pagan gods (plural).

### **The Elijah Message**

The Elijah message was given to point the “chosen” people back to the worship of the One True God and to separate from those gods that were demonstrated to be false gods. This is the message of the 3 angels of Revelation 14 and also of the 4<sup>th</sup> angel of Rev 18.

Elijah took **the Elijah message** into the middle of the church of ancient Israel. The church had become a pagan worship area. Elijah attended “the church” for the **sole** purpose of identifying for the Israelites that Jehovah (Yahweh) was the One True God.

The Israelites had originally been called by God's special name.

2 Chronicles 7:14

“If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.”

The Israelites had also originally been made the depositors of special truth which they were commissioned to share with the world. This parallels the mission for which the SDA church was raised up.

General Conference Daily Bulletins, 29 January, 1893 p 5

“We have many duties to perform, because we have been made the depositories of sacred truth to be given to the world in all its beauty and glory.”

Elijah did not attend the pagan ceremony to join in their pagan worship services. He himself remained separate from the worshippers while that worship ceremony to the devil took place. He did not endorse the combination of Jehovah's worship with pagan idolatry. His purpose was not to bring unity between error and truth. His mission was to cause God's "chosen" people to recognise that Jehovah was the True God. His message taught separation from paganism and a return to the worship of the true God by way of one swift and powerful demonstration.

Furthermore, Elijah did not permit the deceived Israelites to believe that he was attending the service to worship with them. He let it be known that he was not participating in their worship services. He was not singing hymns to honour Baal along with the pagan priests. He was not pretending to be a Baal worshipper, while whispering to the those around him about the One True God.

Elijah remained at the pagan ceremony, not to observe their worship, but to ensure that the people were not further deceived by the corrupt actions of their leaders.

3 Testimonies for the Church, p 281

"Elijah stands by, watching with eagle eye lest any deception should be practiced; for he knows that if, by any device, they could kindle their altar fire, he would be torn in pieces upon the spot."

Was a pagan service a place of safety for the prophet of God? No. It was necessary for God to send the most powerful host of heaven to protect Elijah while he was completing God's ordained task.

3 Testimonies, p 280, 281, 283

"In the full light of the sun, surrounded by thousands,--men of war, prophets of Baal, and the monarch of Israel,--stands the defenseless man, Elijah, apparently alone, yet not alone. The most powerful host of heaven surrounds him. Angels who excel in strength have come from heaven to shield the faithful and righteous prophet." (281) "All Israel is silent. Again the voice of Elijah is heard addressing them: 'I, even I only, remain a prophet of the Lord; but Baal's prophets are four hundred and fifty men...and call ye on the name of your gods, and I will call on the name of the Lord: and the God that answereth by fire, let Him be God.'" (283) "Elijah's turn has now come. 'And Elijah said unto all the people, Come near unto me.' And all the people came near unto him. And he repaired the altar of the Lord that was broken down."

Elijah did not consent to attend the pagan worship ceremonies to preach smooth things, or even to give mild rebukes to the heathen (the apostate Israelites). Similarly, when apostate modern Israel (the "new SDA theologians), are worshipping the pagan gods of the trinity, the servants of God will bring the Elijah message to them. The 3 angel's messages will be given again (Rev 18) and those "modern Elijah's" will not be worshipping alongside the deceived folk in ceremonies devised by an apostate leadership.

The remnant of Israel (original SDA's) who have not bowed the knee to Baal (the trinity), will be a separate people. Like Elijah, they will call God's people out of pagan worship services, to serve the One True God.

## 5. John the Baptist Stands Alone

John's parents realised the importance of bringing up their child, the forerunner of Christ, in a place uncontaminated by evil influences. They moved – separated themselves- into a remote location for that express purpose. John the Baptist grew up and powerfully preached repentance OUTSIDE of the corrupt religious system. People flocked OUT of the meeting place of the corrupt leadership to hear truth in the wilderness, which was the location of John's missionary endeavours.

## 6. The Disciples Preach with Boldness

Did the disciples worship in the Jewish synagogues after Christ's death and resurrection?

Review and Herald, 22 April, 1890, p 1-2

“After the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus, the Jews, the priests, and the rulers of this world expected to see the disciples of Christ cast down and discouraged, because their Lord had been put to death. The disciples might have reasoned that they were in danger, and that they would better go out of Jerusalem; some might have said, 'Do not stay there, but if you do stay, do not mention the name of Christ; for he is regarded as an impostor.' But Christ had said, 'Tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem until ye are endued with power from on high.' After the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, they were to begin their work in Jerusalem, and let it extend from this city to the uttermost parts of the earth. Did any one lose his life in exalting Jesus before the people? Was any one killed?--Yes, Stephen was killed. Their enemies expected that terror would come upon the disciples, and that they would be afraid to speak the message of God. But hear what Peter says: 'Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by wonders and miracles and signs, which God did not by him in the midst of you as ye yourselves also know: him being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain: whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it.' God wants his witnesses to present the genuine in contrast to that which is false.”

Did the disciples go into the synagogues alongside the guilty Jews? Yes. Did they attend the worship services to *listen* and to partake of the worship which rejected the Son of God? No. The disciples went at the command of Christ, to *preach* first to the Jews, that Jesus was the Son of God and to condemn the action and teachings of those who crucified Him.

## **7. Dare to be a Daniel**

Consider the witness of Daniel. Daniel likewise refused to worship the king as a god and so he also was declared worthy of death for his refusal to disobey a divine command. **Daniel, by his obedience to God's command to "worship only the Lord thy God," dared to separate himself from pagan or nominal (professed) worshippers.** The rest of the captive Israelites appeared to worship the king in response to the death decree. However, following Daniel's witness, the King was impressed to respect the Lord God of Heaven.

Daniel 6:25, 26

"Then king Darius wrote unto all people, nations, and languages, that dwell in all the earth; Peace be multiplied unto you. I make a decree, That in every dominion of my kingdom men tremble and fear before the God of Daniel: for he is the living God, and stedfast for ever, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed, and his dominion shall be even unto the end."

## **8. Peter Preached the Straight Testimony**

Peter preached the straight testimony and 3000 people were converted in one day. It wasn't his singing or his smiling that converted the people. It was his heaven-anointed straight preaching of the truth that the Jews had rejected the Son of God and that they needed to repent that caused this mass conversion.

Acts 2:41

"Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls."

## **9. Paul Made a Mistake**

Paul separated from the organised church after they persistently rejected truth.

Acts 19:8, 9

"And as they persisted in their rejection of the gospel the apostle (Paul) went into the synagogue, and spake boldly for the space for three months, disputing and persuading the things concerning the kingdom of God. But when divers were hardened, and believed not, but spake evil of that way before the multitude, he departed from them, and separated the disciples, disputing daily in the school of one Tyrannus."

E.G. White, Acts of the Apostles, p. 286

"Fearing that the faith of the believers would be endangered by continued association with these opposers of the truth, Paul separated from them, and gathered the disciples into a distinct body."

Acts 21:15-31 tells the story of Paul, who out of loving concern for his fellow Jews, consented to compromise his beliefs to practice the traditions of the Jews. This divinely unauthorised compromise of joining with the Jews in their traditional worship services, eventually resulted in Paul's forced separation from the Christian church members.



Acts of the Apostles, p 405, 406

“Many of the Jews who had accepted the gospel still cherished a regard for the ceremonial law and were only too willing to make unwise concessions, hoping thus to gain the confidence of their countrymen, to remove their prejudice, and to win them to faith in Christ as the world's Redeemer. Paul realized that so long as many of the leading members of the church at Jerusalem should continue to cherish prejudice against him, they would work constantly to counteract his influence. He felt that if by any reasonable concession he could win them to the truth he would remove a great obstacle to the success of the gospel in other places. **But he was not authorized of God to concede as much as they asked.** When we think of Paul's great desire to be in harmony with his brethren, his tenderness toward the weak in the faith, his reverence for the apostles who had been with Christ, and for James, the brother of the Lord, and his purpose to become all things to all men so far as he could without sacrificing principle--when we think of all this, it is less surprising that he was constrained to deviate from the firm, decided course that he had hitherto followed. **But instead of accomplishing the desired object, his efforts for conciliation only precipitated the crisis, hastened his predicted sufferings, and resulted in separating him from his brethren, depriving the church of one of its strongest pillars, and bringing sorrow to Christian hearts in every land.**”

The Jewish religion had rejected the Son of God. Paul's example of participating in that religion's worship ceremonies demonstrates that the practice is dangerous. The current SDA organisation also rejects the Father and the Son in the form of the doctrine of the trinity. It is still dangerous to worship and participate in SDA religious ceremonies ?

## **10. Saul's Fatal Mistake**

Ellen White revealed that an act of joining with those who knowingly oppose God, is an act of separation from God.

Ellen White, Spirit of Prophecy, Vol 1. p 377.

"Saul knew that in this last act, of consulting the witch of Endor, he cut the last shred which held him to God. **He knew that if he had not before willfully separated himself from God, this act sealed that separation, and made it final.** He had made an agreement with death, and a covenant with hell. The cup of his iniquity was full."

Saul obeyed 'another gospel' and his actions of joining himself to Satan by attending the séance performed by the witch of Endor, separated himself from God and ensured that he came under demonic control. Saul could have made the decision to separate from Satan worshippers, and if he had done so, God would have been able to give him divine protection. Saul was left unsheltered from danger and such is the case of all who leave the protection of God.

Revelation 18:4-5.

"And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities."

## **Modern Israel – Pioneer SDA Church**

Early Writings p,124, 125

“The different parties of professed Advent believers have each a little truth, but God has given all these truths to His children who are being prepared for the day of God. He has also given them truths that none of these parties know, neither will they understand. Things which are sealed up to them, the Lord has opened to those who will see and are ready to understand. **If God has any new light to communicate, He will let His chosen and beloved understand it, without their going to have their minds enlightened by hearing those who are in darkness and error.** I was shown the necessity of those who believe that we are having the last message of mercy, being separate from those who are daily imbibing new errors. **I saw that neither young nor old should attend their meetings; for it is wrong to thus encourage them while they teach error that is a deadly poison to the soul and teach for doctrines the commandments of men. The influence of such gatherings is not good. If God has delivered us from such darkness and error, we should stand fast in the liberty wherewith He has set us free and rejoice in the truth. God is displeased with us when we go to listen to error, without being obliged to go; for unless He sends us to those meetings where error is forced home to the people by the power of the will, He will not keep us.** The angels cease their watchful care over us, and we are left to the buffetings of the enemy, to be darkened and weakened by him and the power of his evil angels; and the light around us becomes contaminated with the darkness.”

## **The Seven Last Plagues**

Consider how the death penalty and the plagues come to God’s true worshippers in the last days.

Revelation 13:11, 12

“And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon. 12 And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.”

Spaulding-Megan Collection (3 early visions) 001.004

Commenting on Revelation 13 (lamb like beast)

“I saw that the two-horned beast had a dragon’s mouth, and that his power was in his head, and that the decree would go out of his mouth. **Then I saw the Mother of Harlots; that the mother was not the daughters, but separate and distinct from them. She has had her day, and it is past, and her daughters, the Protestant sects, were the next to come on the stage and act out the same mind that the mother had when she persecuted the saints.** I saw that as the mother has been declining in power, the daughters had been growing, and **soon they will exercise the power once exercised by the mother.**

Spaulding-Megan Collection, (3 early visions) p 1, 2

“I saw the nominal (professed) church and nominal (professed) Adventists, like Judas, would betray us to the Catholics to obtain their influence to come against the truth. The saints then will be an obscure people, little known to the Catholics; but the churches and nominal Adventists who know of our faith and customs (**for they hated us on account of the Sabbath, for they could not**

**refute it)** will betray the saints and report them to the Catholics as those who disregard the institutions of the people; that is, that they keep the Sabbath and disregard Sunday. 2 Then the Catholics bid the Protestants to go forward, and issue a decree that all who will not observe the first day of the week, instead of the seventh day, shall be slain. And the Catholics, whose numbers are large, will stand by the Protestants. The Catholics will give their power to the image of the beast. And the **Protestants will work as their mother worked before them to destroy the saints.**

The fallen apostate protestant churches, who have become sisters to Babylon (or daughters) will persecute the saints.

Review and Herald, 22 March, 1887 p. 4

“We have far more to fear from within than from without. The hindrances to strength and success are far greater from the church itself than from the world.”

**Notice that the death decree comes from those professedly true worshippers who will not separate from pagan Trinitarian worship.**

### **Questions**

Who is the god of the Roman Catholic religion? Who is the god of the nominal church i.e. apostate protestants? Who is the god of the nominal (professed) Adventists? Aren't they all united in their worship? Don't they all worship the one god – the trinity?

Pope John Paul 2<sup>nd</sup> wrote in his book, “Crossing the Threshold of Hope” p 77: **“All religions on the face of the earth are all seeds of the word of God.”**

Statement in London-Telegraph newspaper 24 November, 2003, cited by Texe Marrs at [http://www.texemarrs.com/012004/same\\_god.htm](http://www.texemarrs.com/012004/same_god.htm))

**“Do Moslems, Christians, and others worship the same God? American Christian leaders either hedged or else expressed mild dismay recently when President George W. Bush, visiting England, told reporters at a televised news conference that Moslems and Christians worship the same God. “I believe we worship the same God,” the London-Telegraph newspaper, (Nov. 24, 2003) quoted Bush as saying.**

Should God's true believers worship in company of those whose organisation has officially rejected the worship of the true God in keeping with the churches of the world who are also all worshipping that same god? The World Council of Churches agree that all must hold to a belief in the trinity to be accepted as members of that worldly union. In order to be eligible to become a member of the World Council of Churches, a church *must* express agreement with the following:

“The World Council of Churches is a fellowship of churches which confess the Lord Jesus Christ as God and Saviour according to the scriptures, and therefore **seek to fulfil together their common calling to the glory of the one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.** It is a community of churches **on the way to visible unity** in **one faith and one eucharistic fellowship**, expressed in worship and in common life in Christ. It seeks to advance towards this unity, as Jesus prayed for his followers, “so that the world may believe” (John 17:21) <http://www.wcc-coe.org/wcc/who/index-e.html>

Many of the members of the churches are ignorant of the truth about God and His Son, and their spirit however the SDA organisation and its leaders are not ignorant. While in receipt of abundant truth, they deliberately and officially rejected this truth about the One True God and His only begotten Son at the SDA General Conference Session in 1980.

Despite the fact that there are members in the SDA organisation who are ignorant of this fact, and who need to be informed and warned, should God's true church members, consent to worship in pagan temples dedicated to the worship of the god of the trinity?

Would not this give the appearance that God's people were voluntarily joining in the worship of the most avowed enemy of the Father and Son – the enemy who murdered the Son of God?

Evangelistic measures must be taken to call God's people out of all the apostate churches, including the SDA church, but those methods are outlined in the Bible. God's messengers hold missionary endeavours outside the pagan churches and call the people OUT of falsehood.

## **A Biblical Principle - Corporate Guilt**

All members who voluntarily identify themselves with a wicked or apostate corporation or organisation, share its corporate guilt and as such will receive its punishment. This principle is emphasised by Christ when He warned: "Remember Lot's wife" in Luke 17:32.

## **Separate from Rebels or Die with Rebels**

### **1. Remember Lot's Wife**

Genesis 19:24-26

"Then the LORD rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the LORD out of heaven; And he overthrew those cities, and all the plain, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and that which grew upon the ground. But his wife looked back from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt."

Lot's wife was instructed by two holy angels to separate from pagan worshippers. While she eventually separated herself physically from the pagans, her heart still longed for the company of her pagan children and companions. Lot's wife did not determine in her heart to follow God's leading and to make a complete separation from evil; therefore she was considered worthy to receive the divine judgment that was intended to fall only on the pagan worshippers in that wicked plain. As a man thinketh in his heart so is he. This obviously applies to women also, as Lot's wife's experience testifies. This illustration shows that complete separation from determined pagans is a matter of life and death.

### **2. Korah, Dathan and Abiram**

Numbers 16:20-26

"And the LORD spake unto Moses and unto Aaron, saying, Separate yourselves from among this congregation, that I may consume them in a moment....Speak unto the congregation, saying, Get you up from about the tabernacle of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram. And Moses rose up and went unto Dathan and Abiram; and the elders of Israel followed him. And he spake unto the congregation, saying, **Depart, I pray you, from the tents of these wicked men, and touch nothing of theirs, lest ye be consumed in all their sins.**"

### **3. The Israelite Adulterers and the Midianite Prostitutes**

Numbers 25:5-9

"And Moses said unto the judges of Israel, Slay ye every one his men that were joined unto **Baalpeor**. 6 And, behold, one of the children of Israel came and brought unto his brethren a Midianitish woman in the sight of Moses, and in the sight of all the congregation of the children of Israel, who were weeping before the door of the tabernacle of the congregation. 7 And when Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, saw it, he rose up from among the congregation, and took a javelin in his hand; 8 And he went after the man of Israel into the tent, and thrust both of them through, the man of Israel, and the woman through her belly. So the plague was stayed from the children of Israel. 9 And those that died in the plague were twenty and four thousand."

#### **4. Solomon's Error**

Prophets and Kings, p 53, 54, 57

"The commands of Jehovah were set aside for the customs of surrounding peoples. 54. Solomon flattered himself that his wisdom and the power of his example would lead his wives from idolatry to the worship of the true God, and also that the alliances thus formed would draw the nations round about into close touch with Israel. Vain hope! 57 "Solomon's course brought its sure penalty. His separation from God through communication with idolaters was his ruin."

Solomon purposed to "convert" his foreign wives to the worship of the true God, but instead, in accordance with the Biblical warning, he became spiritually weak from his associations with these pagan women. Solomon began attending the pagan religious ceremonies as an outreach programme to maintain a peaceful relationship with his wives, but eventually ended up worshipping the beast – which involved performing the most "degrading rites of heathenism." PK p 57

Instead of joining the pagan worshippers in their worship services, the Bible present examples of how missionary outreach programmes should be conducted. eg Elijah, John the Baptist, Enoch, Noah, Moses. The outreach programmes are to be delivered from outside the pagan groves or pagan churches. The message is "separate from evil and be saved."

#### **Separate from Babylon**

Isaiah 52:11

**"Depart ye, depart ye, go ye out from thence, touch no unclean thing; go ye out of the midst of her; be ye clean, that bear the vessels of the Lord."**

Jeremiah 50:6, 8, 51:6, 45

"My people have been lost sheep: **their shepherds (church leaders) have caused them to go astray...**they have forgotten their resting place (in God alone)...**Remove out** of the midst of Babylon...**Flee out** of the midst of Babylon, and deliver every man his soul: **be not cut off in her iniquity....My people, go ye out of the midst of her**, and deliver ye every man his soul from the fierce anger of the Lord."

Revelation 18:2-4

"And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird. 3 For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies. 4 And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, **Come out of her, my people**, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues."

## **What About Waiting to Be Excommunicated? Is it Biblical?**

God's people who speak up and rebuke error are not tolerated in the pagan "Christian" churches. They are excommunicated, but Christ tells us to rejoice when this happens. There is safety in separating from pagan worship services.

Isaiah 66:5

"Hear the word of the LORD, ye that tremble at his word; Your brethren that hated you, that cast you out for my name's sake, said, Let the LORD be glorified: but he shall appear to your joy, and they shall be ashamed."

Jesus Himself was cast out of the synagogues, because He taught the truth about the Father and His Son. Christ also rebuked error. And He prophesied that excommunication would also happen to those who rejected knowledge about the Father and the Son.

John 16:2, 3

"They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service. 3 And these things will they do unto you, because they have not known the Father, nor me."

Matthew 10:16-18

"Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves. 17 But beware of men: for they will deliver you up to the councils, and they will scourge you in their synagogues; 18 And ye shall be brought before governors and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them and the Gentiles."

Timothy 3:5.

"Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: **from such turn away.**"

Ephesians 5:11

"And **have no fellowship with** the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them."

If people are content to stay in an apostate church, not preaching the truth, not speaking out, not giving the call to repentance, there is little likelihood that they will be excommunicated. It is the preaching of the truth that causes persecution. We are told to reprove the works of darkness, not to worship with them in the darkness of error.

Revelation 18:4

"And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, **Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.**"

**If God's people DO NOT come out and be separate, they WILL receive the plagues which are intended to fall on the wicked.**

**As soon as His people choose to worship other gods, God withdraws from them.**

### **Christ Employs Separation in the Judgment**

Matthew 25:31-33

“When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: 32 And before him shall be gathered all nations: and **he shall separate them one from another**, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: 33 And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.”

### **God Withdraws From Those Who Reject Him**

2 Chronicles 15:2-4

“Hear ye me, Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin; The LORD is with you, while ye be with him; and if ye seek him, he will be found of you; but if ye forsake him, he will forsake you. **Now for a long season Israel hath been without the true God, and without a teaching priest, and without law.** But when they in their trouble did turn unto the LORD God of Israel, and sought him, he was found of them.”

Hosea 4:17

**Ephraim is joined to idols:** let him alone. Their drink is sour: they have committed whoredom continually: her rulers with shame do love, Give ye. The wind hath bound her up in her wings, and they shall be ashamed because of their sacrifices. Hear ye this, O priests; and hearken, ye house of Israel; and give ye ear, O house of the king; for judgment is toward you, because ye have been a snare on Mizpah, and a net spread upon Tabor. And the revolvers are profound to make slaughter, though I have been a rebuker of them all. I know Ephraim, and Israel is not hid from me: for now, O Ephraim, thou committest whoredom, and Israel is defiled. They will not frame their doings to turn unto their God: for the spirit of whoredoms is in the midst of them, and they have not known the LORD. And the pride of Israel doth testify to his face: therefore shall Israel and Ephraim fall in their iniquity; Judah also shall fall with them. They shall go with their flocks and with their herds to seek the LORD; but they shall not find him; **he hath withdrawn himself from them.”**

These verses state that when His people go into apostasy and worship other pagan gods, God withdraws from them.

Which god are people in apostate churches ignorantly worshipping? Ellen White tells us, that when Christ **removes** Himself from the throne, Satan assumes to be Christ and he receives the unintended worship of the professed Adventists.



Ellen White was given two visions which sound as warnings to God's true commandment-keeping people.

Early Writings p 55-56

*"I saw the Father rise from the throne, and in a flaming chariot go into the holy of holies within the veil, and sit down. Then Jesus rose up from the throne, and the most of those who were bowed down arose with Him. I did not see one ray of light pass from Jesus to the careless multitude after He arose, and they were left in perfect darkness.*

*Those who arose when Jesus did, kept their eyes fixed on Him as He left the throne and led them out a little way. Then He raised His right arm, and we heard His lovely voice saying, "Wait here; I am going to My Father to receive the kingdom; keep your garments spotless, and in a little while I will return from the wedding and receive you to Myself." Then a cloudy chariot, with wheels like flaming fire, surrounded by angels, came to where Jesus was. He stepped into the chariot and was borne to the holiest, where the Father sat. There I beheld Jesus, a great High Priest, standing before the Father. On the hem of His garment was a bell and a pomegranate, a bell and a pomegranate. Those who rose up with Jesus would send up their faith to Him in the holiest, and pray, "My Father, give us Thy Spirit." Then Jesus would breathe upon them the Holy Ghost. In that breath was light, power, and much love, joy, and peace.*

*(p 56). I turned to look at the company who were still bowed before the throne; they did not know that Jesus had left it. Satan appeared to be by the throne, trying to carry on the work of God. I saw them look up to the throne, and pray, "Father, give us Thy Spirit." Satan would then breathe upon them an unholy influence; in it there was light and much power, but no sweet love, joy, and peace. Satan's object was to keep them deceived and to draw back and deceive God's children."*

The second vision is found in 1 Testimonies for the Church, p 577, 578

*"In this state of things it was decided that we would return to Battle Creek and there remain while the roads were in a muddy, broken-up condition, and that I would there complete No. 12. My husband was very anxious to see his brethren at Battle Creek and speak to them and rejoice with them in the work which God was doing for him. I gathered up my writings, and we started on our journey. On the way we held two meetings in Orange and had evidence that the church was profited and encouraged. We were ourselves refreshed by the Spirit of the Lord. That night I dreamed that I was in Battle Creek looking out from the side glass at the door and saw a company marching up to the house, two and two. They looked stern and determined. I knew them well and turned to open the parlor door to receive them, but thought I would look again. The scene was changed. The company now presented*

*the appearance of a Catholic procession. One bore in his hand a cross, another a reed. And as they approached, the one carrying a reed made a circle around the house, saying three times: 'This house is proscribed. The goods must be confiscated. They have spoken against our holy order.' Terror seized me, and I ran through the house, out of the north door, and found myself in the midst of a company, some of whom I knew, but I dared not speak a word to them for fear of being betrayed. I tried to seek a retired spot where I might weep and pray without meeting eager, inquisitive eyes wherever I turned. I repeated frequently: 'If I could only understand this! If they will tell me what I have said or what I have done!' (578). I wept and prayed much as I saw our goods confiscated. I tried to read sympathy or pity for me in the looks of those around me, and marked the countenances of several whom I thought would speak to me and comfort me if they did not fear that they would be observed by others. I made one attempt to escape from the crowd, but seeing that I was watched, I concealed my intentions. I commenced weeping aloud, and saying: "If they would only tell me what I have done or what I have said!" My husband, who was sleeping in a bed in the same room, heard me weeping aloud and awoke me. My pillow was wet with tears, and a sad depression of spirits was upon me."*

## **What was Jesus' Example?**

Jesus Himself made it His custom to attend regular worship services in the Jewish synagogues. In those services, the One True God was recognised and worshipped. The Messiah was anticipated as the Son of the Living God.

At the beginning of Christ's missionary work, the organisation and the leadership still professed worship of the One True God and were looking for God's Messiah. So it was not evil for Christ to attend the synagogue and to join in the worship services.

John 4:21-26

Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father. 22 Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews. 23 But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. 24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth. 25 The woman saith unto him, I know that Messias cometh, which is called Christ: when he is come, he will tell us all things. 26 Jesus saith unto her, I that speak unto thee am he.”

Jesus told the Samaritan woman that the Jews knew Whom they worshipped. They worshipped the Father and Jesus stated that salvation was from the Jews. He also affirmed that He would also tell us “all things” – He would identify Whom we should worship. Jesus stressed again, as He did in Lot's wife's case, that Whom we worship is a life and death matter.

John 17:3

“And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.”

Did the Jews in their official synagogue services, worship the One True God? Yes, the Jews professed to worship the God of heaven, the Creator, One Infinite, Omnipotent, Omniscient Being.

Deuteronomy 6:4-6

“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD: And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart:”

Exodus 20:1-17

The Ten Commandments outlined who was the true God who was to be officially worshipped by the Jewish nation.

The sanctuary services were ordained to teach the Jews about the One True God of Heaven whose character is represented in the 10 Commandments and other Biblical passages which magnify those commandments; Exodus 20:1 – 17; Matthew 5; 1 Cor 13; 1 John.

As a Jew, it was the custom of Jesus to attend the synagogue as a child and as a young man. When He was baptised and began His ministry, He entered the synagogue at Nazareth. The Jews professed to worship the God of heaven – the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. So it was entirely in order for Jesus to attend the Jewish synagogues. However, it is known from Jesus' rebuke to the scribes and Pharisees in Mathew 23, that the leaders of the synagogues had corrupted themselves. Their hypocrisy and deceitful behaviour had obscured the meaning of the sacrificial system and the worshippers were led into false doctrines.

The Jewish leaders had gone into apostasy themselves, but despite that, the system still pointed out the identity of the true God and the plan of salvation, which was to honour the One True God. This was why Jesus was able to worship in the synagogues. The True God was still **officially** being worshipped, despite the wicked sins of the leadership.

Luke 4:14 - 16

“And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit into Galilee: and there went out a fame of him through all the region round about. And he taught in their synagogues, being glorified of all. And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up for to read.”

Jesus preached a message from Isaiah – that He was the Son of God, the Messiah. This message was rejected and His life was placed in danger. The local church members at Nazareth wanted to kill Jesus for teaching “heresy” and attempted to murder Him by throwing Him over a cliff, “but He passing through the midst of them went his way,” and escaped.

While Jesus was willing to speak in recognised worship centres, His message which proclaimed that He was the Messiah, was rejected by the leadership. This made teaching in the synagogues very difficult. The Saviour then consented to teach the true believers and the honest in heart away from the influence of the corrupt leadership, to the hills and the fields where they could hear the truth from the Saviour.

Besides proclaiming that He was the Messiah, Jesus also preached against the traditions of men. Christ called attention back to the worship of the true God – and of His Messiah - who was at the centre of their sanctuary services. Christ's words exposed the sins of the leadership and how they truly served another god, as Ezekiel had prophesied in chapters 8 and 9 of his book. Ellen White comments:

Battle Creek Letters, p 111

**“At times, with burning earnestness and words of terrible severity, Christ denounced the abominations that He saw in the church and in the world. He would not allow the people to be deceived by false claims to righteousness and sanctity. We are to unify, but not on a platform of error.”**

The Jewish leaders **professed** to worship the One True God, but Jesus reminded them **who really** received their worship. Jesus informed them that their true Father was the devil.

John 8:42 – 44; 54, 55

Jesus said unto them, **If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God;...<sup>44</sup> Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do...** 54 it is my Father that honoureth me; of whom ye say, that he is your God: 55 Yet ye have not known him..."

Four days prior to His death Christ knew that the leaders had cemented plans to kill their Messiah. Therefore, at the closing of His mission, just prior to His death, Christ's merciful message was one of rebuke, exposure, condemnation and sorrow.

Matthew 23:38. "Behold, your house is left unto you desolate."

Christ exposed the corruption of the Pharisees and Jewish leaders so that the common people might more fully realise that they should not place their faith in a system or in fallible humanity.

Desire of Ages, 1898, p 611

"In the parables which Christ had spoken, it was His purpose both to warn the rulers and to instruct the people who were willing to be taught. But there was need to speak yet more plainly. Through their reverence for tradition and their blind faith in a corrupt priesthood, the people were enslaved. These chains Christ must break. **The character of the priests, rulers, and Pharisees must be more fully exposed.**"

Christ had not attended the synagogue in Jerusalem, to quietly accent to worship in a system that denied that Christ was God's divine Son. Christ's purpose in attending was to expose the leadership's deception so that worshippers could be pointed back to the One True God. After this "last ditch effort," to expose error, Christ left the synagogue forever. "Your house is left unto you desolate," He proclaimed as He left the once sacred area.

After their rejection of Christ as their Messiah, the common people also sealed their probation.

Desire of Ages, 1898, p 621, 626

"At this time Christ's work bore the appearance of cruel defeat. He had been victor in the controversy with the priests and Pharisees, but it was evident that He would never be received by them as the Messiah. The final separation had come. 626 Alas for those who knew not the time of their visitation! Slowly and regretfully Christ left forever the precincts of the temple."

After its rejection of God's Son, Israel was forever separated from God. God accepted the divorce that Israel had thrust at Him. – The chosen people were no longer the "bride of Christ."

Desire of Ages, 1898, p 709

“When Caiaphas rent his garment, his act was significant of the place that the Jewish nation as a nation would thereafter occupy toward God. The once favored people of God were separating themselves from Him, and were fast becoming a people disowned by Jehovah. When Christ upon the cross cried out, "It is finished" (John 19:30), and the veil of the temple was rent in twain, the Holy Watcher declared that the Jewish people had rejected Him who was the antitype of all their types, the substance of all their shadows. **Israel was divorced from God.** Well might Caiaphas then rend his official robes, which signified that he claimed to be a representative of the great High Priest; for no longer had they any meaning for him or for the people. Well might the high priest rend his robes in horror for himself and for the nation.”

If Israel was divorced from God, whom did the people then worship when they insisted in participating in the Jewish sacrificial worship ceremonies of that God-forsaken system? They worshipped the devil.

Christ had just proclaimed that the house of Israel was left desolate - because the professed “chosen” people had rejected the Son of God. When soon afterwards the disciples questioned Jesus about the end of the world, Jesus referred to Daniel's prophecy which also referred to being “desolate” - the “abomination that maketh desolate” or the “abomination of desolation.”

Daniel 11:31

“And arms shall stand on his part, and they shall pollute the sanctuary of strength, and shall take away the daily sacrifice, and they shall place the abomination that maketh desolate.”

Matthew 24:15, 16

When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)<sup>16</sup> Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains.”

### **The Abomination of Desolation**

The standard of the Roman army was their flag. When it was planted in the holy ground outside Jerusalem, it signified that the Roman army claimed authority over the holy city – Jerusalem - in the name of the Emperor of the Roman Empire. The true followers of Jesus had been instructed to separate themselves and immediately leave the city when they saw that sign of authority in their holy ground. They were warned to “Come out of her my people – come out of the apostate organisation, to leave the worship services – to leave family and friends - to leave entirely! Christ did not advise the worshippers of His Father, to remain in a corrupt worship system, to worship alongside of those who once knew the truth but who had rejected the truth. Christ told them to flee – to separate – because their lives, both temporal and eternal, depended upon separation at that moment that the Roman flag was thrust into the holy ground, where it ought not to be (Mark 13:14)

Is there perhaps a Roman standard placed in the holy ground of the SDA church today?

Handbook for Today's Catholic, p 11

*"The mystery of the Trinity is the central doctrine of the Catholic Faith. Upon it are based all the other teachings of the Church."*

Is this Roman standard now accepted by the SDA church as their standard also? Yes. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Fundamental Belief of the SDA church states:

## (2) **the Trinity**

*There is one God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit, a unity of three co-eternal Persons. God is immortal, all-powerful, all knowing, above all and ever present. He is infinite and beyond human comprehension, yet known through His self-revelation. He is forever worthy of worship, adoration and service by the whole creation.*

Is there perhaps a preparation for the mark of Roman authority in the SDA organisation?

If you have seen the General Conference documentation in regards to keeping Sunday as a "rest day" on the video "the Catholic Procession" you know the answer to that question is "yes." Ellen White predicted this situation.

Spalding and Megan Unpublished Testimonies of EGW, released 1985

3 Early Visions, p1

"I saw the nominal church and nominal Adventists, like Judas, would betray us to the Catholics to obtain their influence to come against the truth. The saints then will be an obscure people, little known to the Catholics; but the churches and nominal Adventists who know of our faith and customs (for they hated us on account of the Sabbath, for they could not refute it) will betray the saints and report them to the Catholics as those who disregard the institutions of the people; that is, that they keep the Sabbath and disregard Sunday."

**Notice the nominal (professed, "name only") Adventists are NOT keeping the Sabbath. The professed Adventists are keeping Sunday as the Sabbath and disregarding the holy 7<sup>th</sup> day Sabbath.**

Note a similar prediction in 1 SM 203, 204; Battle Creek Letters, p 81, 82  
“The enemy of souls has sought to bring in the supposition that a great reformation was to take place among Seventh-day Adventists, and that this reformation would consist in giving up the doctrines which stand as the pillars of our faith, and engaging in a process of reorganization. Were this reformation to take place what would result? **(Note: In 2006, it must be noted that this reformation HAS ALREADY TAKEN PLACE, so the rest of Ellen White's quote is prophecy waiting to happen or already been fulfilled – ST).** The principles of truth that God in His wisdom has given to the remnant church would be discarded. Our religion would be changed. The fundamental principles that have sustained the work for the last fifty years would be accounted as error. A new organization would be established. Books of a new order would be written. A system of intellectual philosophy would be introduced. The founders of this system would go into the cities, and do a wonderful work. The Sabbath, of course would be lightly regarded, as also the God who created it. Nothing would be allowed to stand in the way of the new movement. The leaders would teach that virtue is better than vice, but God being removed they would place their dependence on human power, which, without God, is worthless. Their foundation would be build on the sand, and **storm and tempest would sweep away the structure.** 82 Who has authority to begin such a movement? We have our Bibles. We have our experience, attested to by the miraculous working of the Holy Spirit. We have a truth that admits of no compromise. **Shall we not repudiate everything that is not in harmony with this truth?**”

1 Testimonies for the Church, p 113

“November 20, 1855, while in prayer, the Spirit of the Lord came suddenly and powerfully upon me, and I was taken off in vision. **I saw that the Spirit of the Lord has been dying away from the church.** The servants of the Lord have trusted too much to the strength of argument, and have not had that firm reliance upon God which they should have. I saw that the mere argument of the truth will not move souls to take a stand with the remnant; for the truth is unpopular. The servants of God must have the truth in the soul.

1 Testimonies for the Church, p 117

**“I saw that decided efforts should be made to show those who are unchristian in life their wrongs, and if they do not reform, they should be separated from the precious and holy, that God may have a clean and pure people that He can delight in. Dishonor Him not by linking or uniting the clean with the unclean.”**



## **What About Retaining the Name Seventh-day Adventist?**

Creation SDA church takes a strong position that God's people should retain use of the name Seventh-day Adventist, despite the fact that the name has been trademarked and is now the property of an organisation that worships the trinity.

The following information is from their Question and Answer website:

Creation SDA's comments are in *black italics*. **My responsive comments are in red.**

<http://creationsda.org/binary/studies/Questions.html>

7) *Why not change your name?*

*A) The question is often asked of us: "If you know you may be sued by the General Conference for continuing to call yourselves "Adventists" despite the law they have made with the government, why not just change your name and avoid the trouble? Are you just trying to draw attention to yourselves and cause confusion?" The less polite will phrase it in other terms: "Haven't you made an idol of the name 'Adventist'?" After all, it is the faith that is important, no matter what you call it."*

*While those who claim it is the "faith" and not the "name" that is important make a good point, the truth is... our "faith" forbids us from worshipping idols. How does this apply? We see the actions of the General Conference in much the same way the three Hebrew youths saw Nebuchadnezzar's construction of a golden image. (Dan 3) One standing by may well have asked the youths, "Why not just bow to the statue? We know that you worship the God of Heaven, and you don't really believe the statute is a god... but why not just do what the law says and avoid the trouble?"*

**(S Turner comments: retaining the SDA name is a matter of being true to one of the commandments of God. If the Israelite youths had bowed to the statue, they would have been breaking a commandment of God. There is a difference between standing for the 10 commandment principles and in trying to hold onto a name that once represented those 10 commandments, but which no longer does – in fact, it goes opposite to those commandments. Currently, the name SDA advertises and stands for the worship of ANOTHER god – the trinity – which is idolatry. Non-trinitarians still believe in the 10 commandments – which is what the name SDA USED to stand for, but today, under current law, the name SDA does not represent the original SDA beliefs, nor the 10 commandments, but the doctrines of Rome and the commandments of men).**

*The matter is this: If we change our Church's name because a human law says we must, we would acknowledge that men have the authority to legislate religious observances.*

**(S Turner comments: This argument appears to be illogical and unsupported by scripture. The name SDA is not a religious observance. In EGW's own words, the name SDA was simply an advertisement of a particular organisation's beliefs and it was to help enquirers understand two major doctrines of the organisation [The Early Years Vol 1, p 438]. The name no longer represents that same organisation or its beliefs**

**NOW.** The trademarked name still advertises an organisation's beliefs - but the beliefs are not the same as it was advertising 143 years ago. The name SDA today, still advertises that the members believe in the seventh-day Sabbath and the second coming of Christ, but it inadvertently it also advertises the fact that that the members of that organisation worship a different god - the trinity. The value of the SDA name has been decreased since it came to represent an organisation that worships the trinity in 1931. It currently is disempowered to advertise the truth of the One True God because it has been trademarked by the present organisation and now represents the worship of another god).

*Adventists believe that Yahweh Himself gave us that name, and He has given us no instruction to alter it.*

**(S Turner comments: God gave the pioneer organisation that name SDA to advertise their particular beliefs – not as a means of salvation or as a ritual. That pioneer organisation was infiltrated and the truth was changed into a lie. Those few who remained faithful to the truth, protested and today, some following in their footsteps, are still giving the message. It is not the name that is important. It is the truth that is important. Does God expect His people to suffer persecution over the theft of a name, or over theft of the truth? Does God desire His people to take a stand over the principles of His government or over the blackening of the name that USED to represent truth?)**

*In fact, as we view Ellen White's writings as inspired, we can reinforce this belief with her words: "As to the name Seventh-day Adventists: I was shown in regard to the remnant people of God taking a name. . . . **No name which we can take will be appropriate but that which accords with our profession and expresses our faith and marks us a peculiar people.**"*

**(S. Turner comments: Many names could fill this requirement. There is no magic in the name SDA. The power of salvation was in the truth which was represented by that name, but which has long been denied. God does not require magic words and rituals to produce salvation in His people.).** The name Seventh-day Adventist is a standing rebuke to the Protestant world. . . **(S. Turner comments: It certainly used to be, but now the Protestant world considers SDA's 'brothers' and so too does even the RC church, because the name SDA now represents the worship of the trinity god - the traditions and commandments of men superceding the commandments of God).**

*The name Seventh-day Adventist carries the true features of our faith in front, and will convict the inquiring mind." [The Early Years Volume 1, p.438] "We are Seventh-day Adventists. Are we ashamed of our name? We answer, 'No, no! We are not. It is the name the Lord has given us. It points out the truth that is to be the test of the churches.'" [Selected Messages, Book 2, 384]*

**(S. Turner comments: The test of the churches is whether they will or will not follow the commandments of God – not whether they will continue to use the name SDA which no longer is interpreted by the world to mean what it used to mean in EGW's day).**

*Most significantly: "A company was presented before me under the name of Seventh-day Adventists, who were advising that the banner or sign which makes us a distinctive people should not be held out so strikingly; for they claimed it was not the best policy in securing success to our institutions. This distinctive banner is to be borne through the world to the close of probation." [Selected Messages 2, p. 385]*

**(S Turner comments: The banner is the SEVENTH-DAY SABBATH (the commandment that signifies that our allegiance is with the One True God – The banner is not the name SDA. The banner is the truth, just as the Rock on which the church was built was not Peter, but the truth as it is in Christ Jesus).**

*As we believe Yah intends for us to have this name, the question of the title "Adventist" becomes an inherently religious matter. Whether it be the Sabbath itself, or our name (SDA), we cannot surrender to human forces anything that sets us apart as the people of God... this would be idolatry.*

**(S Turner comments: No, it would be Christlike and sensible to render to Caesar that which he claims is his, except for when it involves breaking the commandments of God. The use of a name is not the breaking of the commandment of God. It is simply a demonstration that the church has been infiltrated and is now under the control of those who worship the trinity god).**

*We can do not other than this in good conscience, and we rest in the assurance that Christ will protect His people; we are not concerned with what man may do to us.*

**(S Turner comments: This position would be meritorious IF the issue was over the forcing of the conscience to break God's law in order to obey a human law. Since this is NOT the case, this position to retain and use the name SDA, when it is trademarked by another organisation, is illogical and irrational AND illegal. Jesus told us that if someone steals our belongings, we are NOT to try to recover them.**

**Luke 6:30**

**"Give to every man that asketh of thee; and of him that taketh away thy goods ask them not again."**

**Matthew 5:39, 40**

**"But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also. (40) And if any man will sue thee at the law, and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloak also."**

**God requires that we take a stand over the 10 commandments – not over being called by a certain name which was intended only for advertising and evangelistic purposes, not for salvation purposes. The Father's name will be written in the foreheads of God's people – not the name SDA).**

CSDA continues:

*“The God of my rock; in Him will I trust: He is my Shield, and the Horn of my salvation, my high Tower, and my Refuge, my Saviour; thou savest me from violence.” (2Sam 22:3)*

(S Turner's comments: After Christ's death, the unconverted Jews would not depart from the Jewish organisation, despite the evidence that the official organisation had changed gods. This was evidenced in that the Jewish religious leaders had organised for the crucifixion of the Son of God. Those Jews who in AD 70, remained in the apostate system, were not protected, but lost their lives. Despite still retaining the 'name;' despite still considering themselves as 'the chosen people,' these deceived people died in the 'most holy place of the Jewish religious system - in the sanctuary where they believed that the One True God dwelt. These self-made 'martyrs' died in the Roman seige, even within the temple itself. They called out in shock, *Ichabod* – the glory has departed!” In fact, the glory departed a long time before that, but these people did not realise that the Jewish church's probation was over. (Great Controversy, first chapter). It would have been much safer to follow Christ's instructions and to flee from everything that was in any way connected with that apostate system. The new Christians did not endeavour to continue to identify with the THEN apostate religious system as an indication that they belonged to the 'chosen people,' 'the people of promise,' which existed thousands of YEARS before - when it was a 'pure system.' True Christians fled the persecutory system and left Jerusalem in droves.

Ellen White says that the same situation will occur in the last days to God's people. Get out of the clutches of the organised SDA church or else 'go down with the ship.' God can and will save those who obediently flee the organisation which has become part of Babylon.

(Refer to what consitutes Babylon in the Great Controversy, p 282, 283). Fuller explanation given in earlier chapters of the e-book, "Unity in Separation" at [www.themeofthebible.com](http://www.themeofthebible.com) .

## Evangelism of the Fallen Churches

Ellen White

Special Testimonies to Ministers and Workers, 1897 #11, p 12.

“The purging and cleansing will surely pass through every church in our land that has had great opportunities and privileges, and has passed them by unheeded. More evidence is not what they want. They need pure and sanctified hearts to gather up and retain all the light that God has given, and then they will walk in that light.”

We need missions and outreach programmes to call people out of Babylon. We don't need to do this in the Babylonian churches. We need to train our own young people in methods of evangelism and pray that God anoint some willing workers with His spirit. We need to finance the evangelists that will go out to call the people out. And we need to pray that God bless our efforts to obey His command, to give the cry of the 4<sup>th</sup> angel.

Revelation 18:4

“And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.”

How can we call God's people out of Babylon, if we are still **in Babylon ourselves**?

### Dr John H. Kellogg's Example

Dr Kellogg progressed from being blessed by God, to trusting in himself and then he fell into the sin of worshipping other gods, firstly in the form of pantheism and then into trinitarianism.

Ellen White counselled Dr Kellogg and sent others to his aid – up to a certain point, when God informed her that neither she nor the other ministers should approach Dr Kellogg for he was so far under the control of Satan that these other persons would be hypnotised by Satan and come under his bewitching power. The 1888 message ministers and even Ellen White – the prophet of God – had to separate from evil influences to ensure their own spiritual salvation.

The following paragraphs reveal some of the story.

From 1895 to 1903, Dr John Harvey Kellogg believed and then taught the religion of pantheism only to switch suddenly in 1903, to become a self-confessed Trinitarian? see letter - A.G. Daniells to W. C. White, 29 Oct 1903 p 12.

Ellen White wrote to Dr Kellogg (October Letter 300, 1903) in reproof stating: "You are not definitely clear on the personality of God, which is everything to us as a people. You have virtually destroyed the Lord God Himself."

Spaulding & Magan Collection Letter, Oct 1903 p 334

"The Lord still has thoughts of mercy toward John Kellogg, but the fallen angels are close by his side, communicating with him."

Battle Creek Letters, p 96

"I ask you, Brother Tenney and Brother Jones, to do all in your power to lead Dr. Kellogg to the platform of eternal truth. Work in unity. Press together. Let each one stand in his place. Speak the truth plainly, but in love. Keep the standard of truth uplifted."

Battle Creek Letters, p 101

"Some of the recent testimonies I have written and have given them to Elder A.T. Jones, asking him to read them to the Doctor; for I was instructed that if they were placed in the hands of Dr. Kellogg, he might be led to put a wrong construction upon some of the words. This instruction was given to me at the time of the meeting held in Battle Creek a few weeks before the Review and Herald Office was burned. At the time of the General Conference in Oakland, I was forbidden by the Lord to have any conversation with Dr. Kellogg. During that meeting a scene was presented to me, representing evil angels conversing with the Doctor, and imbuing him with their spirit, so that at times he would say and do things, the nature of which he could not understand. He seemed powerless to escape from the snare. At other times he would appear to be rational."

Kress Collection, p 39 (EGW to AT Jones)

"Brother Jones, you are acting the part of Aaron, and the Spirit of God is grieved. Dr. Kellogg has not been helped by you or his associate physicians; for your course has confirmed him in his blindness. You have done him great harm, but no good, and you are accounted as false watchmen."

Kress Collection, p 39 (EGW to AT Jones)

"You were entrusted with letters to be read to Dr. Kellogg. These letters contained instruction and warnings that should have been heeded by yourself. You should have prayed with Dr. Kellogg, and made every effort possible to obtain a spiritual influence over him, that you might convince him of his wrong course of action. He has had many schemes and devisings, with which the Lord had nothing to do. He was taking a course in some things that would ruin his influence."

Paulsen Collection, p 331

In a letter to Dr. and Mrs. Kress, written July 27, 1906

"I feel intensely sorrowful when I see some of our brethren in Battle Creek taking a course that is leading them away from the truth: for I have had a presentation of the first apostasy in the heavenly courts. The warnings of the Holy Spirit have been disregarded, and there has been persistent work of deception. A. T. Jones has permitted himself to be used as the voice of Dr. J. H. Kellogg."

Paulsen Collection, p 331-332

"It is our privilege to believe in a personal Father, who has made a gift of His only Begotten Son, that a fallen world might repent, and accept of a personal Saviour, and be permitted to eat of the leaves of the tree of life. Thank God, we may uplift the Saviour before the people, as had been done at these meetings. The work will advance more and more, as we humble our hearts, and bring our wills in submission to God. Some will place themselves under Satan's rule, but we will not fail nor become discouraged."

Brother Kress, I am thankful that you have not been deceived by the representations of Dr. Kellogg. At the Berrien Springs meeting, the Lord showed me what He was willing to do for Dr. Kellogg. The most blessed invitation was given to Him. But the doctor wrenched himself away from the outstretched hand of Christ. It seemed that in the agony of my soul I should die. ***I have seen how Dr. Kellogg has united with the arch deceiver in using hypnotic influence upon souls to deceive them.*** Those who sustain him in his course are guilty with him of resisting the Spirit of God. Such blindness of understanding seems strange in one who has known the truth for this time. A. T. Jones has a theory of the truth, as expressed in his books. He does not repudiate these, but he virtually goes back upon their teachings, by the course of action he is following. Dr. Kellogg places himself before the world in the position of one who is greatly abused. He writes many letters, as he has to you, making such a representation as would call forth sympathy. But he is still at work with all subtlety. I have felt compelled to warn our people: for they do not understand his cunning. 332 I have seen that the leaders in the medical work in Battle Creek will try to secure possession of the Tabernacle. Their scheming is so subtle, that I greatly fear that this may be accomplished. If Dr. Kellogg can destroy the faith of any of our people in the testimonies, he will do it. He sometimes takes the nurses and others, sometimes alone in the night season, and talks with them for hours framing a tissue of falsehood, to make them believe himself a much abused man. **Some of these poor souls have heard the truth, and they wish to get out of Battle Creek. They realize that their safety consists in leaving the place where they are so deceived.** The doctor will take advantage in every way to make an impression upon human minds in destroying all confidence in the testimonies. If we are not constantly on guard, he will destroy by his sophistries, if possible, the very elect. And those associates who have upheld him will have to answer before God for their individual course of action."

**Physical separation from pagan worship (pantheism and spiritualistic theories taught at Battle Creek) was recognised as being necessary for spiritual safety.**

Kress Collection, p 40 (EGW to AT Jones)

"In regard to the messages of warning given me regarding people being called to Battle Creek, you have worked contrary to the counsel of the Spirit of God. **You were standing where you liked to be,** and you have reasoned away the objections to being in Battle Creek. Standing, as did Aaron, directly opposed to the Word of the Lord, you have made of no effect the testimonies of warning sent to keep young men and young women from going to Battle Creek. You have allowed your influence to be used to lead people to do just what the Lord has warned them not to do, and the Lord pronounces you an unfaithful steward in your influence in Battle Creek. Whatever excuses you may make, it is thus charged against you. You have worked decidedly counter to the Lord's plans, and God says, 'I will judge him for this, unless he repents.' Elder Tenney has departed from the faith, and is no help to Dr. Kellogg. He upholds him in a wrong course. You and he, ministers of the gospel, have stood directly in the way of the work of the Lord. You have confused the understanding of our people in Battle Creek, and now you are taking a course to confuse the people, leading some to move counter to the Lord's directions."

Loma Linda Messages p 276-277

"A. T. Jones, Dr. Kellogg, and Elder Tenney are all working under the same leadership. They are classing themselves with those of whom the apostle writes, "Some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils." In the case of A. T. Jones, I can see the fulfillment of the warnings that were given me regarding him. 277 I want this message to come to you before you shall make a wrong move. I do not want you to imperil your souls. Heed the message that the Lord sends, and **have nothing to do with those at Battle Creek who are opposing the messages of the Spirit of God.** Clear light has been given me regarding those who are thus departing from the faith."

Spalding and Magan's Testimonies of Ellen G White, p364

"It means much to our physicians whether they are wearing the yoke of Christ or the yoke of some man. **Those who are wearing a yoke that a man has placed on their necks must have this yoke taken away before they can act the part that God would have them act in proclaiming the truth. Those who receive and believe in Christ Jesus are not to wear any man's yoke; neither are they to be noncommittal in regard to where they stand.** The conflict is raging between two powers,--the Prince of life and the prince of darkness. This conflict has a vital interest for the people of God."

SPM. p 364.003

"Christ is the greatest teacher that this world has ever seen. Truth never languished upon His lips, never suffered in his hands. He declares, "He that is not with me is against me, and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad." God has given to every man his work. He expects every follower of his to exert an influence that will tell for the upbuilding of his kingdom. **He who is not actively engaged in promoting unity and love and equity and sound principles, is exerting an influence that is contrary to Christ.** Those who are true to their divine Leader will put away the masterly sophistries that are coming in to deceive the people. **Those who would be saved from the wily, deceptive influences of the foe must now break every yoke, and take their position for Christ and for truth, that they may be freed from the specious, fictitious sentiments that, if accepted, will surely spoil their faith and their experience. Unless they obtain this freedom, they will go on step by step in the downward path until they deny Him who has bought them with the price of his own blood.**"

Loma Linda Messages p .277.002

"I want you to understand that you are both in positive danger. I plead with you to break this influence that would lead you into wrong paths. It proceeds from the one who, if it were possible, would deceive the very elect. **Free yourselves from the influence prevailing at Battle Creek, and place yourselves fully on the Lord's side.** I do not want you to lose your souls. I beg of you to resist the devil. Make your calling and election sure. Christ gave His precious life for you. Do not let Him make this sacrifice in vain. (3) **My brother and sister, this is a life and death question with you. As the Lord's messenger, I urge you to free yourselves from the snare of Satan, and place yourselves on the platform of eternal truth.** I cannot let you take this step without warning you of your danger. If I should do this, I could not be clear before God."



PC.331.001

Letter to Dr. and Mrs. Kress, written July 27, 1906

"I feel intensely sorrowful when I see some of our brethren in Battle Creek taking a course that is leading them away from the truth: for I have had a presentation of the first apostasy in the heavenly courts. The warnings of the Holy Spirit have been disregarded, and there has been persistent work of deception. **A. T. Jones has permitted himself to be used as the voice of Dr. J. H. Kellogg. It is our privilege to believe in a personal Father, who has made a gift of His only Begotten Son, that a fallen world might repent, and accept of a personal Saviour, and be permitted to eat of the leaves of the tree of life.** Thank God, we may uplift the Saviour before the people, as had been done at these meetings. The work will advance more and more, as we humble our hearts, and bring our wills in submission to God. Some will place themselves under Satan's rule, but we will not fail nor become discouraged."

SPM.335.001

**"The theories that Dr. Kellogg is now advocating are similar to the theories that Satan presented to the holy pair in Eden.** I told Elder A. T. Jones that which the Lord has presented to me in regard to the source from which the Doctor was receiving his education in these seductive theories. I told him that our brother was under the influence of Satanic agencies, and that for so long a time had he been working away from the principles of truth and righteousness, that he had been entangled, and had in himself no power to escape from the snare of the enemy."

Battle Creek Letters p 72.004

"Let every cord now be broken. Let our sanitariums refuse to be tied up with the Sanitarium in Michigan. This selfish, underhand work I was going to bring out in Oakland, but I thought we would give the Doctor another chance. But I have been instructed to write to him no letters that he would have in his hands to use; and to have no conversation with him; for he would not remember what I did say, because a deceptive power is controlling his whole being. 73. **"I shall now be prepared to say to our brethren, cut loose cut loose!** After taking your position firmly, wisely, cautiously, just as a summer evening, but just as fixed as the everlasting hills, make not one concession. By conceding, you would be selling our whole cause into the hands of the enemy. It is not John Kellogg that you are dealing with; it is a being who once figured in the courts of heaven as an exalted angel. The poor Doctor is not in his right mind."

BCL.086.002

"I was also instructed that in the establishment of the Sanitarium at Washington, **we are not to unite with Dr. Kellogg,** because he knows not where he has been standing as regards his faith in God and in Christ. "

BCL.108.001

Re-copied 7/15/28 B-259-1904 by L.F.W. Nashville, Tennessee, June 23, 1904 To Union Conference Presidents, and Leading Medical Missionaries:-- Before leaving Washington for Berrien Springs, I was instructed upon some points regarding the work at Battle Creek. In the night season I was shown a meeting. Dr. Kellogg was speaking, and he was filled with enthusiasm regarding his subject. **His associate physicians and ministers of the gospel were present. The subject upon which he was speaking was life, and the relation of God to all living things. In his presentation he cloaked**

the matter somewhat, but in reality he was presenting scientific theories which are akin to pantheism. He presented them as being of the highest value. After looking upon the pleased, interested countenances of those who were listening, one by my side told me that the evil angels had taken captive the mind of the speaker. He said that we were to stand as guardians of the churches, but that we were on no account to enter into discussion on these subjects with those who hold pantheistic theories. He said that just as surely as the angels who fell were seduced and deceived by Satan, so surely was the speaker under the spiritualistic education of evil angels.”

Does God expect us to attend churches where falsehoods are being spoken and yet to remain silent ***as if we consent*** to the error presented?

BCL.111.003

“Our physicians should not be required to verify statements that they know are not true. How dare they do this? How dare anyone require it? They do a great harm to a speaker when they listen to false statements without making any protest or correction. Our physicians are to stand where no binding influence will hold them speechless when they hear wrong sentiments expressed. At times, with burning earnestness and words of terrible severity, Christ denounced the abominations that He saw in the church and in the world. He would not allow the people to be deceived by false claims to righteousness and sanctity. We are to unify, but not on a platform of error.”

## **End Result**

Dr Kellogg lost his eternal salvation. In spite of the Biblical examples and warnings by the prophet Ellen White to separate from Dr Kellogg – because he was controlled by evil angels serious consequences resulted.

Because of their failure to separate from Dr Kellogg and his spiritualistic doctrines and theories;

- AT Jones came unto the mysterious influence of Dr Kellogg for a time;
- EJ Waggoner made some serious mistakes;
- Many other leading men and young aspiring doctors training at Battle Creek Sanatorium, fell prey to the powers of darkness that were influencing Dr Kellogg;
- the Battle Creek Sanatorium burned to the ground; and
- the Review and Herald Publishing Printing office burned to the ground.

Through Dr Kellogg, satanic influences controlled the other prospective SDA leaders who would not heed the prophet's warning to separate from the leader of the apostasy. Let this be a warning to us, to separate ourselves from those who also reject the truth and worship foreign gods and to gather ourselves together and worship the One True God in purity of doctrine and in holiness unto the Lord.

Zechariah 14:21

“Yea, every pot in Jerusalem and in Judah shall be holiness unto the LORD of hosts: and all they that sacrifice shall come and take of them, and see the therein: **and in that day there shall be no more the Canaanite in the house of the LORD of hosts.**”

John 4:22-24

“Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews. 23 But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. 24 God is a Spirit: and **they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.**”

## **General Conference President – (Failed to Separate)**

Ellen White revealed the danger of uniting with those who are not grounded in truth - even though one has the intention of leading them to that truth. On 1 July, 1896, whilst in Australia, Ellen White wrote the following:

The Ellen G White 1888 Materials, Vol 4, p 1578

### ***To the Men Who Occupy Responsible Positions in the Work***

*“When Elder Olsen linked himself with these men, he perverted his spiritual eyesight, and swa things in a strange light. **He knew that they were resisting the Spirit of God, but thought that by uniting with them, he could convert them. The result has been contrary to this; for to a large degree, they have converted him; his clear discernment between right and wrong has been injured.** From the beginning of his work as president of the General Conference, Elder Olsen's policy has been a mistake. Instead of upholding that which he knew to be according to the law of God, instead of standing firmly as a faithul guardian for those holy trusts which would keep the great heart of the work pure, at any apparent expense or financial loss, he has tried to occupy a position on both sides. He has not been altogether in harmony with the mena I have refeered to, but so much so that Satan has stolen a march upon him. Unconsciously he has been ensnared, and his principles of integrity and purity have ben corrupted. God has been dishonored and his Spirit has been grieved.”*

Good intentions don't seem to be a barrier to becoming deceived.

### **When Not to Separate**

There are instances when separation is not a divine requirement, nor a positive action.

- **There is no separation required from holiness.**
- **There is no separation required from unity with those who unify on truth.**

Psalm 133:1

“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!”

- **There is no separation required from the love of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

Romans 8:35-39

“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36 As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. 37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. 38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, 39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

### **Conclusion**

Separation from trinitarian worship might bring separation from friends, family or children. It might bring with it loss of status, respect and esteem. However, the call to separate comes from God who sent His Son Jesus to this earth to save humanity.

Christ suffered separation from His Father. He lost His heavenly status and was thought of as “just a man” in the eyes of sinful men. Christ was refused the esteem and worship of humanity though all the universe had worshipped Him. Jesus had received the adoration of angels, but He didn't hesitate to put His royal position aside and to become a Man in order to save humanity.

In Christ's life was seen separation and intermingling. Christ separated Himself from the purity of heaven to witness the Father's love to sinful humanity (Phil 2). He reluctantly separated Himself from those who rejected Him repeatedly (*Oh Jerusalem...I would have gathered thee as a hen gathers her chicks, but ye would not*). Christ mingled with sinners in their daily lives and encouraged them to learn the truth that would set them free. *'The common people heard Him gladly'*, but the church leaders actively worked against Christ. When He tried to speak truth in the synagogues, He was cast out and His life was threatened. So Christ, ever respectful of humanity's freedom of choice, retreated to the hills and fields and continued to preach truth from safer retreats to those who would listen.

Christ set an example which His people might do well to follow.

## **Appendix – Evidence of Retreating to Egypt**

Evidence of the SDA organisation's official compromise and retreat to Egypt

Compilations – Some material supplied by S. Turner. Others have been downloaded from the Internet with sources indicated.

Regarding traditions: The similarity between the following quotes - some from the Catholic church and others from SDA publications, is alarming. In past days, it was understood that ALL doctrine must be based on and be provable from the Bible alone. Believing things by faith is certainly a Biblical principle, but that faith must be founded on Bible texts - line upon line, precept upon precept (Isaiah. 28:10-13), not on assumption. All SDA doctrines were formed this way, however a lot of traditional doctrines seem to have already wedged their way into our church and some seem to be pushing quite hard to enter also. Just because these traditions aren't evident on the local church level, doesn't mean that the church leadership is not promoting Roman Catholic traditions. In fact, the evidence points to the contrary.

### **Biblical Truths - Traditions**

Biblical Truth	SDA 1980	Roman Catholic Tradition
Worship the Creator	Worship the Trinity	Worship The Trinity;
Fellowship with Father/Son	Fellowship with Trinity	Fellowship with the Trinity
7 <sup>th</sup> day Sabbath	the traditional Sunday “sabbath” is currently being promoted by SDA church publication;	1st day Sunday “sabbath”
Baptism into the name of Jesus	Baptism into Trinity	Baptism into Trinity
Bible Doctrines only	Bible and Tradition	Bible and Tradition
Ordinances, Lord's Supper	Communion/Eucharist	Eucharist
	Easter Sunday	Easter Sunday

## 1. The Trinity - No Solid Biblical Evidence?

Modern SDA's claim doctrines based on Faith and Assumption  
Roman Catholics claim doctrines based on Sacred Tradition

Advent Review and Sabbath Herald, 22 August, 1854, quoted from Doctrinal Catechism; similar article printed in Advent Review and Sabbath Herald, 24 February, 1859 Vol 13, page 107, par. 11-14)

Q. Have you any other way of proving that the church has power to institute festivals of precept?

A. Had she not such power, she could have done that in which all modern religionists agree with her; - she could not have **substituted the observance of Sunday the first day of the week, for the observance of Saturday the seventh day**, a change for which there is no Scriptural authority."

Q. Do you observe **other necessary truths** as taught by the Church, not clearly laid down in Scripture?"

A. " **The doctrine of the Trinity**, a doctrine the knowledge of which is **certainly necessary to salvation**, is not explicitly and evidently laid down in Scripture, in the Protestant sense of private interpretation."

Similarly, the Seventh-day Adventist Church, (from 1981), appears, from the following quote, to expect its members **also** to have **blind faith**, not faith grounded on abundant Scriptural evidence. A special edition of the Adventist Review was published in 1981, which was entirely dedicated to a discussion of the newly voted 27 fundamental beliefs. No credit is given for authorship so I don't know who wrote the articles. On the cover there is a picture of Jesus hovering over a church which has symbols on the sides and a steeple. The title says, "What Seventh-day Adventists Believe .... Brief Discussions of 27 Fundamental Beliefs."

The following quote appears: "While no single scriptural passage states formally the doctrine of the Trinity, it is **assumed** as a fact by Bible writers and mentioned several times.... Only by faith can we accept the existence of the Trinity." Adventist Review, Vol 158, No. 31 p. 4

It seems clear that by both Catholic and SDA admissions, the trinity is a traditional doctrine - i.e. it is not founded upon or taught in the Bible.

But the "original" Adventist position was stated in:

Review and Herald, 25 March 1902 p 5

"All articles of faith, all doctrines and creeds, however sacred they have been regarded, are to be rejected if they contradict the plain statements of the word of God. If the Bible supports the doctrine we have held in the past, we are justified in retaining it; for the word of God gives us foundation for our faith."

## 2. Bible - Our fellowship is with the Father and Son

Modern SDA - fellowship is with the Trinity  
Roman Catholic - fellowship is with the Trinity

1 John 1:3 "...our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ."

John 14:10, 20

"Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? ....At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and **I in you.**"

Colossians 1: 27 "**Christ in you**, the hope of glory." (in spirit/mind, not bodily form)

Ephesians 3:17

"That **Christ may dwell in your hearts** by faith "

2 Corinthians 6:16

"And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, **I will dwell in them**, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. "

Romans 8:9,11

"But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his...But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies **by his Spirit that dwelleth in you**. (The Father raised the Son from the dead Gal 1:1 etc)

**(Roman Catholic Position)** Sunday Herald, Sun 25 July, 1999

"John Paul 2 told pilgrims outside the Vatican, **heaven was a "living and personal relationship with the Holy Trinity..."**

Roman Catholic Catechism, paragraph # **260** "**The ultimate end of the whole divine economy is the entry of God's creatures into the perfect unity of the Blessed Trinity. But even now we are called to be a dwelling for the Most Holy Trinity... O my God, Trinity whom I adore, ... O my unchanging God, but may each minute bring me more deeply into your mystery! Grant my soul peace. Make it your heaven, your beloved dwelling and the place of your rest."**

**(Modern SDA Position)** Dr Erwin Gane, (SDA) M.A., M. Div., and M.Th, Ph.D in The Alpha and the Omega - video: "Take for example the widely accepted doctrine of the Trinity. No human being can explain such a marvelous truth. God is one – Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The point is that when you receive Jesus Christ as your Saviour and friend, **the Trinity dwells in your heart.** To know Christ is to know the Deity. The doctrine of the Trinity is centred in Christ."



Christ said that **two** divine Beings would dwell in believers -how? Certainly not physically, but by controlling the thoughts of our minds when we submit to Christ. The Father dwells in Christ and Christ "dwells" in believers in His omnipresent divine form, called "the spirit of Christ." Is there any other way that Christ can be in us while the Father is in Him?

3. **Bible - Worship the Creator on the 7th day Sabbath**

**Roman Catholics honour the Trinity on 1st day**  
**7th day Adventists honour the Trinity on 7th day**

The Roman Catholic Encyclopedia (version XV, 1912, 2003), claims that **The Roman Catholic Church authorised the keeping of Sunday as the first day Sabbath in honour of the Blessed Trinity.**

From the Douay Catechism the question is asked:

Q. What is *Sunday*, or the Lord's Day in general?

A. **It is a day dedicated by the Apostles to the honour of the most holy Trinity**, and in memory that Christ our Lord arose from the dead upon *Sunday*, sent down the holy Ghost on a *Sunday*, &c. and therefore is called the Lord's Day. It is also called *Sunday* from the old Roman denomination of *Dies Solis*, the day of the sun, to which it was sacred.

Source: ● **The Douay Catechism**, (An Abridgment of the Christian Doctrine) of 1649, by Henry Tuberville, D.D., published by P. J. Kenedy, Excelsior Catholic Publishing House, 5 Barclay Street, New York, approved and recommended for his diocese by the Right Rev. Benedict, Bishop of Boston, April 24th, 1833, page 143. <http://www.aloha.net/~mikesch/sunday.htm>

Of course the claim that the apostles dedicated the weekly Sunday to the Trinity is not recorded in the Bible and that is tradition.

However, so special was the Blessed Trinity to the Roman Catholic Church, that a special annual Sunday was also dedicated to the worship of their trinity god.

**"Trinity Sunday** - The first Sunday after Pentecost, **instituted to honour the Most Holy Trinity**. In the early Church no special Office or day was assigned for the Holy Trinity. When the **Arian heresy** was spreading the Fathers prepared an Office with canticles, responses, a Preface, and hymns, to be recited **on Sundays**. In the Sacramentary of **St. Gregory the Great** (P.L., LXXVIII, 116) there are prayers and the Preface of the Trinity." <http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/15058a.htm>

Seventh-day Adventists **currently** worship **the trinity** on the 7th day Sabbath. Will they always uphold the 7th-day of the week as the Sabbath of the Creator?

The Ministerial Association of the General Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church published a book called "**Confessions of a Nomad: What We Learned in Sinai's Shadow**", authored by Carolyn Shealy Self and William L. Self, p 118,119 - promoting Sunday worship. 1998 copyright by the Ministerial Association of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Originally the book was published in 1983 by the Peachtree Publishers. Apparently the Ministerial Association received the permission to reprint it, with editorial modifications, because its says: "All copy has been reset and repaginated. Several short portions have been edited to conserve \_\_\_\_\_ space" (p. 2). bacchiocci [http://www.biblicalperspectives.com/endtimeissues/eti\\_50.html](http://www.biblicalperspectives.com/endtimeissues/eti_50.html)

**The SDA leadership published a book that upholds Sunday sacredness. It states on page 118, 119:**

*"He gave a holy day. This holy day is significant. It was a day of rejoicing, a gift of good, a day of no work. The word 'Sabbath' does not mean seven; it means cessation, the quitting of work.*

*God did something new and real for them in the Easter experience, so they would have the Sabbath, and so they would gather together as the Christian sect on Sunday morning and celebrate the resurrection.*

**"Sunday is the day that gives you strength to work the six days in front of you.** *The Sabbath is from sundown to sundown, but Sunday is from midnight to midnight. The Sabbath is a day of rest, but Sunday is a day of worship. The Sabbath has a penalty to it, if you break it; Sunday has no penalty, except that you shortchange yourself. The Christian draws his strength from Sunday. It's a time to let God talk to the inner man...The Christians took the value of the Hebrew Sabbath and added to it the great joy of the Christian resurrection. We have a marriage of the two in the Christian community.*

*The commandment said, "Remember Sabbath day so we come together as the body of Christ and remember what God has done. It's a sacrament. Worship and Bible study makes Sunday a day when the soul is rekindled as well as a day when the body is rested. You'll have thousands of Sundays in your adult life. How will you spend them?"*  
<http://www.remnantofgod.org/GCSDA-art46.ht>

#### 4. **Baptism**

##### **Roman Catholics Baptise into the Trinity - SDA's Baptise into the Trinity**

Current official Roman Catholic position regarding SDA's:

“By virtue of their **valid baptism**, and their belief in Christ's divinity and in the doctrine of the **Trinity**, Seventh-Day Adventists are both ontologically and theologically Christians.”

[http://www.catholic.com/library/Seventh\\_Day\\_Adventism.asp](http://www.catholic.com/library/Seventh_Day_Adventism.asp)

Ecclesiastical Empire p 389 AT Jones quotes from: ***The Catholic Faith Re-Established*** “According to the discipline of the apostles, and the doctrine of the gospel, **let us believe the sole deity of the Father, Son, and the Holy Ghost; under an equal majesty, and pious Trinity. We authorize the followers of this doctrine to assume the title of Catholic Christians;** and as we judge that all others are extravagant madman, we brand them with the infamous name of “heretic,” and declare that their conventicles shall no longer usurp the respectable appellation of churches. Besides the condemnation of divine justice, they must expect to suffer the severe penalties which our authority, guided by heavenly wisdom, shall think proper to inflict upon them.”

How can the RC Church, (the whore of Revelation 17 and the Beast of Rev 13 and the little horn of Daniel 7) through baptism, recognise that SDA's are in unity - as valid worshippers - with their antichrist system?

According to the following quote, if the SDA's did not baptise "properly" into the trinity, the Roman Catholic church would not recognise them as "**Catholic Christians**." Do the SDA's want to be thought of as "Catholic Christians?"

[http://www.saint-mike.org/apologetics/qa/Answers/Faith\\_Spirituality/f0405170305.html](http://www.saint-mike.org/apologetics/qa/Answers/Faith_Spirituality/f0405170305.html)  
**Bro. Ignatius Mary, OLSM on May 23, 2004**

*“Baptism to be valid must be conducted with proper form, matter, and intention. If the Church has doubts about whether the convert was validly baptised, or if the convert cannot prove he was baptised, then the Church will do what is called a “conditional baptism”. ...On the definition of Valid Baptism, the proper form is to baptise the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit (the Trinitarian Formula).*

*The proper matter is to use real water for the Baptism. Although the preferred method is to immerse one in water, it is valid to pour or sprinkle water over the head as long as there*

*is enough water to flow on the head touching the skin directly. If the water only touches the hair, or does not flow, then it is not valid.*

*The proper intention of the minister of the Baptism must be to do what the Church intends by the Baptism which is to use water flowing over the skin in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.*

*Any group that does not do these Three things does not have a valid Baptism.*

*While the Orthodox and most Protestants have valid baptism, some others do not.*

*For example, there are several "One God Holiness" groups or "Jesus Only" groups that do not baptize with the Trinitarian Formula. Thus their baptism is not valid. Jehovah Witness fall within this group of non-valid baptisms, too, since they do not believe in the Trinity.*

*There is a group out there that baptizes with Rose Petals instead of Water. Their baptism is not valid.*

*Some groups, like the Mormons, who may use the Trinitarian Formula but their understanding of the Trinity is so flawed that it invalidates the baptism.* *Mormons believe that Jesus and Satan are brothers, that Jesus was an "ascended master" and that we all become gods, or some such nonsense as that.*

*Thus, for example, the One God Pentecostals, Jehovah Witness, and Mormons all do not have valid baptism and would thus need to be validly baptized if they converted to Christianity. **(Those without valid baptism are technically NOT Christian).** [end quote Brother Ignatius Mary - parentheses in original].*

Matthew 28:19

"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost."

What did the disciples understand from Christ's command? Was Christ introducing another 3<sup>rd</sup> divine being to them? Or was Christ's command interpreted differently to that which Trinitarians interpret today?

Certainly Matthew 28:19 appears to give a verbal formula for baptism into three names. However, it is questionable whether this was Christ's intention since there is not one recorded instance in the Bible where the disciples or anyone else baptised in the name of the Father,

**Son and Holy Spirit.** In fact, the disciples preached that the only name **under heaven** given among men whereby they must be saved, was **the name of Jesus**. (Acts 4:12) **If Jesus really did command baptism in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, why didn't the disciples do it?**

It appears that the evidence suggests that it was **introduced as a tradition** in or around the 4th century AD. Note the following historical references.

***Encyclopedia of Religion and Ethics (1951). II, 384, 389:*** "The formula used was "in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ" or some synonymous phrase; there is no evidence for the use of the trine name... The earliest form, represented in the Acts, was simple immersion... in water, the use of the name of the Lord, and the laying on of hands. To these were added, at various times and places which cannot be safely identified, (a) the trine name (Justin)..."

***Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible (1962), I 351:*** "The evidence... suggests that baptism in early Christianity was administered, not in the threefold name, but 'in the name of Jesus Christ' or 'in the name of the Lord Jesus.'"

Otto Heick, *A History of Christian Thought (1965), I, 53:* "At first baptism was administered in the name of Jesus, but gradually in the name of the Triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit."

***Hasting's Dictionary of the Bible (1898). I, 241:*** "[One explanation is that] the original form of words was "into the name of Jesus Christ" or 'the Lord Jesus,' Baptism into the name of the Trinity was a later development."

Williston Walker, *A History of the Christian Church (1947), page 58:* "The trinitarian baptismal formula,, was displacing the older baptism in the name of Christ."

***The New Schaff-Herzog Encyclopedia of Religious Knowledge (1957), I, 435:*** "The New Testament knows only baptism in the name of Jesus... which still occurs even in the second and third centuries."

***Canney's Encyclopedia of Religions (1970), page 53:*** "Christians were baptized at first 'in the name of Jesus Christ' ... or 'in the name of the Lord Jesus'... Afterwards, with the development of the doctrine of the Trinity, they were baptized 'in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost.'"

**Encyclopedia Biblica (1899), I, 473:** "It is natural to conclude that baptism was administered in the earliest times 'in the name of Jesus Christ,' or in that 'of the Lord Jesus.' This view is confirmed by the fact that the earliest forms of the baptismal confession appear to have been single-not triple, as was the later creed."

**Encyclopedia Britannica, 11th ed. (1920), II 365:** "The trinitarian formula and triune immersion were not uniformly used from the beginning... Bapti[sm] into the name of the Lord [was] the normal formula of the New Testament. In the 3rd century baptism in the name of Christ was still so widespread that Pope Stephen, in opposition to Cyprian of Carthage, declared it to be valid."

## 5. **Ordinances**

### **7th Day Adventists hold Communion** **Roman Catholics partake of the traditional Eucharist**

Roy Adams, SDA Associate Editor, Adventist Review, 2 May, 1991, p 10. "And we could go on if space permitted – to mention **the World Council of Churches'... accentuation of the Holy Spirit and the Eucharist. All of these emphases fit into the ambit of the three angels' messages....**" "The Eucharist, turning the communion bread into the literal body of Christ." ([www.seventh-day.org/sda\\_apostasy.htm](http://www.seventh-day.org/sda_apostasy.htm) - 101k cache of [http://www.seventh-day.org/sda\\_apostasy.htm](http://www.seventh-day.org/sda_apostasy.htm) retrieved on 30 Aug 2004 09:27:40 GMT).

Further evidence appears below:

*"Over one hundred theologians met in Lima, Peru, in January 1982, and recommended unanimously to transmit this agree statement--the Lima text--for the common study and official response of the churches. They represented virtually all the major church traditions: Eastern Orthodox, Oriental Orthodox, Roman Catholic, Old Catholic, Lutheran, Anglican, Reformed, Methodist, United, Disciples, Baptist, Adventist and Pentecostal. "The churches' response to this agreed statement will be a vital step in the ecumenical process of 'reception'." (Baptism, Eucharist and Ministry, Faith and Order Paper #111, back cover, published by the World Council of Churches, 1982).*

*"Recent research clearly reveals that there is no consensus among scholars on some of the most critical issues pertaining to **the eucharist....this central celebration of the Christian church....**The purpose of this essay is primarily to show how Seventh-day Adventist understanding of the eucharist or the Lord's supper...[and] to highlight **Adventist understanding and practice of the eucharist...On occasion Seventh-day Adventists refer to the eucharist as a sacrament....Being conscious of the sacredness of the celebration of the eucharist,***

*Adventists engage in a personal preparation that includes self-examination...In preparation for the celebration of the eucharist Seventh-day Adventists practice the washing of feet..."* (Written response of the Seventh-day Adventist Church Council on Inter-Church Relations, November, 1985, published in Churches Respond to BEM (Baptism, Eucharist, and Ministry), vol 2, p 341-343, published by the World Council of Churches in 1986).

*"And we could go on if space permitted – to mention the WCC's... accentuation of the Holy Spirit and **the Eucharist. All of these emphases fit into the ambit of the three angels' messages.**"* (Roy Adams, Associate Editor of the Adventist Review, in Adventist Review, May 2, 1991, p 10).

### **"SDAs Staff Booth at [Roman Catholic] Eucharistic Congress"**

(Adventist Review, February 6, 1986, p 29).

<http://www.lightministries.com/SDA/id619.htm>

## **6. Celebrates the Eucharist**

### **Roman Catholic Church**

### **Seventh-day Adventist Church**

**Roman Catholic Church:** *"The sacrificial character of the Eucharist is manifested in the very words of institution: 'This is my body which is given for you' and 'This cup which is poured out for you is the New Covenant in my blood.' In the Eucharist Christ gives us **the very body which he gave up for us on the cross, the very blood which he 'poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.'**..."**Through the ministry of priests the spiritual sacrifice of the faithful is completed in union with the sacrifice of Christ the only Mediator, which in **the Eucharist is offered through the priests' hands** in the name of the whole Church in an unbloody and sacramental manner until the Lord himself comes...**"**In the most blessed sacrament of the Eucharist **'the body and blood, together with the soul and divinity, of our Lord Jesus Christ and, therefore, the whole Christ is truly, really, and substantially contained.'**** '... it is presence in the fullest sense: that is to say, it is a substantial presence by which Christ, God and man, makes himself wholly and entirely present.'..."**The Eucharistic presence of Christ begins at the moment of the consecration and endures as long as the Eucharistic species subsist [thus fully under the control of and discretion of the priest]. Christ is present whole and entire in each of the species and whole and entire in each of their parts...**"**Jesus awaits us in this sacrament of love. Let us not refuse the time to go to meet him in adoration, in contemplation full of faith, and open to making amends for the serious offenses and crimes of the world. Let our adoration never cease.**" (Catechism of the Catholic Church, Sect. Two, Chapter One, Article 3, Subsection V, #1365, 1369, 1374, 1377, 1380).*

<http://www.christusrex.org/www1/CDHN/euch2.html#presence>

*“...the Eucharist cannot unite us to Christ without at the same time cleansing us from past sins and preserving us from future sins...If, as often as his blood is poured out, it is poured for the forgiveness of sins, I should always receive it, so that **it may always forgive my sins**. Because I always sin, I should always have a remedy.[St. Ambrose, De Sacr. 4, 6, 28: PL 16, 446; cf. 1 Cor 11:26.]”* (Catechism of the Catholic Church, Section Two, Chapter One, Article 3, Subsection VI, #1393. <http://www.christusrex.org/www1/CDHN/euch2.html#BANQUET>)

### **Seventh-day Adventist Church:**

*"Over one hundred theologians met in Lima, Peru, in January 1982, and recommended unanimously to transmit this agreed statement--the Lima text--for the common study and official response of the churches. They represented virtually all the major church traditions: Eastern Orthodox, Oriental Orthodox, Roman Catholic, Old Catholic, Lutheran, Anglican, Reformed, Methodist, United, Disciples, Baptist, **Adventist** and Pentecostal. "The churches' response to this agreed statement will be a vital step in the ecumenical process of 'reception'."* (Baptism, Eucharist and Ministry, Faith and Order Paper #111, back cover, published by the World Council of Churches, 1982).

*"Recent research clearly reveals that there is no consensus among scholars on some of the most critical issues pertaining to **the eucharist...this central celebration of the Christian church...The purpose of this essay is primarily to show how Seventh-day Adventist understanding of the eucharist or the Lord's supper...[and] to highlight **Adventist understanding and practice of the eucharist...**"***On occasion Seventh-day Adventists refer to the eucharist as a sacrament...Being conscious of the sacredness of the celebration of the eucharist, Adventists engage in a personal preparation that includes self-examination...*In preparation for the celebration of the eucharist Seventh-day Adventists practice the washing of feet..."* (Written response of the Seventh-day Adventist Church Council on Inter-Church Relations, November, 1985, published in Churches Respond to BEM (Baptism, Eucharist, and Ministry), vol 2, p 341-343, published by the World Council of Churches in 1986).

*"And we could go on if space permitted – to mention the WCC's... accentuation of the Holy Spirit and **the Eucharist. All of these emphases fit into the ambit of the three angels' messages.**"* (Roy Adams, Associate Editor of the Adventist Review, in Adventist Review, May 2, 1991, p 10).

**“SDAs Staff Booth at [Roman Catholic] Eucharistic Congress”**  
(Adventist Review, February 6, 1986, p 29).



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## 7. Celebrates Easter Sunday services

### Roman Catholic Church

### Seventh-day Adventist Church

**Roman Catholic:** *"Holy Mother Church believes that she should celebrate the saving work of her divine Spouse in a sacred commemoration on certain days throughout the course of the year. Once each week, on the day which she has called the Lord's Day [Sunday], she keeps the memory of the Lord's resurrection. **She also celebrates it once every year, together with his blessed Passion, at Easter, that most solemn of all feasts....***

*"Therefore Easter is not simply one feast among others, but the 'Feast of feasts,' the 'Solemnity of solemnities,' just as the Eucharist is the "Sacrament of sacraments" (the Great Sacrament). St. Athanasius **calls Easter 'the Great Sunday'** and the Eastern Churches call Holy Week 'the Great Week.'" (Catechism of the Catholic Church, Part Two, Section One, Chapter Two, Article 1, Subsection III, #1163 & 1169. <http://www.christusrex.org/www1/CDHN/paschal3.html#WHEN>).*

### **Seventh-day Adventist:**

*"Good Adventist news for Easter – For the first time in denominational history a television network – CBS – **will broadcast an Easter Sunday service from a SDA church.** The program, 'Festival of Hope,' will originate from the Camarillo Adventist Church in California. The speaker will be Elder Roger Bothwell, pastor of the College Church at Pacific Union College. **WCBS, New York City, will carry the service this Sunday [April 22] at 11 a.m (8 a.m. Camarillo time) as will CBS affiliates in Roanoke, Boston, Tampa, Bismark, Minot, Madison, Williston, Cincinnati, Champaign, San Antonio, Columbus, Huntsville, St. Louis, La Crosse and Tuscaloosa. Some 20 other affiliated stations will carry the program on a delayed basis. Unfortunately, the CBS affiliate in Washington, D.C., WDVM, will not carry the program.**" (General Conference Weekly Press Relations Newsletter, Spring, 1984. (see also Adventist Review, March 29, 1984, p 31).*

*"Bob Hunter, pastor of the Stone Mountain, Georgia, [SDA] church, **delivered the Easter message at the sunrise service atop Georgia's Stone Mountain.** The Service was attended by some 4,000 people and was covered by three of the local Atlanta television stations. The service was videotaped and aired on Stone Mountain church's television program, 'Discovery.'" (Southern Tidings - Official journal of the Southern Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists), in August, 1985, p 19).*

Other SDA churches that have been holding Easter Sunday services are:

- California's Burbank SDA church (see Pacific Union Recorder, March 6, 1989, p 26).
  - California's Elmshaven SDA church (see Recorder, June 16, 1986, p 21).
  - California's La Sierra Collegiate church (see Recorder, July 18, 1988, p 22).
  - California's Riverside SDA church (see Recorder, June 16, 1986, p 16).
  - California's Santa Ana Spanish SDA church (see Recorder, June 1, 1987, p 8).
  - California's Sunnyvale SDA church (see Church Bulletin, April 11, 1987).
  - California's Thousand Oaks SDA church (see Recorder, June 3, 1991, p 21).
  - California's White Memorial SDA church (see Church Bulletin, April 11, 1987).
  - Hawaii's Aiea SDA church (see Recorder, June 20, 1988, p 17).
  - Montana's Jordan SDA church (see Gleaner, June 16, 1986, p 18).
  - Ohio's Toledo First SDA Church (see Church Bulletin, April 3, 1993).
  - Oregon's (Portland) University Park SDA church (see Gleaner, May 5, 1986, p 17).
  - Oregon's Mount Tabor SDA church (see Gleaner, July 7, 1986, p 24).
  - Washington's Pasco Riverview SDA church (see Gleaner, May 19, 1986, p 13).
  - Washington, D.C.'s Review and Herald (see Adventist Review, April 27, 1989, p 7).
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## 8. Sunday is Referred to as the Lord's Day

### Roman Catholic Church

### Seventh-day Adventist Church

#### **Roman Catholic:**

*"By a tradition handed down from the apostles which took its origin from the very day of Christ's Resurrection, the Church celebrates the Paschal mystery every seventh day, **which day is appropriately called the Lord's Day or Sunday.**"[SC 106.] The day of Christ's Resurrection is both the first day of the week, the memorial of the first day of creation, and the 'eighth day,' on which Christ after his 'rest' on the great sabbath inaugurates the 'day that the Lord has made,' the 'day that knows no evening.'[Byzantine liturgy.] The Lord's Supper is its center, for there the whole community of the faithful encounters the risen Lord who invites them to his banquet:[Cf. Jn 21:12 ; Lk 24:30 .] **The Lord's day, the day of Resurrection, the day of Christians, is our day.** It is called the Lord's day because on it the Lord rose victorious to the Father. **If pagans call it the 'day of the sun,' we willingly agree,** for today the light of the world is raised, today is revealed the sun of justice with healing in his rays.[St. Jerome, Pasch.: CCL 78, 550.]" (Catechism of the Catholic Church, Part Two, Subsection III, #1166. <http://www.christusrex.org/www1/CDHN/paschal3.html#WHEN>)*

*"**Sunday is expressly distinguished from the sabbath which it follows chronologically every week; for Christians its ceremonial observance replaces that of the sabbath. In Christ's Passover, Sunday fulfills the spiritual truth of the Jewish sabbath and announces man's eternal rest in God. For worship under the Law prepared for the mystery of Christ, and what was done there prefigured some aspects of Christ:**[Cf. 1 Cor 10:11 .] Those who lived according to the old order of things have come to a new hope, **no longer keeping the sabbath, but the Lord's Day,** in which our life is blessed by him and by his death.[St. Ignatius of Antioch, Ad Magn. 9, 1: SCh 10, 88.] Catechism of the Catholic Church, Section Two, Chapter One, Article 2 , Subsection III, # 2175. <http://www.christusrex.org/www1/CDHN/comm2.html#DAY>*

#### **Seventh-day Adventist:**

Samuel Bacchiocchi, Professor of Church History and Theology at Andrews Seventh-day Adventist University, is a well-known SDA lecturer who has presented his "Lord's Day Seminars" to many SDA churches. He wrote a book entitled "From Sabbath To Sunday", wherein **the "Lord's day" is referred to as being Sunday and not Saturday** over 51 times in just the first 160 pages of this 369 page book.

*In reference to Revelation 1:10 – "I [John] was in the Spirit on the Lord's day" – Bacchiocchi argues that **the "Lord's day" is not the seventh day Sabbath**, but it either refers to "a (weekly) Sunday" , or an "Easter-Sunday", or it refers to the time of "Christ's (second) coming" (p 111-113). **He calls the keeping of the moral Sabbath of the 4th commandment a "Jewish tradition" (p 13), a "Jewish religious institution" (p 163), and states that "the eighth day (or Sunday – the day after the Sabbath) far surpassed the seventh day" (p 283). He also states that Paul was warning against those who would promote Seventh-day Sabbath keeping "as indispensable aids to Christian perfection" (p 356). And then he sums up his whole book in the very last sentence by stating:***

***...Paul rejected the Sabbath as a means of salvation but accepted it as a shadow pointing to the substance which belongs to Christ."** (Dr. Samuel Bacchiocchi, in From Sabbath To Sunday, p 368-369, published by the Pontifical Gregorian University Press, Rome in 1977, **IMPRIMATUR** by R.P. Herve Carrier, S.I., University Rector).*

But does the Seventh-day Adventist Church agree with Bacchiocchi and the Catholic Church – that the Lord's day is not the seventh day Sabbath, but can be Sunday?

*"...the phrase 'the Lord's day' in Revelation 1:10...**More attention should be given to the possibility that the phrase refers to an annual resurrection (Sunday) celebration.**" (The Sabbath in Scripture and History, p 127, published by the Seventh-day Adventist Review and Herald Publishing Association, 1982).*

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## 9. Church services held on Sunday

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### Roman Catholic Church

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### Seventh-day Adventist Church

#### **Roman Catholic:**

***"Sunday is the pre-eminent day for the liturgical assembly, when the faithful gather 'to listen to the word of God and take part in the Eucharist, thus calling to mind the Passion, Resurrection, and glory of the Lord Jesus, and giving thanks to God who "has begotten them again, by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead" unto a living hope'..."** (Catechism of the Catholic Church, Part Two, Subsection III, #1167.*

*<http://www.christusrex.org/www1/CDHN/paschal3.html#WHEN>).*

## Seventh-day Adventist:

*"ON SUNDAY, MAY 19, our oldest church in New Zealand, Ponsonby, has been chosen as the venue for a **nationwide televised church service**--one of only six such services in NZ in 1985. This will be the occasion of Pastor Neal Wilson's visit, and plans for the music and youth scripture reading are under way--not to mention working bees on the church!"* (Joy Totenhofer, Assistant Editor of the Australasian Record, in Australasian Record, April 13, 1985, p 16).

*"**Adventist Sunday church**...Deeply committed members of the 600-member Mountain View church (in Las Vegas, Nevada) launched their ('52-week' '**Sunday morning worship service**') experiment on Easter weekend...**Each Sunday (throughout an entire year)** (SDA pastor Tim Dunfield presents a clearly Adventist message...They hope that this model can be replicated (by SDA churches) in other cities across this country."* (Pacific Union Recorder, February, 2000, p 34-35).

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## 10. Upholds Sunday Laws

### Roman Catholic Church Seventh-day Adventist Church

Roman Catholic:

*"Thus, religion and moral and physical well-being are one in demanding this periodic rest, and for many centuries now the Church has set aside Sunday as a special day of rest for the faithful, on which they participate in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, the memorial and application of Christ's redemptive work for souls. "Heavy in heart, We cannot but deplore the growing tendency in certain quarters to disregard **this sacred law**, if not to reject it outright. This attitude must inevitably impair the bodily and spiritual health of the workers, whose welfare We have so much at heart. "In the name of God, therefore, and for the sake of the material and spiritual interests of men, **We call upon all, public authorities, employers and workers**, to observe the precepts of God and His Church and to remember their grave responsibilities before God and society."* (Pope John XXIII, in Mater Et Magistra, Encyclical promulgated on May 15, 1961, # 251-253. <http://www.papalencyclicals.net/John23/j23mater.htm>).

*"And in like manner, in the case of the worker, **there are many things which the power of the State should protect**; and, first of all, the goods of his soul. For however good and desirable mortal life be, yet it is not the ultimate goal for which we are born, but a road only and a means for perfecting, through knowledge of truth and love of good, the life of the soul. The soul bears the express image and likeness of God, and*

there resides in it that sovereignty through the medium of which man has been bidden to rule all created nature below him and to make all lands and all seas serve his interests....in this connection a man cannot even by his own free choice allow himself to be treated in a way inconsistent with his nature, and suffer his soul to be enslaved; for there is no question here of rights belonging to man, but of duties owed to God, which are to be religiously observed. **“Hence follows necessary cessation from toil and work on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation.** Let no one, however, understand this in the sense of greater indulgence of idle leisure, and much less in the sense of that kind of cessation from work, such as many desire, which encourages vice and promotes wasteful spending of money, but solely in the sense of a repose from labor made sacred by religion. Rest combined with religion calls man away from toil and the business of daily life to admonish him to ponder on heavenly goods and to pay his just and due homage to the Eternal Deity. **This is especially the nature, and this the cause, of the rest to be taken on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation,** and God has sanctioned the same in the Old Testament by a special law: ‘Remember thou keep holy the Sabbath Day,’ and He Himself taught it by His own action; namely the mystical rest taken immediately after He had created man: ‘He hath rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done.’...**“Let the worker be exhorted to the worship of God and the pursuit of piety, especially to religious observance of Sundays and Holy Days.** Let him learn to reverence and love the Church, the common Mother of all, and likewise to observe her precepts and to frequent her Sacraments, which are the divine means for purifying the soul from the status of sin and for attaining sanctity.” (Pope Leo XIII, Rerum Novarum (On the Condition of the Working Classes), Encyclical promulgated on May 15, 1891, #57-58 & 77. <http://www.newadvent.org/docs/le13rn.htm>).

**[It is error to believe that] The Church ought to be separated from the State, and the State from the Church.”** (Pope Pius IX, The Syllabus (of Errors), Issued in 1864, Section VI, Errors About Civil Society, Considered Both in Itself and in its Relation to the Church, #55

<http://www.ewtn.com/library/PAPALDOC/P9SYLL.HTM>).

*“For several centuries, Christians observed Sunday simply as a day of worship, without being able to give it the specific meaning of Sabbath rest. Only in the fourth century did the civil law of the Roman Empire recognize the weekly recurrence, determining that on “the day of the sun” the judges, the people of the cities and the various trade corporations would not work. Christians rejoiced to see thus removed the obstacles which until then had sometimes made observance of the Lord's Day heroic. They could now devote themselves to prayer in common without hindrance. It would therefore be wrong to see in this legislation of the rhythm of the week a mere historical*

circumstance with no special significance for the Church and which she could simply set aside. Even after the fall of the Empire, the Councils did not cease to insist upon the arrangements regarding Sunday rest. In countries where Christians are in the minority and where the festive days of the calendar do not coincide with Sunday, it is still Sunday which remains the Lord's Day, the day on which the faithful come together for the Eucharistic assembly. But this involves real sacrifices. For Christians it is not normal that Sunday, the day of joyful celebration, should not also be a day of rest, and it is difficult for them to keep Sunday holy if they do not have enough free time. By contrast, **the link between the Lord's Day and the day of rest in civil society has a meaning and importance which go beyond the distinctly Christian point of view.** The alternation between work and rest, built into human nature, is willed by God himself, as appears in the creation story in the Book of Genesis (cf. 2:2-3; Ex 20:8-11): rest is something 'sacred', because it is man's way of withdrawing from the sometimes excessively demanding cycle of earthly tasks in order to renew his awareness that everything is the work of God. There is a risk that the prodigious power over creation which God gives to man can lead him to forget that God is the Creator upon whom everything depends. It is all the more urgent to recognize this dependence in our own time, when science and technology have so incredibly increased the power which man exercises through his work. Finally, it should not be forgotten that even in our own day work is very oppressive for many people, either because of miserable working conditions and long hours – especially in the poorer regions of the world -- or because of the persistence in economically more developed societies of too many cases of injustice and exploitation of man by man. When, through the centuries, **she has made laws concerning Sunday rest, the Church has had in mind above all the work of servants and workers,** certainly not because this work was any less worthy when compared to the spiritual requirements of Sunday observance, but rather because it needed greater regulation to lighten its burden **and thus enable everyone to keep the Lord's Day holy.** In this matter, my predecessor Pope Leo XIII in his Encyclical *Rerum Novarum* spoke of **Sunday rest as a worker's right which the State must guarantee.** "In our own historical context there remains the obligation to ensure that everyone can enjoy the freedom, rest and relaxation which human dignity requires, together with the associated religious, family, cultural and interpersonal needs which are difficult to meet if there is no guarantee of at least one day of the week on which people can both rest and celebrate. Naturally, this right of workers to rest presupposes their right to work and, as we reflect on the question of the Christian understanding of Sunday, we cannot but recall with a deep sense of solidarity the hardship of countless men and women who, because of the lack of jobs, are forced to remain inactive on workdays as well. ...Therefore, also in the particular circumstances of our own time, **Christians will naturally strive to ensure that civil**

**legislation respects their duty to keep Sunday holy.** In any case, they are obliged in conscience to arrange their Sunday rest in a way which allows them to take part in the Eucharist, refraining from work and activities which are incompatible with the sanctification of the Lord's Day, with its characteristic joy and necessary rest for spirit and body." (Pope John Paul II, in Dies Domini (To the Bishops, Clergy and Faithful of the Catholic Church on Keeping the Lord's Day Holy), Apostolic Letter promulgated on May 31, 1998, Chapter IV, #64-67.

[http://www.vatican.va/holy\\_father/john\\_paul\\_ii/apost\\_letter/documents/hf\\_jp\\_ii\\_apl\\_05071998\\_dies\\_domini\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/john_paul_ii/apost_letter/documents/hf_jp_ii_apl_05071998_dies_domini_en.html))

### **Seventh-day Adventist:**

*"Elder (W. John) Arthur, Secretary of the British Union Conference (of Seventh-day Adventists), informed the student body (at Newbold SDA College in England) that he had some 'good news'. He went on to say that he had recently sent two letters, one to the Prime Minister (Margaret Thatcher, dated March 27, 1986) and the other to the Secretary of the Evangelical Alliance (Clive R. Calver, dated February 27, 1986), in which he had given Adventist support to those in opposition to the proposed repeal of the **British Sunday trading laws**....Elder Arthur was asked whether any of the (SDA) field leaders he had consulted had been opposed to sending the letters. **His answer was no, there had been no opposition, and all reaction received was positive.**" (Nicholas P. Miller, Editor of the Prism (Student Newspaper of Newbold College), in Prism, May, 1986, p 6 & 12).*

*"Dear Mr Calver....I am writing primarily with reference to the proposed legislation concerning Sunday Trading....**we feel it is better for Christians in this day and age at least to reserve one day a week for worship rather than no day at all. For this reason we would support your campaign against a general secularization of the 'British Sunday'.**" (W. John Arthur, Vice-President of the British Union Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, to Mr Clive R. Calver, General Secretary of the Evangelical Alliance in London, February 27, 1986).*

*"Dear Mrs Thatcher....**Our feeling as a church is that it would be better for one day each week to be retained as a day of rest and worship rather than no day at all. We would therefore respectfully request you and your colleagues in government to reconsider the proposals (to repeal the Sunday Trading laws already in existence and being enforced) contained in the Sunday Trading Bill.**" (W. John Arthur, Vice-President of the British Union Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, to Mrs Margaret Thatcher, Prime Minister of England, March 27, 1986).*



## 11. Bible or Tradition

SDA – previously all doctrine was founded on the Bible, but currently, some doctrines can be accepted 'by faith' without Scriptural support.

Roman Catholic - add to the Bible to support church doctrines through tradition

**Ellen White, Review and Herald, 25 March 1902 p 5**

**"All articles of faith, all doctrines and creeds, however sacred they have been regarded, are to be rejected if they contradict the plain statements of the word of God. If the Bible supports the doctrine we have held in the past, we are justified in retaining it; for the word of God gives us foundation for our faith."**

Is the doctrine of the trinity based on Scripture or tradition?

**The following questions and answers were originally published in Doctrinal Catechism and republished in the SDA publication: Advent Review and Sabbath Herald, 22 August, 1854. A similar article was printed in Advent Review and Sabbath Herald, 24 February, 1859 Vol 13, page 107, par. 11-14.**

**Q.** Have you any other way of proving that the church has power to institute festivals of precept?

**A.** Had she not such power, she could have done that in which all modern religionists agree with her; - she could not have substituted the observance of Sunday the first day of the week, for the observance of Saturday the seventh day, a change for which there is no Scriptural authority."

**Q.** Do you observe other necessary truths as taught by the Church, not clearly laid down in Scripture?"

**A.** "The doctrine of the Trinity, a doctrine the knowledge of which is certainly necessary to salvation, **is not explicitly and evidently laid down in Scripture**, in the Protestant sense of private interpretation."

**Adventist Review, Vol 158, No. 31 p. 4**

"While no single scriptural passage states formally the doctrine of the Trinity, it is assumed as a fact by Bible writers and mentioned several times.... Only by faith can we accept the existence of the Trinity."

**By both Catholic and SDA (Protestant) admissions, the trinity is a traditional doctrine - i.e. it is not founded upon or taught in the Bible.**

It is well known by SDA church leaders that the doctrine of the trinity cannot and should not be supported by certain well-used texts in the Bible. e.g.

1John 5:7, 8

"For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one. 8 And there are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one."

7 SDA Bible Commentary p 675 (regarding 1 John 5;7,8)

“The passage as given in the KJV is in no Greek MS earlier than the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries. The disputed words found their way into the KJV by way of the Greek text of Erasmus (see Vol 5 p. 141.) .... **The disputed words have been widely used in support of the doctrine of the Trinity, but, in view of such overwhelming evidence against their authenticity, their support is valueless and should not be used.**”

**This position was re-confirmed at the Adventist Theological Society's Symposium on the trinity, in Tennessee, March 2006.**

### **Modern SDA's Confused – Tritheist, Orthodox or Modalist Trinitarians? Three Gods - Or - One God in Three Parts – Or – One God in 3 Modes?**

JH Waggoner (SDA Pioneer) in *Thoughts on Baptism*, 1878, cites Bingham in “Antiquities,” Book 11, chap 3 & 4

*“There were some very early that turned the doctrine of the Trinity into Tritheism, and instead of three divine persons under the economy of Father, Son and Holy Spirit, brought in three collateral, co-ordinate, and self-originated beings, making them three absolute and independent principles, without any relation of Father or Son, which is the most proper notion of three gods. And having made this change in the doctrine of the Trinity, they made another change answerable to it in the form of baptism.”*

**The Roman Catholic Orthodox** version of the trinity is **defined as “One Being composed of three hypostases - ...there are not three substances [or beings].”** (Dr. Shedd, *History of Christian Doctrine*, vol. i. p. 365 quoted in Philip Schaff's *History of the Christian Church*, Vol 3, Sec. 130, p 676, 677)

**The SDA Tritheistic version of the trinity was officially accepted by vote in 1980 -** Historian Philip Schaff **defines tritheism as** “the... tritheistic trinity of **three distinct and separate beings.**” (Philip Schaff, *History of the Christian Church*, Volume 3, Section 130, p 677. Tritheism is the concept that God exists in three persons who are “*three different individuals, or three self-conscious and separately acting beings.*” Tritheism means “three gods.”

### **Modalism**

#### ***SDA Adult Sabbath School Lessons 15 March, 2003***

*“The unity Jesus is speaking of is ‘an expression of the creative diversity within the Godhead...there is only one ‘true God’ who manifests Himself through differing functions of Father, Son and Spirit.”*

The above statement appears to reflect yet another version of the trinity doctrine – **modalism – defined as** “*that God is one Being who manifested Himself in three different modes at three different times.* (Philip Schaff, *History of the Christian Church*, Volume 2, Section 152, page 582).

### **Seventh-day Adventist Ministers Comment on SDA Trinity (Tritheism)**

SDA Pastor, Max Hatton in *Understanding the Trinity* p 135

*“An unbalanced view leads to such errors as Tritheism, Modalism and Bi-theism. Tri-theism results from an overemphasis of the threeness. It results really in there being **three completely separate persons or Gods.** This is really Polytheism (which, really, is paganism).”* [Parentheses in original.]

SDA Pastor, Dr Erwin Gane states in: "Enlightened by the Spirit," **Adult Sabbath School Lessons Teacher's Edition**, 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 1995, p 15, 16  
"Many people have **stumbled over** the biblical teaching of a triune Godhead, thinking that this concept suggests polytheism. While the reality of the three-personed Godhead is rationally inexplicable, this belief is not polytheistic, because it recognizes the unique qualities of the members of the Godhead that are intrinsic to divinity.... Because the Bible presents the Deity as the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, some readers might assume that there are three Gods. Such teaching is polytheism. By contrast, the Bible teaches monotheism – three Persons in one God."<http://www.canited.com/w-reishi.htm><http://www.canited.com/w-reishi.htm>

SDA theologian, Dr Jerry Moon notes that early in SDA history "one objection to the Trinity doctrine was based on the misconception that it teaches the existence of three Gods." Then Dr Moon footnotes:

"The term 'person' as applied to God, indicates a being with personality, intellect, and will. Unlike the multiple gods of polytheism, the three persons of the biblical Godhead are profoundly 'one in purpose, in mind, in character, **but not in person.**' Thus, despite their individuality, they are never divided, never in conflict, and thus constitute not three gods, but one God" (J. Moon, 2003,"The Adventist Trinity Debate," *Andrews University Seminary Studies*, Vol. 41, No. 1, 113-129)

Regardless of their strong assertions to the contrary, according to Schaff's definition, and in harmony with the Nicene Creed, SDA theology portrays three separate divine beings – who might well be **called** 'one God,' but it is really a case of three gods – tritheism.

Another alteration that appears to be gaining acceptance into SDA theology as the wine of Babylon continues to ebb into the church, is the belief that God does not possess a physical form/body, but is 'pure spirit.'<sup>21</sup>

On 25 October, 2005, representatives of the non-trinitarian group Restitution Ministries (RM) were invited by the Seventh-day Adventist Greater Sydney Conference (GSC) to discuss the doctrine of the trinity at the Sydney Conference office.

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21 **Catholic Catechism Abridged** by the Rt. Rev. John Dubois, Bishop of New York. Page 5. Ques. Where is God? Ans. God is everywhere. Q. Does God see and know all things? A. Yes, he does know and see all things. Q. Has God any body? A. No; God has no body, he is a pure Spirit. Q. Are there more Gods than one? A. No; there is but one God. Q. Are there more persons than one in God? A. Yes; in God there are three persons. Q. Which are they? A. God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Ghost. Q. Are there not three Gods? A. No; the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, are all but one and the same God. **The first article of the Methodist Religion**, p. 8. 'There is but one living and true God, everlasting, without body or parts.' " (cited in **The Personality and the Presence of God in Early Adventism** by Mr David Sims; <http://www.bibletruth.or.kr/englishindex.html> )

According to RM's report of the proceedings,<sup>22</sup> the conference theological leaders denied that God possessed a body (i.e. A physical form with eyes, hair, feet, arms). The conference leaders stated that it was their belief that God was 'pure spirit'. A spirit (mind) without a body is a ghost.

Humanity was made by placing a spirit (mind) within a body. This creation was made after the formula in which God Himself existed (Gen 1:26). Body and spirit are required for existence. A body cannot exist without a mind. A mind cannot exist without a spirit. Thus humanity reflected the image of God.

If Christians believe that God has an existence as a spirit (mind) outside of His physical form/body, wouldn't they be denying that man is made in God's image?

Even Adam, prior to sin, could not have experienced 'out of body' experiences. He could not have existed as a ghost – i.e. a spirit (or mind or intelligent entity) which was separate to His body. Should Christians suppose that God exists in an opposite state, when the Bible and Ellen White assure us that humanity reflects the physical form of God?

Early Writings, 1882 p 77

"I have often seen the lovely Jesus, that He is a person. I asked Him if His Father was a person and had a form like Himself. Said Jesus, "I am in the express image of My Father's person."

The Bible teaches that the spirit of God is truly God, in that God does not stop being a person when His mind is referred to as the holy spirit of God. However this concept is very different to endeavouring to teach that a third *separate* divine person is identified in the Bible.

The Bible teaches that a human body is composed of both body and spirit - (a physical body and a mind/spirit). A human being without a human mind is dead - a dead person, which ceases to exist in any sphere. In a similar way, a human mind without a physical body also cannot exist in any sphere. If a doctrine suggests that a human mind (spirit) exists without a physical body, then it is apparently referring to a pagan concept - a ghost. To say that entity – a supposed spirit (mind) without a body is able to be present everywhere, is called the doctrine of the immortality of the soul – spiritualism.

Humanity was made in the image of God. The Bible teaches that God is one Being – a divine Person. He has a physical form/body and He is also a spiritual being (i.e. He possesses a mind). Theology that suggests that God is simply a spirit (a mind) ONLY, without a body, promotes doctrines that originate from pantheistic theology. The theology that teaches that God can be present everywhere, as a ghost – i.e. a "spirit" (mind) only; is pantheistic.

In their discussion with the Greater Sydney Conference leaders, Restitution Ministries representatives referred to Scripture as evidence to support their view that God indeed was a divine Being with a physical form, but this information was passed over by the GSC as being symbolic, "having only been revealed in visions."

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<sup>22</sup>Report available from [restitution\\_ministries@hotmail.com](mailto:restitution_ministries@hotmail.com)

By taking this position, support appears to be accumulating that suggests that the Seventh-day Adventist religion, at least in Australia, is indeed 'changing' and is 'progressing' closer to embracing the central doctrine of the Roman Catholic faith.

To read the SDA GSC's response to the meeting with RM, visit:  
<http://www.gscadventist.org.au/ministries/communication/intrasyd>

Far from the pioneers stumbling over the doctrine of the trinity as Dr Gane suggests, it appears that the modern SDA church is **stumbling over** the Biblical doctrine of God. Amongst the leadership, there is confusion. Which version of the trinity should the members adhere to, when the leadership propose at least 3 different versions?

It appears as if SDA tritheists are becoming more "orthodox" in their understanding of God ie. Moving closer to the Roman Catholic version of the trinity.

## 12. World Council of Churches

The SDA church has stated that it is not a member of the World Council of Churches, but it is an *associate* member of that organisation. However, the church's own publication condemns this association.

SDA Encyclopedia, Volume 10 of the Bible Commentary Reference Series, p 410-411, under ECUMENISM:

*"The capstone of the ecumenical effort came with the creation of the World Council of Churches....On the basis of Bible prophecy and the writings of Ellen G. White, SDA's anticipate the eventual success of the ecumenical movement both in eliminating the divisions of Protestantism and in reuniting Christendom by bridging the gulf that separates non-Catholic communions from Rome. **The ecumenical movement** will then become a concerted effort to unite the world and to secure universal peace and security by enlisting the power of the civil government in a universal religio-political crusade to eliminate all dissent. SDA's envision this crusade as the great apostasy to which John the revelator refers as **'Babylon the great.'** They understand, also, that God's last message of mercy to the world prior to the return of Christ in power and glory will consist of a warning against this great apostate movement, and a call to all who choose to remain loyal to Him **to leave the churches connected with it.**"*

Does the SDA church **still** believe that any church connected with the ecumenical movement and united with the WCC is part of Babylon, and that all who choose to serve God must separate from such a church? In reality, the current organisation of the SDA church IS connected with the Babylonian ecumenical movement through its association with the World Council of Churches. The SDA church **has** united itself and its members with the WCC. It seems that the SDA church has condemned **itself in the** preceding statement. Does the church today, really want to continue to advise its members to separate themselves from the organisation of the SDA church?

To find more on SDA and RC common traditions and practices visit:  
<http://www.lightministries.com/SDA/Booklets/id119.htm>

Considering that the current SDA organisation has not maintained the original truths for which it was made a depository, is it likely that Ellen White might still affirm that the SDA church is not to be referred to as part of Babylon? Would she claim that this organisation was endeavouring to uphold the One True God and His commandments as were the pioneers of the SDA church?

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### **USA - FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) for Churches**

Alex Jones, the media-man who produced "9-11, the Road to Tyranny" and other controversial DVDs, has the following article on his infowars website.  
[http://www.infowars.com/images2/ps/pastor\\_fema\\_docs.pdf](http://www.infowars.com/images2/ps/pastor_fema_docs.pdf)

Pator Revere (name changed) - A Pastor has come forward to blow the whistle FEMA - Wed May 31, 2006 00:37

"A Pastor has come forward to blow the whistle on a nationwide FEMA program which is training Pastors and other religious representatives to become secret police enforcers who teach their congregations to "obey the government" in preparation for a declaration of martial law, property and firearm seizures, and forced relocation. This program is a nationwide initiative and a literal Soviet model whereby the churches are being systematically infiltrated by government volunteers and used as conduits for martial law training and conditioning. The Pastor was told that over 13,000 counties were already on board. FEMA related to the Pastors that quarantines, martial law and forced relocation were a problem for state authorities when enforcing federal mandates due to the "cowboy mentality" of citizens standing up for their property and second amendment rights as well as farmers defending their crops and livestock from seizure. It was stressed that the Pastors needed to preach subservience to the authorities ahead of time in preparation for the round-ups and to make it clear to the congregation that "this is for their own good." Pastors were asked to make a pledge or an affirmation during the meeting to fulfil the roles ascribed to them by FEMA. They were given assurances that they would be covered by full compensation in the event of resisters injuring them during **property seizures and round-ups**. Pator Revere (name changed) stated, "We get the the picture that we're going to be standing at the end of some farmer's lane while he's standing there with his double barrel, saying we have to confiscate your cows, your chickens, your firearms" (continued over page).

(Alex Jones' article continued)

The Pastor elaborated on how the directives were being smoke screened by an Orwellian alteration of their names. "They're not using the term 'quarantine' - this is the term they're going to be using - it's called 'social distancing' - don't you like that one?" said the Pastor. He also highlighted how detention camps had been renamed to give them a friendly warm veneer. "Three months ago it was quarantine and relocation centers and now it's 'community centers' and these are going to be activated at the local schools," he said. Pastor Revere outlined the plan to carry out mass

vaccination and enforced drugging programs in times of crisis such as a bird flu outbreak. "In the event of an outbreak or a bio-terrorist attack, there'd be a mass vaccination....they have a program nationwide 'Pills in People's Palm In 48 Hours'," said the Pastor who was told that Walmart had been designated as the central outlet of this procedure. Pastor Revere said that many attendees believed in the necessity of the program and were completely unaware to the motivations behind its true purpose and were offered incentives to become volunteers such as preferential treatment and first access for themselves and their families to vaccines and food shipments in times of emergency. Which roads to close off after martial law was declared had also already been mapped out.<sup>23</sup>

Pastor Butch Paugh, 23 May, 2006

"About three months ago, I was invited to become a part of a group implementing federal FEMA/Homeland Security directives in our county. I couldn't pass that up! Lots of interesting and bothersome info being discussed at these meetings... Local FEMA's ('across the US' according to a spokesman at our local meeting) are gathering Ministers (Pastors) to help in the event of a 'declaration of Martial Law or like police action following a declared emergency or quarantine due to an act of bioterrorism.' The discussion centered around the need of 'locals' to 'quell the cowboy mentality' of farmers who may have their stock or crops confiscated and subsequently destroyed. FEMA and other Disaster Agencies (NVOAD in particular: [www.nvoad.org](http://www.nvoad.org) ) are training volunteers in a "Peer to Peer" program. That program trains people to assist FEMA in a neighborhood setting--teams reach out to neighbors in a declared emergency and 'get their neighbors to obey authorities'. According to our spokesman, ministers will be especially helpful because 'you guys and gals can use Romans 13' (Main Page - Monday, 06/05/06). [http://www.infowars.com/images2/ps/pastor\\_fema\\_docs.pdf](http://www.infowars.com/images2/ps/pastor_fema_docs.pdf)

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<sup>23</sup> Recall Ellen White's warning

## **Testimonies to Ministers, (p 32-62) – SDA not Babylon?**

Question: Was the SDA church - officially - worshipping the One True God in 1893 when EGW wrote the passages were written about the SDA church not being Babylon?

Answer: Yes. And at that time, the SDA church was still **teaching the commandments of God and still teaching that the commandments of God could be kept** by the power of the spirit of Christ, the **Son of God**, in the life of the believer. Because the church taught these truths and believed in them, the church, "weak and enfeebled though she be," was still the supreme object of God's regard. Same situation as Zechariah 3:1-5 depicts when the repentant Joshua the high priest was clothed in filthy garments. Satan brought a railing accusation against him, but Christ clothed Joshua with a new white robe. This is the situation of the pioneer SDA church. Of course the saints who were endeavouring to overcome sin in their lives, and as such could not possibly be called "Babylon" as Satan had tried to call Joshua the repentant, high priest who was covered with the life of the Son of God.

Question: Is the SDA church today still worshipping the One True God - officially? Does the title "daughter of Babylon" apply to that organisation now?

Answer: The SDA church today does not officially teach the worship of the One True God, but the anti-christ god - ie. the trinity. The SDA church no longer officially teaches that sin can be overcome - therefore they do not believe officially in Revelation 12:17 "Here are they that keep the commandment of God." They don't believe that the commandments can be kept and they certainly don't preach that they can be kept - officially.

The current SDA organisation preaches just exactly what EGW said they would preach -**"that virtue is better than vice, but with God being removed they would place their dependence on human power, which, without God, is worthless." 1 SM p 203, 204**

Battle Creek Letters, p 81

"The enemy of souls has sought to bring in the supposition that a great reformation was to take place among Seventh-day Adventists, and that this reformation would consist in giving up the doctrines which stand as the pillars of our faith, and engaging in a process of reorganization. Were this reformation to take place what would result? The principles of truth that God in His wisdom has given to the remnant church would be discarded. Our religion would be changed. The fundamental principles that have sustained the work for the last fifty years would be accounted as error. A new organization would be established. Books of a new order would be written. A system of intellectual philosophy would be introduced. The founders of **this system** would go into the cities, and do a wonderful work. The Sabbath, of course would be lightly regarded, as also the God who created it. Nothing would be allowed to stand in the way of **the new movement**. **The leaders would teach that virtue is better than vice, but God being removed they would place their dependence on human power, which, without God, is worthless. Their foundation would be build on the sand, and storm and tempest would sweep away the structure. (p 82) "Who has authority to begin such a movement?** We have our Bibles. We have our experience, attested to by the miraculous working of the Holy Spirit. We have a truth that admits of no



compromise. ***Shall we not repudiate everything that is not in harmony with this truth?***

#### Question

Does it sound like EGW is saying we should support the new apostate system? Does "God being removed" sound like God is still in the church?

#### Answer:

The Bible advises us in Eph 5:11

"And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them." EGW agrees with that advice and warns us to cling to our Bibles and hold fast to the first principles of our denominated faith, shunning any alterations from that original truth.

*Special Testimonies, Series B, no. 7, p57, 4 December, 1905* (Ellen G White)  
**"We are to hold fast the first principles of our denominated faith and go forward from strength to increased faith."**

The FIRST "denominational principles of faith" (published in 1874, and 1889) were distinctly non-trinitarian.

8 Testimonies for the Church, p 291

"These theories, followed to their logical conclusion, sweep away the whole Christian economy. They do away with the necessity for the atonement and make man his own savior. **These theories regarding God make His word of no effect, and those who accept them are in great danger of being led finally to look upon the whole Bible as a fiction. They may regard virtue as better than vice; but God being removed from His position of sovereignty, they place their dependence upon human power, which, without God, is worthless. The unaided human will has no real power to resist and overcome evil. The defenses of the soul are broken down. Man has no barrier against sin. When once the restraints of God's word and His Spirit are rejected, we know not to what depths one may sink.**"

Great Controversy (1888) p 382, 383 tells us what constitutes Babylon. "

**"Babylon is said to be "the mother of harlots." By her daughters must be symbolized churches that cling to her doctrines and traditions, and follow her example of sacrificing the truth and the approval of God, in order to form an unlawful alliance with the world.** The message of Revelation 14 announcing the fall of Babylon, **must apply to religious bodies that were once pure and have become corrupt.** Since this message follows the warning of the Judgment, it must be given in the last days, therefore it cannot refer to the Romish Church, for that church has been in a fallen condition for many centuries. Furthermore, in the eighteenth chapter of the Revelation, **in a message which is yet future, the people of God are called upon to come out of Babylon.** According to this scripture, many of God's people must still be in Babylon. And in what religious bodies are the greater part of the followers of Christ now to be found? Without doubt, in the various churches professing the Protestant faith. At the time of their rise, these churches took a noble stand for God and the truth, and his blessing was with them. Even the unbelieving world was constrained to acknowledge the beneficent results that followed an acceptance of the principles of the gospel. In the words of the prophet to Israel, "Thy renown went forth among the heathen for thy beauty; for it was perfect through my comeliness, which I had

put upon thee, saith the Lord God." But they fell by the same desire which was the curse and ruin of Israel,—the desire of imitating the practices and courting the friendship of the ungodly. "Thou didst trust in thine own beauty, and playedst the harlot because of thy renown."

8 Testimonies for the Church, p 292

"Those who continue to hold these spiritualistic theories will surely spoil their Christian experience, sever their connection with God, **and lose eternal life.**"

Question: Does EGW placate us and claim that these theories are simply a matter of individual preference? Or does she warn us not to go where we know error is going to be taught?

Answer:

Early Writings, p 124, 125

"I was shown the necessity of those who believe that we are having the last message of mercy, **being separate from those who are daily imbibing new errors.** I saw that neither young nor old should attend their meetings; for **it is wrong to thus encourage them** while they teach error that is a deadly poison to the soul and teach for doctrines the commandments of men. **The influence of such gatherings is not good. If God has delivered us from such darkness and error, we should stand fast in the liberty wherewith He has set us free and rejoice in the truth. God is displeased with us when we go to listen to error, without being obliged to go;** for unless He sends us to those meetings where error is forced home to the people by the power of the will, He will not keep us. The angels cease their watchful care over us, and we are left to the buffetings of the enemy, to be darkened and weakened by him and the power of his evil angels; and the light around us becomes contaminated with the darkness. (125) **I saw that we have no time to throw away in listening to fables. Our minds should not be thus diverted, but should be occupied with the present truth,** and seeking wisdom that we may obtain a more thorough knowledge of our position, that with meekness we may be able to give a reason of our hope from the Scriptures. **While false doctrines and dangerous errors are pressed upon the mind, it cannot be dwelling upon the truth which is to fit and prepare the house of Israel to stand in the day of the Lord.**"

Ellen White states that no-one should attend places where dangerous theories are taught. She specifically noted the danger of theories that destroy the personality of God.

Ellen White, MS 760, p 9,10 - To Build Upon the Foundation “Those who seek to remove the old landmarks are not holding fast; they are not remembering how they have received and heard. **Those who try to bring in theories that would remove the pillars of our faith concerning the sanctuary or concerning the personality of God or of Christ are working as blind men. They are seeking to bring in uncertainties and to set the people of God adrift without an anchor.”**

**The pioneers recognized that the doctrine of the trinity was one of the dangerous theories that destroyed the personality of God.**

JN Andrews, 6 March, 1855 R&H Vol. 6, no 24 p 185 “The **doctrine of the trinity** was established in the church by the council of Nicea, AD 325. **This doctrine destroys the personality of God and His Son Jesus Christ our Lord.**

### **Ellen White's Material**

Protestant Christians are not to build doctrines on the prophet Ellen White. We build doctrines of the Bible alone. However, since some SDA's are not practicing this protective strategy and they want to know what EGW states. For their benefit, I have attempted to demonstrate that the prophet (EGW) also formed her doctrine on separation **from the Bible**.

### **EGW taught and predicted that:**

1. theories regarding God destroy the personality of God;
2. theories regarding God removes God from the church - converting the church to an apostate system;
3. theories regarding God make His word of no effect; (disempowers His word - His truth - destroys faith in the Bible as the word of God);
4. the apostate system preaches that virtue is better than vice, but with God being "removed" from the believers, takes away the power to overcome sin. In other words, the apostate system preaches that we shouldn't sin, but we can't help it and will be sinning till Jesus comes because we are POWERLESS (spirit-of-Christ-less) to stop sinning
5. a pure church becomes a harlot (a daughter of Babylon) by holding onto the traditions and doctrines of Rome;
6. Rev 18 marks the final call for God's people to come out and be separate from the apostate idolators - regardless of whichever professedly Christian organisation with which they are involved;
7. theories on the personality of God, that destroy the word of God, cause eternal death to those who will not separate and grasp hold of the truth again (about the personality of God).
8. the theory of the trinity destroys the personality of God and His Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

### **Early Writings, p 124-125.**

***"I was shown the necessity of those who believe that we are having the last message of mercy, being separate from those who are daily imbibing new errors. I saw that neither young nor old should attend their meetings; for it is wrong to thus encourage them while they teach error that is a deadly poison to the soul and teach for doctrines the commandments of men. The influence of such gatherings is not good. If God has delivered us from such darkness and error, we should stand fast in the liberty wherewith He has set us free and rejoice in the truth. God is displeased with us when we go to listen to error, without being obliged to go; for unless He sends us to those meetings where error is forced home to the people by the power of the will, He will not keep us. The angels cease their watchful care over us, and we are left to the buffetings of the enemy, to be darkened and weakened by him and the power of his evil angels; and the light around us becomes contaminated with the darkness."***

Letter 237, July 14, 1904, Manuscript Releases, vol 19, p 309-312.

***"We are to strive earnestly for union, on Bible lines. **But we would better stand apart from those who will not heed the instruction of the Word of God.."*****

Letter 256, August 1, 1906, Last Day Events from the Letters and Manuscripts of E.G. White, p 94; This Day With God, p 222

*"Some who have been leaders in the work of God are seeking to make of none effect the work that God has placed in the world to educate His people, and to prepare them to stand the test of the miracle-working powers that would make void the precious facts of faith that have for the last sixty years been given under the power of the Holy Spirit....In the representations the Lord has given me, I have seen those who follow their own desires, misrepresenting the truth, oppressing their brethren, and placing difficulties before them. Characters are now being developed, and men are taking sides, some on the side of the Lord Jesus Christ, some on the side of Satan and his angels. **The Lord calls for all who will be true and obedient to His law to come out of and away from all connection with those who have placed themselves on the side of the enemy.**"*