

“The mystery of the cross explains all other mysteries” (GC 652).

Adventist Doctrines at the Cross - Intersection #1: The Cross and the 28 Fundamental Beliefs

“It would be well for us to spend a thoughtful hour each day in contemplation of the life of Christ. We should take it point by point, and let the imagination grasp each scene, especially the closing ones. As we thus dwell upon His great sacrifice for us, our confidence in Him will be more constant, our love will be quickened, and we shall be more deeply imbued with His spirit. If we would be saved at last, we must learn the lesson of penitence and humiliation at the foot of the cross” (DA 83).



Introduction

If you had to decide between Jesus and doctrine, which would you choose?

Contemporary Adventism suggests an artificial, unbiblical divide between Jesus and doctrine. We like reductionism: reducing religion to an irreducible minimum.

Friend: “I left the Adventist church because I want to focus on Jesus, not on the sanctuary and prophecy.”

1. The Holy Scriptures

“The sacrifice of Christ as an atonement for sin is the great truth around which all other truths cluster. In order to be rightly understood and appreciated, every truth in the word of God, from Genesis to Revelation, must be studied in the light that streams from the cross of Calvary” (GW 315).

2. The Trinity

Love 3D

3. The Father

The cross was approved in secret council:

Sorrow filled heaven, as it was realized that man was lost, and that world which God had created was to be filled with mortals doomed to misery, sickness, and death, and there was no way of escape for the offender. The whole family of Adam must die. I saw the lovely Jesus and beheld an expression of sympathy and sorrow upon His countenance. Soon I saw Him approach the exceeding bright light which enshrouded the Father. Said my accompanying angel, He is in close converse with His Father. The anxiety of the angels seemed to be intense while Jesus was communing with His Father. Three times He was shut in by the glorious light

about the Father, and the third time He came from the Father, His person could be seen. His countenance was calm, free from all perplexity and doubt, and shone with benevolence and loveliness, such as words cannot express. He then made known to the angelic host that a way of escape had been made for lost man. He told them that He had been pleading with His Father, and had offered to give His life a ransom, to take the sentence of death upon Himself, that through Him man might find pardon; that through the merits of His blood, and obedience to the law of God, they could have the favor of God, and be brought into the beautiful garden, and eat of the fruit of the tree of life.

4. The Son

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5. The Holy Spirit

John 16:8-13! - Reduplication of the Sanctuary Process

6. Creation

Creation Parallels during the Crucifixion as Neutralization of the Curse (Deut 21:23; Gal 5:11)

- 1) 2nd Adam (Rom 5:14)
- 2) naked = Adam
- 3) Friday
- 4) Garden
- 5) Tree
- 6) Thorns = Gen 3:18
- 7) Jesus takes care of His mother = male/female relationship secured
- 8) darkness = Gen 1:2
- 9) "Paradise" = Eden
- 10) "Why have you forsaken me?" = Gen 3 (loss of God's presence)
- 11) "Come down" = you don't have to die (original lie)
- 12) "It is finished" = creation (Gen 1:31-2:3)
- 13) breathed his last (Mk 15:37, 39; Lk 23:46) = reversion of Gen 2:7
- 14) Sabbath rest in tomb
- 15) resurrection = Edenic restoration

7. The Nature of Man

And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple. Lk 14:27

8. The Great Controversy

"The cross of Christ will be the science and the song of the redeemed throughout all eternity" (GC 651). "The mystery of the cross explains all other mysteries" (GC 652).

9. The Life, Death, and Resurrection of Christ

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10. The Experience of Salvation

DA 83 . . .

11. Growing in Christ

From Head to Heart to Hand: Application = Sanctification

“In a view given June 27, 1850, my accompanying angel said, “Time is almost finished. Do you reflect the lovely image of Jesus as you should?” Then I was pointed to the earth and saw that there would have to be a getting ready among those who have of late embraced the third angel’s message. Said the angel, “Get ready, get ready, get ready. Ye will have to die a greater death to the world than ye have ever yet died.” I saw that there was a great work to do for them and but little time in which to do it.” (EW 64)

12. The Church

Mt 16:16-20: Introduction of “church”

v21: “From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day.”

Based on Jesus’ cross-focused introduction of the church, the church’s must carry the Cross in its DNA.

13. The Remnant and Its Mission

“And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.” (Rev 12:17)

Death a core companion of every individual disciple and every phase of church history.

14. Unity in the Body of Christ

“Through the Holy Spirit, Christ will open more clearly to those who will believe on him that which he has inspired holy men to write concerning the truth. And it is thus that the unity for which Christ prayed is to be effected. We are to receive sanctification through obedience to the word and the Spirit of truth. **We cannot surrender the truth in order to accomplish this union; for the very means by which it is to be gained is sanctification through the truth. Human wisdom would change all this, thinking this basis of union too narrow. Men would effect a union through conformity to popular opinions, through a compromise with the world. But truth is God’s basis for the unity of his people”** (GW 92 1892).

Doctrine is not the great divider!

Right before the cross (John 17), Jesus prayed for our unity:

“That in me ye might have peace”—peace in Christ, peace through belief of the truth. The Comforter is called the Spirit of truth because there is comfort and hope and peace in the truth. Falsehood cannot give genuine peace; this can be received only through the truth.... **Jesus prayed that His followers might be one; but we are not to sacrifice the truth in order to secure this union, for we are to be sanctified through the truth.** Here is the foundation of all true peace. Human wisdom would change all this, pronouncing this basis too narrow. Men would try to effect unity through concession to popular opinion, through compromise with the world, a sacrifice of vital godliness. **But truth is God’s basis for the unity of His people”** (OHC 329; GW 92).

“We have a testing message to give, and I am instructed to say to our people, “Unify, unify.” **But we are not to unify with those who are departing from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils.** With our hearts sweet and kind and true, we are to go forth to proclaim the message, giving no heed to those who lead away from the truth” (MS 31, 1906; 3SM 412).

Doctrine must remain in the DNA of every remnant disciple!

“We cannot purchase peace and unity at the cost of truth. The conflict may be long and painful, but at any cost we must hold fast to the Word of God” (HS 197).

15. Baptism

Romans 6:1-6

16. The Lord's Supper

The Lord’s Supper: Jesus’ example → Jesus’ substitute → like Christ, so Christians!

17. Spiritual Gifts and Ministries

- Romans 12:1-2

- Death in the body of Christ should not go unnoticed! (1 Cor 12:

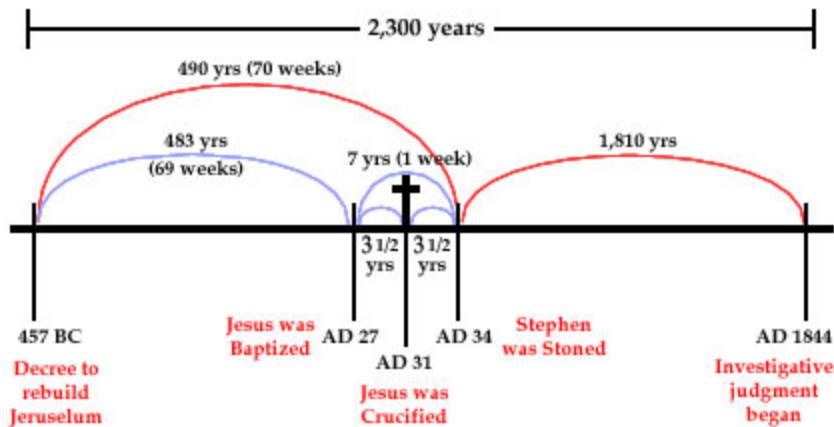
“Since the earlier years of his profession of faith, Mark’s Christian experience had deepened. As he had studied more closely the life and death of Christ he had obtained clearer views of the Saviour’s mission, its toils and conflicts. Reading in the scars in Christ’s hands and feet the marks of His service for humanity, and the length to which self-abnegation leads to save the lost and perishing, Mark had become willing to follow the Master in the path of self-sacrifice. Now, sharing the lot of Paul the prisoner, he understood better than ever before that it is infinite gain to win Christ, infinite loss to win the world and lose the soul for whose redemption the blood of Christ was shed. In the face of severe trial and adversity, Mark continued steadfast, a wise and beloved helper of the apostle” (AA 455).

18. The Gift of Prophecy

Being a prophet comes at a price: Ellen White got a taste of death 3x in her life:

- John Herbert, died of erysipelas at 3 months of age

- Henry Nichols, age 16 (pneumonia)
- James White, Aug 6 1881 at age 60



19. The Law of God

The faith in Christ that saves the soul is not what it is represented to be by many. “Believe, believe,” is their cry; “only believe in Christ, and you will be saved. It is all you have to do.” While true faith trusts wholly in Christ for salvation, it will lead to perfect conformity to the law of God. Faith is manifested by works. And the apostle John declares, “He that saith, I know Him, and keepeth not His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him” (1 John 2:4).{FW 52.2} It is unsafe to trust to feelings or impressions; these are unreliable guides. God’s law is the only correct standard of holiness. It is by this law that character is to be judged. If an inquirer after salvation were to ask, “What shall I do to inherit eternal life?” the modern teachers of sanctification would answer, “Only believe that Jesus saves you.” But when Christ was asked this question He said, “What is written in the law? how readest thou?” And when the questioner replied, “Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, ...and thy neighbour as thyself,” Jesus said, “Thou hast answered right: this do, and thou shalt live” (Luke 10:25-29).{FW 52.3} True sanctification will be evidenced by a conscientious regard for all the commandments of God, by a careful improvement of every talent, by a circumspect conversation, by revealing in every act the meekness of Christ.{FW 53.1}

20. The Sabbath

Alan E. Lewis: *Between Cross and Resurrection: A Theology of Holy Saturday* (2003)
 Cross - Sabbath - Resurrection

Nicodemus: “Nicodemus, when he saw Jesus lifted up on the cross, remembered His words spoken by night in the Mount of Olives: “As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.” [John 3:14, 15](#). On that Sabbath, when Christ lay in the grave, Nicodemus had opportunity for reflection. A clearer light now illuminated his mind, and the words which Jesus had spoken to him were no longer mysterious. He felt that he had lost much by not connecting himself with the Saviour during His life. Now he recalled the events of Calvary. The prayer of Christ for His murderers and His answer to the petition of the dying thief spoke to the heart of the learned councilor. Again he looked upon the Saviour in His agony; again he heard that last cry, “It is finished,” spoken like the words of a conqueror. Again he beheld the reeling earth, the

darkened heavens, the rent veil, the shivered rocks, and his faith was forever established. The very event that destroyed the hopes of the disciples convinced Joseph and Nicodemus of the divinity of Jesus. Their fears were overcome by the courage of a firm and unwavering faith” (DA 775).

21. Stewardship

Because He gave, we give: “Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!” (2 Cor 9:15)

22. Christian Behavior

“From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand” (Mt 4:17). Behavior Modification is based on proximity to divinity!

23. Marriage and the Family

Eph 5:22-28, 29-33! As Christ, so the husband!

“The husband and father is the head of the household. The wife looks to him for love and sympathy and for aid in the training of the children; and this is right. The children are his as well as hers, and he is equally interested in their welfare. The children look to the father for support and guidance; he needs to have a right conception of life and of the influences and associations that should surround his family; above all, he should be controlled by the love and fear of God and by the teaching of His word, that he may guide the feet of his children in the right way.... The father should do his part toward making home happy. Whatever his cares and business perplexities, they should not be permitted to overshadow his family; he should enter his home with smiles and pleasant words. The Lawmaker and Priest—All members of the family center in the father. He is the lawmaker, illustrating in his own manly bearing the sterner virtues: energy, integrity, honesty, patience, courage, diligence, and practical usefulness. The father is in one sense the priest of the household, laying upon the altar of God the morning and evening sacrifice” (AH 211-212).

“The Lord has constituted the husband the head of the wife to be her protector; he is the head of the family, binding the members together, even as Christ is the head of the church and the Saviour of the mystical body. Let every husband who claims to love God carefully study the requirements of God in his position. Christ’s authority is exercised in wisdom, in all kindness and gentleness; so let the husband exercise his power and imitate the great Head of the church” (AH 215).

24. Christ's Ministry in the Heavenly Sanctuary

Heb 8:1!

25. The Second Coming of Christ

Rev 1:7 Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they *also* which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.

26. Death and Resurrection

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27. The Millennium and the End of Sin

“The great controversy is ended. Sin and sinners are no more. The entire universe is clean. One pulse of harmony and gladness beats through the vast creation. From Him who created all, flow life and light and gladness, throughout the realms of illimitable space. From the minutest atom to the greatest world, all things, animate and inanimate, in their unshadowed beauty and perfect joy, declare that God is love” (GC 678).

28. The New Earth

“One reminder alone remains: Our Redeemer will ever bear the marks of His crucifixion. Upon His wounded head, upon His side, His hands and feet, are the only traces of the cruel work that sin has wrought. . . . And the tokens of His humiliation are His highest honor; through the eternal ages the wounds of Calvary will show forth His praise and declare His power” (GC 674).