

The

Trinity

Issues • Insights

A Plea with God's People



An Appeal to the Remnant



"In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him" (Jn 4:9).
 "...let us make use of every opportunity to know the one true God, and Jesus Christ whom he hath sent" (M. December 21, 1893, par. 5).

Paul's first sermon: "Immediately he preached the Christ in the synagogues, that He is the Son of God" (Acts 9:20).

"When Christ first announced to the heavenly host His mission and work in the world, He declared that He was to leave His position of dignity and disguise His holy mission by assuming the likeness of a man, **when in reality He was the Son of the Infinite God**" (1:303, 1909). "Christ is declared in the Scriptures to be the Son of God, from all eternity. He is sustained in this relation to Jehovah" (Ma22-1906:4). "He was the Son of the living God. His personality did not begin with His incarnation in the flesh (Jn 1:1, 1894, par. 9), not a son by creation, as were the angels, nor a son by adoption, as is the forgiven sinner, but **a Son begotten in the express image of the Father's person**, and in all the brightness of his majesty and glory, one equal with God in authority, dignity, and divine perfection. In Him dwelt all the fullness of the Godhead bodily" (ST May 30, 1895, par. 3). "Though sin had produced a gulf between man and His God, divine benevolence provided a plan to bridge that gulf. And what material did He use? A part of Himself. The brightness of the Father's glory came to a world all seared and marred with the curse, and in His own divine character, in His own divine body, bridged the gulf and opened a channel of communication between God and man" (Letter 36a, 1890). **Eph 4:13** "We are all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God."

"Christ was the only begotten Son of God, and Lucifer, that glorious angel, got up a warfare over the matter, until he had to be thrust down to the earth" (Ms 86, Aug. 21, 1910). Recommended Reading: The Story of Redemption ch. 1.

"Satan was well acquainted with the position of honor Christ had held in Heaven as the Son of God, the beloved of the Father" (JL 1:30-1:374). "God is the Father of Christ. Christ is the Son of God. To Christ has been given an exalted position. He has been made equal with the Father" (JL 2:20).

"This fact the [fallen] angels would obscure, that Christ was the only begotten Son of God" (L42-1910). Others "clearly set forth that Christ was the Son of God, existing with Him before the angels were created" (p. 14). **→ Prov 8:22-30 & 30:34** "Because I was, and avowed I myself to be, the Son of God, they were bent on destroying Him" (p. 470). "Though He was the Son of God, yet He had taken human nature upon Him" (p. 503).

"The Eternal Father, the unchangeable one, gave His ONLY BEGOTTEN SON, TORE FROM HIS BOSOM HIM WHO WAS MADE IN THE EXPRESS IMAGE OF HIS PERSON, and sent him down to earth to reveal how greatly he loved mankind" (RH July 9, 1896, p. 18, *a son begotten in likeness*).

DA 530 - Divinity, not Trinity! "In Christ is life, original, unborrowed, underived" = the Father's life. Originally from a unitarian publication! "For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself" (Jn 6:26). Purpose and context: "The divinity of Christ is the believer's assurance of eternal life. ... He who I [Jesus] was soon to die upon the cross stood with the keys of death, a conqueror of the grave, and asserted His right and power to give eternal life" (p. 630). "He that hath the Son hath life" (Jn 6:12 → Jn 6:58, 13; Jn 20:31). "I seek not Mine own glory," but the glory of Him that sent Me. (Jn 8:28-29; 290, 298, 298). In these words is set forth the great principle which is the law of life for the universe. All things Christ received from God, but He took to give. So in the heavenly courts, in His ministry for all created beings through the beloved Son, the Father's life flows out to all through the Son it returns, in praise and joyous service, a tide of love, to the great Source of all. And thus through Christ the circuit of beneficence is complete, representing the character of the great Giver, the law of life" (p. 21).

SCHOLARLY CONSENSUS

"The Revelation of God is the only thing that is left for human beings to believe" (M. 1903, p. 36).

NO "Thus sayeth the LORD!"

- "That most of the leading SDA pioneers were non-Trinitarian" is "accepted Adventist history...either the pioneers were wrong and the present church is right, or the pioneers were right and the present Seventh-day Adventist Church has apostatized from biblical truth" (J. Roon, *The Unity*, 1901).
- "Most of the founders of Seventh-day Adventism would not be able to join the church today if they had to subscribe to the denomination's Fundamental Beliefs...most would not be able to agree to belief number 2" (the Trinity) (G. Knight, *Ministry*, 10/99, 12).
- "Adventist beliefs have changed over the years under the truth impact of present truth." Most startling is the teaching regarding Jesus Christ. "The Trinitarian understanding of God, now part of our fundamental beliefs, was not generally held by the early Adventists. Even today a few do not subscribe to it" (W. Johnson, AR Jan. 6, 1994, p. 10). **Truth is God's basis for the unity of his people! (GC 1892 p. 391).**
- "Seventh-day Adventists are in harmony with the great creedal statements of Christianity, including the Apostles' Creed" (Nicaea 325 - C. H. H. B. H.).
- The Trinity "can not be clearly detected within the confines of the canon" (Oxford Comp. to the Bible, 1880, p. 702). "Before accepting any doctrine or precept we should demand a plain."
- "In the New Testament there is no explicit statement of the doctrine" of the trinity (Romiley, BFOT 11:12). **Thus saith the Lord! in its support! (GC 592).**
- "No text of Scripture specifically says that God is three Persons"** (K. Donker, *Theology*, p. 23).
- "No single Scripture passage states the doctrine of the Trinity"** it is assumed as a fact...only by faith can we accept the existence of the Trinity" (AR 1983:14). **Truth "would bring into the fold of Christ thousand upon thousands" (GC 606)! ✨**

Pioneer Platform

"The concept of Trinity ... that the three are one, is not explicitly stated but only assumed" (P. Corbin, *EXPT* 1:2-158).

non-trinitarian!

"We have no doubt, neither have we had a doubt for years, that the doctrines we hold today are present truth, and that we are hearing the judgment" (2nd 550).

"In which the Holy Spirit testified to us from after the passing of the time ... is the solid foundation of truth. [The] pillars of truth were moved, and we accepted the foundation principles that have made us what we are - Seventh-day Adventists, keeping the commandments of God and having the faith of Jesus" (messages 1890-1904, "the essential points of truth"). "Messages of every order and kind have been urged upon Seventh-day Adventists, to take the place of the truth which, point by point, has been brought out by careful study, and testified to by the miracle-working power of the Lord. But the **word of truth** which have made us what we are, are to be preserved, and they will be preserved, as God has signified through His Word and the testimony of His Spirit. **He calls upon us to hold firmly, with the grip of faith, to the fundamental principles that are based upon unquestionable authority**" (Doc. Test. Series C, No. 6:2-1904).

OFFICIAL STATEMENTS

"to contend for the faith once delivered to the saints" (Jude 3)

Reality Check

GC President Neal Wilson introducing the 27 Fundamental Beliefs to the GC delegates in Dallas (1980): ✨

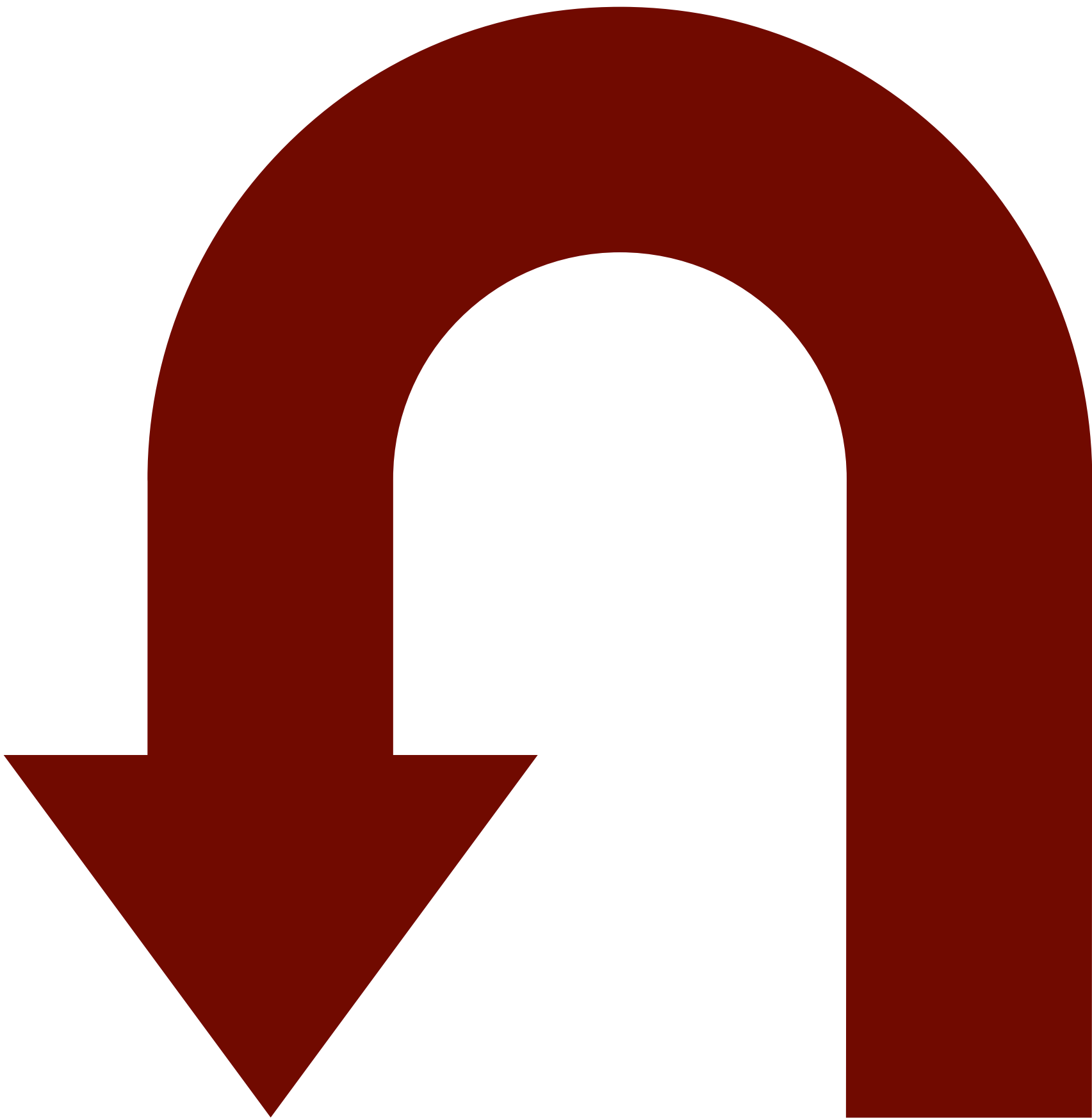
"There are others who think they know why this is being done. They believe it is being prepared as a club to batter someone over the head, to try to get people into a narrow concept of theology, not leaving any opportunity for individual interpretation of prophecy, or any individual views with respect to theology or certain areas of doctrine. This is also unfortunate, because this move has been and is not in violation of any study that has been given to the Statement on Fundamental Beliefs. Some academicians, theologians, and others have expressed the fear that this statement was being developed so that the church could confront them with a checklist to determine whether they should be disqualified from teaching in one of our institutions of higher education. It is very, very tragic when these kinds of rumors begin to develop."

Issues: The Seventh-day Adventist Church and Certain Private Ministries (NAD 1992) ✨

- p. 38: "The prohibiting, noncreedal status of the [1874] statement is of special interest. Even more significant, however, is the fact that the statement is distinctly non-Trinitarian. ... Are the modern defenders of so-called historic Adventism really prepared to return to a non-Trinitarian position?"
- p. 30: "If Adventism is to meet the needs of all people around the world, the landmarks must remain simple and straightforward. The Bible will be our only creed. **Complex theological definitions, the Trinity, for example, may serve the church well in general but cannot be imposed as a test for all Adventists everywhere.** Adventism can expect fresh insights into truth, 'present truth' that will enhance the appreciation of old landmarks. Such an expectation has always been a part of historic Adventism and is reaffirmed in the Statement of Fundamental Beliefs voted in 1980. When present truth is of a complex nature, however, it may be more helpful for some in the church than for others. **In such a case it cannot be imposed on the church as a whole. Remembering our non-Trinitarian past as well as the simplicity of our landmarks should encourage a certain humility in the church and lead us to resist any attempt by one segment of the church to impose its views on the rest.**"

"Are we worshipers of Jehovah, or of Baal? of the living God, or of idols? No outward shrines may be visible; there may be no image for the eye to rest upon; yet we may be practicing idolatry. It is as easy to make an idol of church traditions or objects as to fashion gods of wood or stone. **Thousands have a false conception of God and His attributes. They are as verily serving a false god as were the servants of Baal**" (RH Dec. 3, 1906).

✨ "I feel my spirit stirred within me. I feel to the depth of my being that the truth must be borne to other countries and nations and to all classes. **Let the missionaries of the cross proclaim that there is one God, and one Mediator between God and man, who is Jesus Christ the Son of the Infinite God. This needs to be proclaimed throughout every church in our land**" (Jaco 1861:78, Ellen White 1868 Ministry).



QUOTES

SCRIPTURE

Deut 4:35 "the LORD he is God; there is none else beside him." Deut 32:39; Job 42:7; 1Kgs 8:60; Isa 42:8; 43:10-11; 44:6,8; 45:18-22; 46:9; Hos 13:4; Neh 9:6; 1Chr 17:20; Rom 3:30; Rev 3:12

Deut 6:4 The Bible's & Jesus' highest profession (Mark 12:29-34)

Isa 45:5 "... there is no God beside Me." [NKJV here and throughout]

Mal 2:10 "Have we not all one father? Has not **one God** created us?"

John 17:3 "And this is life eternal, that they might know You, the **only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.**"

Rom 15:6 "That you may with one mind and one mouth glorify **God**, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ."

1 Cor 8:4-6 "there is **none other God but one**. ... 6 But to us there is but **one God, the Father**, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him."

1 Cor 11:3 "the head of Christ is God"

How readest thou?!

Eph 4:6 "One God and Father of all"

1 Thess 1:9-10 "and how you turned to God from idols to serve the **living and true God**; and to wait for his Son from heaven."

1 Tim 2:5 "For there is **one God**, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus."

James 2:19 "You believe there is **one God**; you do well!"

2 John 3 "Grace be with you, mercy, and peace, from **God the Father**, and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love."

ELLEN WHITE

• "The Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of the Father, is truly God in infinity, but not in personality" (Ms 116-1905.19).

• "There is a personal God, the Father; there is a personal Christ, the Son" (SDABC 6:1068; RH Nov 8, 1898).

• "The Sovereign of the universe was not alone in His work of beneficence. He had an associate—a co-worker" (PP 34).

• "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" (Lt 300-1903; RH Mar 8 1906 par. 19).

• "A denial of the personality of God...take[s] away the vital principles which have made us a separate people" (Ms 8, 1914).

• "The man who does not know God as his Father, and Jesus Christ as the **only begotten Son of the infinite God**, cannot rule wisely" (17MR 318.4).

SCHOLARS

• "The concept of Trinity ... that the three are one, is not explicitly stated but only assumed" (F. Canale, SDABC 12:138 [2000]).

• "No text of Scripture specifically says that God is three Persons" (K. Donkor [BRI], *Theology*, 2015, p. 20). No "Thus saith the Lord!"

• "That most of the leading SDA pioneers were non-Trinitarian" is "accepted Adventist history...either the pioneers were wrong and the present church is right, or the pioneers were right and the present Seventh-day Adventist Church has apostatized from biblical truth" (J. Moon, *The Trinity*, 1901).

☞ "I feel my spirit stirred within me. I feel to the depth of my being that the truth must be borne to other countries and nations and to all classes. **Let the missionaries of the cross proclaim that there is one God, and one Mediator between God and man, who is Jesus Christ the Son of the Infinite God. This needs to be proclaimed throughout every church in our land.**" (Ms 40-1891.78; Ellen White 1888 Manuscript 88A.3).

THE FUNDAMENTAL ISSUE

Adventists hold to a trinitarian formulation of God that is not found in Scripture, Spirit of Prophecy, or SDA History: 1 God = 3 Gods = 1 God.

"Let the Scriptures be read in simple faith, and let each one form his conceptions of God from His inspired Word." (Letter 214, 1903, Oct. 9, to P. T. Magan and E. A. Sutherland)

"But this I confess unto thee, that after the way which they call heresy, so worship I the God of my fathers, believing all things which are written in the law and in the prophets" (Acts 24:14).

"The Bible teaching of God is the only teaching that is safe for human beings to follow" (Ms 132, 1903, p. 36).

FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES (1872/1889)

1. That there is one God, a personal, spiritual being, the creator of all things, omnipotent, omniscient, and eternal; infinite in wisdom, holiness, justice, goodness, truth, and mercy; unchangeable, and everywhere present by his representative, the Holy Spirit. Ps. 139:7.

2. That there is one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Eternal Father ...

FUNDAMENTAL BELIEFS (SINCE 1980)

2. There is one God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, a unity of three coeternal Persons. ... (Gen 1:26; Deut 6:4; Isa 6:8; Mt 28:19; Jn 3:16; 2Cor 1:21, 22; 13:14; Eph 4:4-6; 1 Pet 1:2.) **Catholic & Ecumenical wording**

✗ None of these Bible texts define God as 3

4. God the Eternal ✗ Wording not found in Bible or Ellen White!

5. God the Eternal Spirit

MY BAPTISMAL VOWS (1986!)

1. I believe in God the Father, His Son Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. Simple. Clear. Biblical.

HISTORICAL ADVENTIST PREAMBLE

"In presenting to the public this synopsis of our faith, we wish to have it distinctly understood that we have no articles of faith, creed, or discipline, aside from the Bible. We do not put forth this as having any authority with our people, nor is it designed to secure uniformity among them, as a system of faith, but is a brief statement of what is, and has been, with great unanimity, held by them."

→ **NAD, Issues (1992), p. 50:** "Complex theological definitions, the Trinity, for example, may serve the church well in general but cannot be imposed as a test for all Adventists everywhere. ... Remembering our non-Trinitarian past as well as the simplicity of our landmarks should encourage a certain humility in the church and lead us to resist any attempt by one segment of the church to impose its views on the rest." Amen!

"If unsound doctrine is introduced, it will endanger the flock of Christ. It is the duty of those in authority, who are jealous for the truth as it is in Jesus, to make a firm, decided protest. This expression of rebuke will often be used to create sympathy for the reprobated. The harm that is thus done to precious souls and to Christ's kingdom is not considered. At this crisis is the time to decide who are God's faithful sentinels, who will be true to principle; who will bear in mind that truth is too dearly purchased for its least principle to be surrendered" (15MR 159.3).

CURRENT BAPTISMAL VOWS

1. Do you believe there is **one God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit**, a unity of three coeternal Persons? **1=3=1?!**

Trinity means 1 God = 3 Gods = 1 God

✗ Trinity does not mean Father, Son, Holy Spirit
✗ Trinity does not mean Heavenly Trio*
✗ Trinity does not mean Godhead
✗ not biblical; not in Spirit of Prophecy
✗ not voted at a GC in session until 1980!

*Some church fathers and SDA pioneers used "Trinity" as "Trio", not as Fundamental Belief #2 defines God today.

1. Formulation of a creed **Toughborough's Warning**
2. The creed as a test of fellowship
3. Condemnation of Bible-believers as heretics
4. Disfellowship heretics
5. Persecution (COOD 76-77) **5 Steps to Apostasy**

"His Church must be kept free from all false doctrine" because "error is never harmless"! (Ms 46, 1905 par. 6; CW 46)

"Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints."

THE *FUNDAMENTAL* ISSUE

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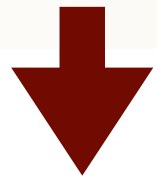
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1872/1889

Fundamental Principles → Beliefs 1980 ...



1. That there is one God, a personal, spiritual being, the creator of all things, omnipotent, omniscient, and eternal; infinite in wisdom, holiness, justice, goodness, truth, and mercy; unchangeable, and everywhere present by his representative, the Holy Spirit. Ps. 139:7.

2. That there is one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Eternal Father ...



2. There is one God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, a unity of three coeternal Persons. ... (Gen 1:26; Deut 6:4; Isa 6:8; Mt 28:19; Jn 3:16; 2Cor 1:21, 22; 13:14; Eph 4:4-6; 1 Pet 1:2.)

✗ Catholic & Ecumenical wording

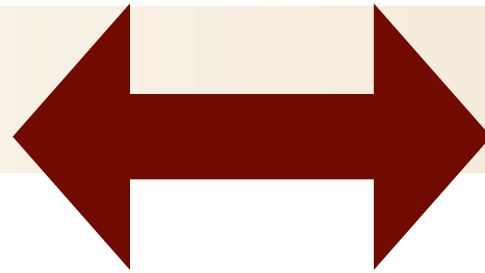
✗ **None of these Bible texts define God as 3**

4. God the Eternal Son

5. God the Eternal Spirit

✗ *Wording not found in Bible or Ellen White!*

Baptismal Vow 1986



Today

1. I believe in God the Father, His Son Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit.

Do you believe there is **one God**: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, a unity of three coeternal Persons?

1=3=1?!

The *Fundamental* Issue

It's not what I think, say, believe . . .

**It's what the church has articulated
- and changed -
about God.**

1889 Historic Preamble

"In presenting to the public this synopsis of our faith, we wish to have it distinctly understood that we have no articles of faith, creed, or discipline, aside from the Bible. We do not put forth this as having any authority with our people, nor is it designed to secure uniformity among them, as a system of faith, but is a brief statement of what is, and has been, with great unanimity, held by them."

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The J. N. Loughborough Warning



1. Formulation of a creed
2. The creed as a test of fellowship
3. Condemnation of Bible-believers as heretics
4. Disfellowship heretics
5. Persecution to Apostasy (COOD 76-77)

**"His Church must be kept free from
all false doctrine" because
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(Ms 46, 1905 par. 6; CW 46)



Crisis



"If unsound doctrine is introduced, it will endanger the flock of Christ. It is the duty of those in authority, who are jealous for the truth as it is in Jesus, to make a firm, decided protest. This expression of rebuke will often be used to create sympathy for the reproved.

The harm that is thus done to precious souls and to Christ's kingdom is not considered. At this crisis is the time to decide who are God's faithful sentinels, who will be true to principle; who will bear in mind that truth is too dearly purchased for its least principle to be surrendered" (15MR 159.3).



Old Testament

Deut 4:35 "the LORD he is God; there is none else beside him." Deut 32:39; Job 42:7; 1Kgs 8:60; Isa 42:8; 43:10-11; 44:6,8; 45:18-22; 46:9; Hos 13:4; Neh 9:6; 1Chr 17:20

Deut 6:4 The Bible's & Jesus' highest profession (Mark 12:29-34!)

Isa 45:5 "... there is no God beside Me."

Mal 2:10 "Have we not all one father? Has not one God created us?"

(NKJV here and throughout)

What is monotheism?



New Testament

John 17:3 "And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent."

Rom 15:6 "That you may with one mind and one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ."

1 Cor 8:4-6 "there is none other God but one. ... 6 But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him."

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2 John 3 "Grace be with you, mercy, and peace, from God the Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love."

New Testament

Romans 3:30

"since *there is* one God who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith."



Revelation 3:12

"My God" 4 times in 1 verse!

"He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of **My God**, and he shall go out no more. I will write on him the name of **My God** and the name of the city of **My God**, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from **My God**. And I will write on him My new name."

Ellen White

- “The Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of the Father, is truly God in infinity, but not in personality” (Ms 116-1905.19).
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Theologians

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(J. Moon, The Trinity, 190)

My Top Quote

✍️ "I feel my spirit stirred within me. I feel to the depth of my being that the truth must be borne to other countries and nations and to all classes. Let the missionaries of the cross proclaim that **there is one God, and one Mediator between God and man, who is Jesus Christ the Son of the Infinite God. This needs to be proclaimed throughout every church in our land.**"

(Ms40-1891.78; Ellen White 1888 Materials 886.3).

History Lesson



Review

“We have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us, **and his teaching in our past history**. We are now a strong people, if we will put our trust in the Lord; for we are handling the mighty truths of the word of God. ... we have been made the depositories of sacred truth to be given to the world in all its beauty and glory” (GCDB Jan. 29, 1893, par. 28).

Looking Back

“God calls upon His people to stand firm upon the platform of eternal truth” (Ms 71 par. 53, 1903).

“We are on the very same foundation; we have the same evidence, and we worked on it day and night to know in regard to the sanctuary question, and in regard to the personality of God, and of Christ and of all these subjects” (21 LtMs, Ms 138, 1906).

“But I have ever had the same testimony to bear which I now bear regarding the personality of God” (Lt 253 par. 9, 1903).

Looking back

"Let not erroneous theories receive countenance from the people who ought to be standing firm on the platform of eternal truth. God calls upon us to hold firmly to the Fundamental Principles that are based upon unquestionable authority" (8T 297-298).

"We may be strengthened and confirmed in the past experience that holds us to the essential points of truth which have made us what we are - Seventh-day Adventists. The past fifty years have not dimmed one jot or principle of our faith as we received the great and wonderful evidences that were made certain to us" (Lt 326, 1905).

Past Present

"In this time, when false doctrines are being taught, we are to teach the same truth that we have taught for the past half century. I have not changed my faith one jot or one tittle" (Lt 150, May 15, 1906).

"The truth is the same as it ever has been, and not a pin or a pillar can be moved from the structure of truth. That which was sought for out of the word in 1844, 1845, and 1846 remains the truth in every particular" (Lt 38, 1906).

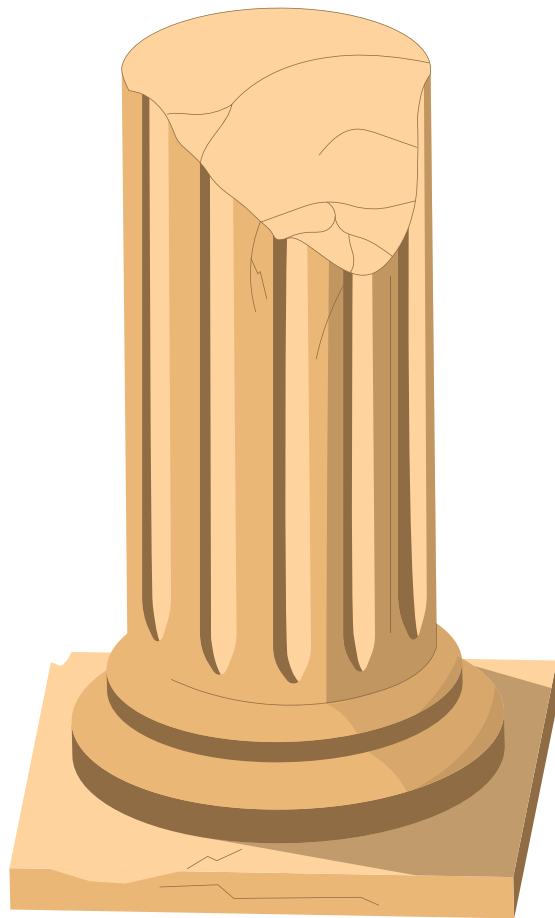
Truth

"The straight line of truth presented to me when I was but a girl is just as clearly presented to me now" (RH Jan 26, 1905).

"If you continue to believe and obey the truths you first embraced regarding the personality of the Father and the Son, you will be joined together with them in love. There will be seen that union for which Christ prayed just before his trial and crucifixion" (Ms 23, 1906).

Rearview Mirror

"Truth is God's basis for
the unity of his people"
(GW1892 391).



"We have no doubt
... that **the doctrines
we hold today are
present truth**, and
that we are nearing
the judgment."

(2T 355)

Top SDA Historical Quote

“But the waymarks which have made us what we are, are to be preserved, and they will be preserved, as God has signified through His word and the testimony of His Spirit. He calls upon us to hold firmly, with the grip of faith, to the fundamental principles that are based upon unquestionable authority” (SpTest., Series B, No. 2:59 (1904).

Q & A

Elohim is Plural!

Yes, grammatically, but the verb בָּרָא *bārā'* (Gen 1:1) and the subsequent pronouns (He, His, Him) are singular. Moses = 1 man = elohim to Aaron (Ex 7:1). Hebrew lexicons don't use Elohim to defend/define a Trinity. Elohim refers to one God (→ Deut 6:4).

Trinity

Elohim = Plural?!

Yes, but . . .

The corresponding verb is singular.

Acts 3:13 "The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of our fathers [= Elohim], glorified His Servant Jesus, whom you delivered up and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he was determined to let Him go."

Gen 2:24 "one flesh"?!

Yes, but Adam & Eve didn't become one human (→ 1 Cor 6:16 "one flesh"; 2 humans).

But Trinity: 3 Gods = 1 God!

Gen 1:26 "Let us make man!"

2 Kings 4:10 has the identical term נַעֲשֶׂה na^aśê between 2 people, not 3. EGW: the Father speaking to the Son (EW 145, 1SG 17, 3SG 33/1SP 24, PP 45, 3SM 133).



Deut 6:4: Is אֶחָד *echad* a compound unity?

Echad is mostly the mathematical term for 1.

1 rib (Gen 2:21)

1 person (Gen 4:19)



Isaiah 9:6: Eternal Father, Mighty God

Jesus ≠ God the Father

~~Modalism!~~

Mighty ≠ Almighty (Rev 21:22)

Matthew 28:19

Matt 28:19: „in the name [singular]” = common authority (Acts 4:7), but the term “God” is not mentioned; 3 ≠ Trinity.

Acts 4:7: “And when they had set them in the midst, they asked, ‘By what **power** or by what **name** have you done this?’”

EGW AA 282.3

"Then the apostle set before them the great truths that are the foundation of the Christian's hope. He told them of Christ's life on this earth and of His cruel death of shame. He told them how the Lord of life had broken the barriers of the tomb and risen triumphant over death. **He repeated the Saviour's commission to His disciples: "All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost." Matthew 28:18, 19.** He told them also of Christ's promise to send the Comforter, through whose power mighty signs and wonders would be wrought, and he described how gloriously this promise had been fulfilled on the Day of Pentecost."

EGW AA 285.1

“There is still another lesson for us in the experience of those Jewish converts. When they received baptism at the hand of John they did not fully comprehend the mission of Jesus as the Sin Bearer. They were holding serious errors. But with clearer light, they gladly accepted Christ as their Redeemer, and with this step of advance came a change in their obligations. As they received a purer faith, there was a corresponding change in their life. In token of this change, and as an acknowledgment of their faith in Christ, they were rebaptized in the name of Jesus.”

The Jewish Annotated New Testament

THIRD EDITION
FULLY REVISED
AND EXPANDED

THE JEWISH
ANNOTATED
NEW TESTAMENT



NEW REVISED STANDARD VERSION
UPDATED EDITION

“Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, the Trinity did not become Christian doctrine until at least the second century (Did. 7.1–3; Ignatius, Magn. 3.2; cf. 1 Cor 8.6; Eph 4.6); a similar formula is found only in 2 Cor 13.13. This occurrence may reflect liturgical usage in Matthew’s later community, as other accounts of baptism (e.g., Acts 2.38) do not use this formula” (Accordance Version, 2nd ed.)

John 1:1 "And the Word was God"

Greek grammar: quality, not quantity

As the Son of God: divine nature, not Trinity

Jesus + the Father are never one God in the Bible or in the writings of Ellen White.

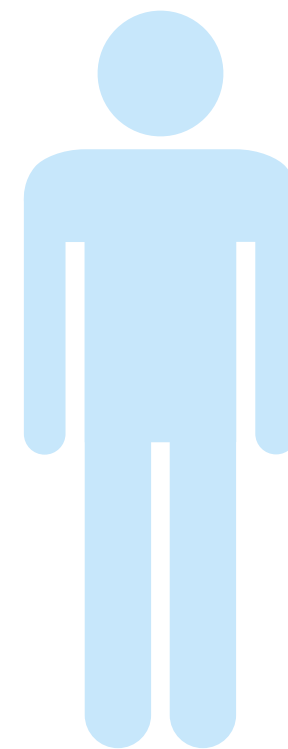
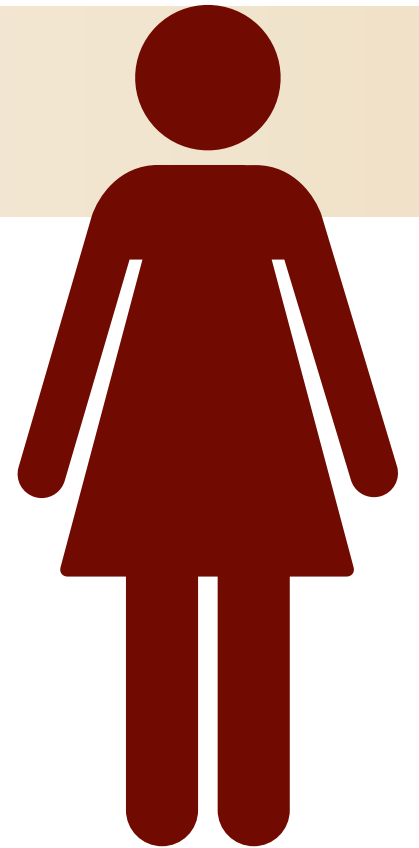


Parallel: Is Eva Adam?!

Genesis 5:1-2:

"This is the book of the genealogy of **Adam**. In the day that God created **man**, He made **him** in the likeness of God. 2 He created **them** male and female, and blessed **them** and called **them Mankind** [Hebr. **Adam**] in the day **they** were created."

**Eve = Adam = human nature,
but Eve ≠ Adam ≠ person**



John 10:30

„I and the Father are one.“

Greek ἓν *hen* is neuter: *not one Theos (masculine)*. Father and Son “are one in purpose, in mind, in character, but not in person. It is thus that God and Christ are one” (MH 422).

They are not together one God.

Trinity

2. Corinthians 13:13

“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.”

Only the Father is referred to as God!



1. John 5,7-8

KJV: "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."



NIV: "For there are three that testify: 8 the Spirit, the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement."

SDA Bible Commentary (and trinitarian theologians): a later addition, not original.

In any case not a trinitarian text at all: 3 agree in their testimony; they are not one God.

→ verse 8: spirit, water, blood are not one being; they agree in their testimony!



"Heavenly Trio"

Exactly. 3, not 1. Trio $\neq$ Trinity

At the baptism of Jesus: 3 $\neq$ 1

Ellen White corrected trinitarian William Boardman with the phrase Heavenly Trio!



Love = Plurality

Unbiblical speculation: 1 John 4:8 ("**God** is love"): **God** is not a plurality, but **God the Father**, who gave us His Son – the Gospel (1 John 4:9)!

"He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. 9 In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him."



Jesus "in the Godhead"

"Aren't you reducing the role of Jesus in the Godhead?!"

To the contrary - I uplift the divinity of Christ 100%, as true Son of God, as He was begotten of the Father. And I affirm the personality of the Holy Spirit.

Godhead ≠ group of 3 (Acts 17:29; Rom 1:20; Col 2:9)



DA 530

“In Christ is life, original, unborrowed, underived.”

This misinterpreted quote is - ironically - not original to Ellen White; it originated with W. Channing and J. Cumming, and was - also ironically - published in a unitarian publication.

The point of the quote: the divinity of Christ assures believers of eternal life. “In these words is set forth the great principle which is the law of life for the universe. All things Christ received from God, but He took to give. So in the heavenly courts, in His ministry for all created beings: **through the beloved Son, the Father’s life flows out to all; through the Son it returns**, in praise and joyous service, a tide of love, to the great Source of all. And thus through Christ the circuit of beneficence is complete, representing the character of the great Giver, the law of life” (DA 21).

“Christ is invested with power to give life to all creatures” (RH, April 5, 1906, par. 12).

Ellen White’s original publication (Ms 2-1896; ST, 8. April 1897) cites John 17:3 in the context of the Alpha-Omega crisis! 🚩

**You should just become
a Jehovah's Witness!**



**Why should I?! I'm an original SDA!
I don't believe Jesus was created.
~~Sunday~~
Etc.**

Is this new light?! 

No - but the doctrine of the Trinity is - not voted at a General Conference in session until 1980!

1980!

Over 130 years of Adventism without Trinity!

Trinity

Silence is golden?!

**The church has not
remained silent but codified error.**

It this really that important?

Sabbath → Sunday?!

This concerns the God of the Sabbath! Revelation 14:7 points to Exodus 20:11 and to God the Father three times (Matthew 16:16; Acts 14:15), issuing a final, worldwide call to worship!

The biblical understanding of God is therefore of the utmost importance.

→ Deuteronomy 6:4-9 (the greatest commandment!) → a corresponding contrast to Revelation 14:9!

Worship

Worship!

“Are we worshipers of Jehovah, or of Baal? of the living God, or of idols? No outward shrines may be visible; there may be no image for the eye to rest upon; yet we may be practicing idolatry. It is as easy to make an idol of cherished ideas or objects as to fashion gods of wood or stone. Thousands have a false conception of God and His attributes. They are as verily serving a false god as were the servants of Baal” (RH Dec 3, 1908). So “... let us make use of every opportunity to know the one true God, and Jesus Christ whom he hath sent” (YI Dec. 21, 1893, par. 5).

The *Fundamental* Issue

It's not what I think, say, believe . . .

**It's what the church has articulated
- and changed -
about God.**

A Plea with God's People



An Appeal to the Remnant