

History MC-2

Forgetting the Way the Lord Has Led Us

Important note to the reader - Much of the content of this study comes from Michael McCaffrey's Video – "But Whom Say Ye That I Am"-Part 2. We strongly encourage you to watch his video, presented in the form of a personal testimony. https://youtu.be/_Fbe0eh81zw?list=PLr0S14xfwHIT498jANzzA239pwg-mbKdb We believe his work to be inspired as his research has uncovered many Scriptures, Spirit of Prophecy Quotes, historical facts of our pioneers and other references, which will clearly show that every Seventh-day Adventist today who has a belief in the trinity doctrine as stated in the Fundamental Beliefs, has departed from the faith God gave to the pioneers, and confirmed by His Spirit. His presentation will make the danger clear and obvious. This study was prepared by Richard C. Vaughn.

In Part 1, we studied the Sonship of Christ and the Spirit of Christ. Now in this next part, we want to take a look at the history of this controversy, within the Seventh-day Adventist Church, which again is one of the most interesting and fascinating subjects, when it comes to understanding this whole topic of the trinity.

Did Ellen White believe in the trinity? Did the Pioneers? After the loud cry was beginning to sound, and after Christ could have come in the 1890's, did the Pioneers and Ellen White suddenly then realize that they were worshiping the wrong God? If they were worshiping the wrong God, how was it that Christ could have come?

One thing we can look at that really gives us some perspective, while helping us to confirm exactly which view of God is correct, is by looking at the history. We need a point of historical reference, and that's why it's so important, to know how God led His people, and His teaching in our past history. Now it's not the history of the church alone that we will find surprising, but also, even some statements made today, concerning our church's beliefs, about who God is.

For example, the church admitting that the trinity is an assumption. We would quite naturally assume that the church's stance on the trinity, would be based on sound Biblical hermeneutics, which is why we should all be surprised to hear from the church itself, that it wasn't.

Now take this statement: "**The concept of the Trinity, namely the idea that the three are one, is not explicitly stated but only assumed.**" (Seventh-day Adventist Encyclopedia Vol. 12 p. 138)

In another book we read this: "**The role of the trinity in a doctrine of God always raises questions. One reason is that the word itself does not appear in the Bible, nor is there any clear statement of the idea. But the bible does set the stage for its formulation, and the concept represents a development of biblical claims and concepts. So even though the doctrine of the trinity is not part of what the Bible itself says about God, it is part of what the church must say to safeguard the biblical view of God." (An Introduction to Christian Theology from a Seventh-day Adventist perspective p.89) Now, that is a shocking statement, because, the trinity is not part of what the Bible says about God, they admit this, but the church must believe it, anyway. It's hard to believe that the author, called the trinity a "biblical view of God", and says that**

“the doctrine of the trinity is not part of what the Bible itself says about God” in the same sentence. Where is the reasoning behind that?

There’s another statement here from the Adventist Review, from 1981. This was just one year after the doctrine of the trinity had formally become a fundamental belief of the Seventh-day Adventist church: **“While no single scriptural passage states formally the doctrine of the Trinity, it is assumed as a fact by the Bible writers... Only by faith can we accept the existence of the Trinity.”** (Adventist Review Jul 30, 1981 p.4) This statement flies in the face of everything we know about studying the Bible. In studying the Bible, you must have a “thus sayeth the Lord”, to establish a doctrine or an idea, or a concept, especially when it comes to understanding who God is. And for some of us who have been studying the Bible for years, we know not to accept any doctrine, without a “Thus Sayeth the Lord”.

There are many Seventh-day Adventist theologians and historians, who have admitted that the trinity doctrine has no basis in Scripture. And still, we should all be shocked to see this admission, on the official Seventh-day Adventist church web site: **“The Bible’s clear allusions to the Trinity are enough for Adventists.”** This is a statement so contrary to Scripture.

We are told: **“Before accepting any doctrine or precept, we should demand a plain “Thus saith the Lord” in its support.”** (4SP 413.2)

NO “clear allusion” is NOT good enough for any true follower of Christ, or for any true Seventh-day Adventist. Yet the “clear allusion to the Trinity” doctrine that “is not explicitly stated, but only assumed” is enshrined as the number 2 Fundamental Belief of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and is a requirement for church membership. And if anyone disagrees with this “clear allusion”, they are mocked, ridiculed, branded as a heretic, or an outcast, and often disfellowshipped from the church.

What then is the non-trinitarian view of God, plainly stated? That there is one true God, and He had an Only Begotten Son, and the Holy Spirit is Their shared omnipresence. As we will see in this study, it was the position of Ellen White and the pioneers for at least 50 years.

When attempting to share this remarkable truth, that God has sent to wake up His end-time church, only a few are willing to investigate the matter. Some of those are closed minded and only look for errors, not potential truth. The remainder study all that they can and rejoice in the liberating truth. Sadly, the majority of those approached reject it outright.

There is one power that God does not possess, and that is the power to open a closed mind. Good works can save no one.

One true God non-trinitarian Seventh-day Adventists who take a non-compromising stand are often disfellowshipped, a very small price to pay for taking a stand for truth.

Unfortunately, a lot of people just won’t study the matter, as they are afraid of the implication, of realizing that it would place them at odds with the church. But they don’t realize, that the Laodicean church, is at odds with Jesus, which is why we see Jesus outside the church, knocking at the door and saying: **“Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.”** (Revelation 3:20)

No other issue has ever caused such a shaking. a spiritual earthquake you could say, and it isn’t the foundation of the Bible or the Spirit of Prophecy, that is breaking up and breaking apart. Could it be the foundational teaching, of the Seven-day Adventist church, concerning who God is, that is breaking apart? That is what we will study and answer in this lesson.

Over and over again, the words of inspiration, are harmonious, and sound, while it is the words of men that are crumbling to dust. What more could God do, if the greater part of the denomination are choosing to reject the eternally life-saving messages of God’s faithful servants

who will be sealed with the Father's name in their foreheads, while all the rest have the trinity in theirs.

God's prophet wrote these appropriate words to the current situation: ***"The leaven of godliness has not entirely lost its power. At the time when the danger and depression of the church are greatest, the little company who are standing in the light will be sighing and crying for the abominations that are done in the land. But more especially will their prayers arise in behalf of the church because its members are doing after the manner of the world."***--5T 209, 210 (1882). {LDE 83.1}

We ask why are the admired men of the Seventh-day Adventist Church not seeing it? All the leaders from pastors of churches, presidents of conferences and unions, division leaders on up to the highest positions of the General Conference, and the leaders in some of the biggest independent ministries, why can't they see it? These are brilliant men who should be at the forefront of the battle, but instead they are defending the false doctrine of the trinity. WHY?? What did Jesus have Ellen White write in anticipation of this sad time? She wrote: ***"Many a star that we have admired for its brilliance will then go out in darkness."***--PK 188 (c. 1914). {LDE 178.3}

Well, let's get back to where the Seventh-day Adventist church is today. The church is not all that it professes to be. Many have forsaken the health message and numerous compromises would make the church unrecognizable to our pioneers.

Today, Satan has found more sophisticated ways to make sinners out of saints. Ancient Israel was drawn into the worship of idols made by men's hands. Today however, modern Israel has been drawn in to worshipping idols made by men's minds, philosophical ideas.

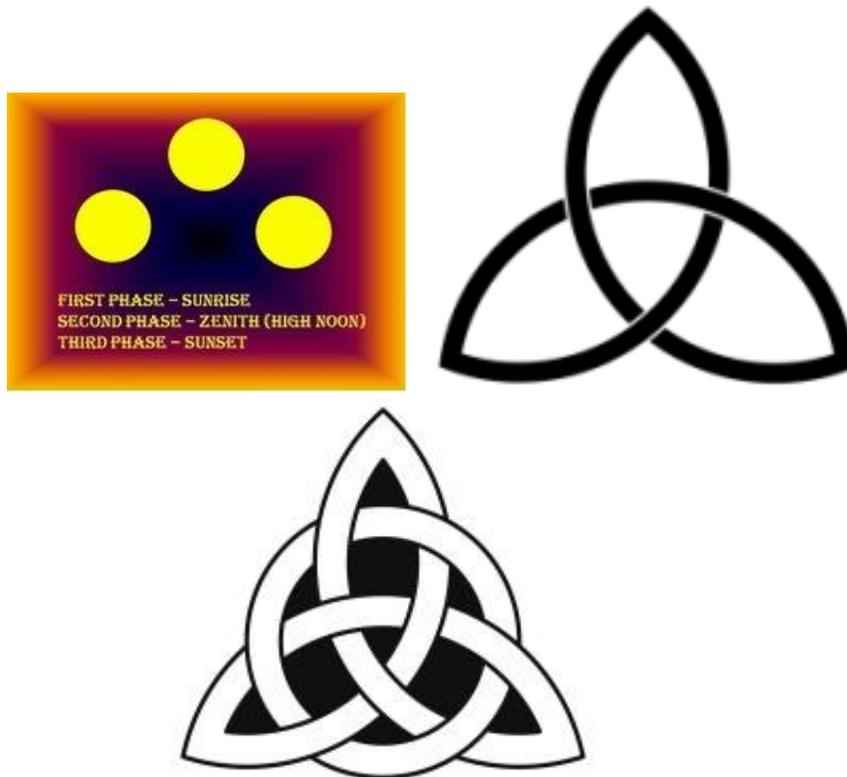
And we read about this from Sister White: ***"No outward shrines may be visible, there may be no image for the eye to rest upon, yet we may be practicing idolatry. It is as easy to make an idol of cherished ideas or objects as to fashion gods of wood or stone. Thousands have a false conception of God and His attributes. They are as verily serving a false god as were the servants of Baal."*** (Lift Him Up 143.4) Now this is a strong statement, because it tells us, that, to worship, "a false conception of God" is just as much "idol worship" as worshipping "false objects". And if we are worshipping "a false conception of God" in the Seventh-day Adventist church, then Sister White is telling us that "we are as verily worshipping a false god as were the servants of Baal."

Sister White tell us: ***"With many, a philosophical idol is enthroned in the place of Jehovah; while the living God, as He is revealed in His word, in Christ, and in the works of creation, is worshiped by but few. Thousands deify nature while they deny the God of nature. Though in a different form, idolatry exists in the Christian world today as verily as it existed among ancient Israel in the days of Elijah. The god of many professedly wise men, of philosophers, poets, politicians, journalists--the god of polished fashionable circles, of many colleges and universities, even of some theological institutions--is little better than Baal, the sun-god of Phoenicia."*** {GC 583.1} So, in this statement we see that to embrace a view of God that is at odds with how "He is revealed in His Word" is "idolatry."

We read: ***"Three became the most universal number of deity. Sun worship is one of the most primitive forms of religion, and early man sometimes distinguished between rising, midday, and setting sun. The Egyptians, for example, divided the sun god in three deities: Horus, rising sun, Ra or Re, midday sun, and Osiris, old setting sun."*** (Egyptian Deities, New International Encyclopedia. NY: Dodd, 1917. Volume 7 p. 529) So, here we can see another layer of

revelation, of how these concepts of the trinity, actually came, from Babylon, and the worship of the sun.

And we see again in this statement: **“The ancient Babylonians recognized the doctrine of a trinity, or three persons in one God – as appears from a composite god with three heads forming part of their mythology, and the use of the equilateral triangle, also, as an emblem of such trinity in unity.”** (Thomas Dennis Rock, *The Mystical Woman and the Cities of the Nations*, 1867, pp. 22,23)



The combination of these three suns, or sun god, is what forms the **triquetra** (See above). A symbol still used today, even by Adventists, to supposedly represent the God of the Bible. It's even found in the KJV Bible. In this way, the rising sun, the midday sun and the setting sun are overlapped, and brought together to form the triquetra symbol. And if this view of the trinity comes from sun worship, which comes from ancient Babylon, how can the Seventh-day Adventist church give the second angel's message? How can Seventh-day Adventists, call, those in the systems of Babylon, out of sun worship, into a different form of sun worship?

Now, we know that these things will be difficult for Seventh-day Adventists, especially, those who have grown up in the church. The difficulties before them, in accepting the truth about the Son of God and His Spirit, are enormous, and as a result, we know that few will venture to even consider these things. It will require a tremendous sacrifice, to even open themselves up, to grasp the possibility, that what the church believes about who God is, the fundamental belief of the trinity, might be incorrect. And we do not envy their position, but we can identify with it, because we were once deceived by it also. We know the challenges that come with that, but we also know what it's

like to be at the end of that deception, and the feeling of freedom and liberation that the truth gives, that our pioneers believed in. It is freedom to one who clearly sees through the deception.

This is why we all need to venture into an objective study of who God is, because our motive should always be to just know the truth. We should be ready to say, if what I have believed is wrong, it's time that I know it. No one wants to be lost, so if I have been wrong, then it will be time to lay the false beliefs on the altar, because I know, that if it's truth, it will bear investigation.

And so, we would just want to encourage you, especially if you've been raised Adventist, to realize that, in opening yourself up, and just studying with an open mind what the truth could be, and setting aside your biases and preconceived ideas, that you're not forsaken of Christ. Jesus is not forsaking you, to the contrary, He longs, to show you truth, to bring you into closer fellowship with Him who is the truth. And all truth, again, will lead us to Christ. So, we really have nothing to fear, by, putting on the altar, our preconceived notions, and our present beliefs, and laying them subject to investigation, because, as you will learn, only good can come out of that. Either what we believe will be vindicated, and held up to truth, and to scrutiny; or, we will be led to a, clearer conception of what is true, and as a result have a closer, relationship with Christ.

But when it comes to Adventism, not all is negative. There is some terrific news, and that is that, Seventh-day Adventism is not a fraud. In studying the subject, we find that God's hand was upon the establishment, and directing of this movement, to even a greater degree than we may have previously realized. We find greater hope and more confidence in Christ as our leader, and we are greatly encouraged by the fact, that, the historical belief of the Seventh-day Adventist church was in harmony with the truth. And studying the history of the church, we are going to see that God had warned of an apostasy and of this heresy, that would come into the church. The warning of God, and the pleadings of Sister White, in talking about this subject, and in giving serious warnings to the church, and emphasizing the importance of the historical beliefs of the church, gave credence to the fact that Christ was in control. He was leading His church, and that He has not left His people without a guide and without a sufficient warning. Satan's subtlety and the passing of time, coupled with sleeping watchmen, leading the church to where it now is, has not taken God by surprise. He saw it coming and that was the purpose of the adequate warnings.

Christ through Ellen White has given us this warning: ***"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."*** (Ms 139-1901.28)

So, we see that in the warning is the lesson, that the teachings of the past Advent movement, were to be considered truth. For the warning, is against accepting and believing anything in the future that would contradict God's leading and teaching in the past. Especially the years from the time of 1844, to about 1892. In other words, in the first half century of the Advent movement.

And when we study how the Lord led His people, we realize that over, and over again, Ellen White warned us that the foundational pillars, upon which the Seventh-day Adventist church was established, would one day in the future, be accounted as error, thereby, forgetting both the way, the Lord has led us, and His teaching in our past history. And as a result, a new foundation would be established.

Now, in the first 50 years, what the Pioneers and Ellen White taught and believed about God, was the truth, and we see this, again, over and over and over again. We need to read some of these statements, just so that you can get the impression from these statements, and realizing, the veracity, and the degree to which God has established this view in the minds of the Advent movement, to set them on a firm foundation, that would equip them, to give the last message of warning and mercy to the world.

So, here is what Ellen White, had to say about the first 50 years of the Seventh-day Advent movement. In 1906 she wrote: **“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.”** (Lt150-1906.9)

Now, this is important because even today, many are saying that Ellen White changed her view of God. That the Pioneers changed their view of God. That under the guise of present truth, their ideas evolved, and they came into a new understanding of who God is. But sister White completely contradicts this idea, this notion. So, let us lay to rest, the lie that sister White has changed her idea concerning who God is. She herself said in 1906: **“I have not changed my faith one jot or one tittle.”** The belief that Ellen White changed her view of who God is, is still held today, by, leadership in the Seventh-day Adventist church, and you would not know otherwise without investigation as we are now doing..

Take these two statements for example, from 2006: **“In previous research I have traced the development of the Adventist doctrine of God from opposition to the Trinity doctrine as traditionally formulated to acceptance of the biblical concept of one God in three persons. I have also traced the clear progression in Ellen White’s visions from 1850 onward, showing that her visions gradually formed her concept of God until by 1898, when she published Desire of Ages, she held a trinitarian concept.”** (Jerry A. Moon “The Advent Trinity Debate” Andrews University Seminary Studies, No. 2 Autumn 2003: 275-292) **“Could it be that these passages express Ellen White’s understanding of Christ’s position in heaven at that time and that as time progressed, she received more light, which eventually led to her very clear Trinitarian statements in the late 1890s?”** (Jerry A. Moon)

Why does Moon and the church today claim that she became a trinitarian with the publication of her book, “The Desire of Ages”, in 1898? It was one statement on page 530, which says, **“In Christ is life, original, unborrowed, underived.”** {DA 530.3} The trinitarians rejoiced, then and today, who never understood what she had written. The Father had life original, unborrowed and underived. When Jesus came out from the Father, He had the Father’s life. It is immortality. And Jesus will give this same life, the Father’s life to all the redeemed. In her statements after 1898, she clearly states she made no changes in her beliefs. Let’s move on.

So, the question heeding to be answered is: Did Sister White change her view of who God is and become a trinitarian? What did sister White herself say? Again, she said in 1905: **“I appreciate the truth, every jot of it, just as it has been given to me by the Holy Spirit for the last fifty years. I desire everyone to know that I stand on the same platform of truth that we have maintained for more than half a century. That is the testimony I desire to bear on the day that I am seventy-eight years of age.”** (Manuscript 142, 1905, 1,2. 4MR 44.5)

So, again, we see Ellen White responding to these sentiments that she changed her view, and saying that she did **not** change her view, but that she held the same view for the last half century. She made this clear statement in 1905, and yet Jerry Moon’s research led him to believe that Ellen White changed her view on God in the late 1890’s.

In the same year, 1905 she also said: **“The truth that we proclaim today is the same truth that we have proclaimed for the last fifty years.”** (Ms 140-1905.6)

Then in 1906: **“And now, after half a century of clear light from the Word as to what is truth, there are arising many false theories to unsettle minds. But the evidence given in our early experience has the same force that it had then. 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 today in every particular.” (Lt38-1906.3)

As a reminder, in 1844, the clear majority of the pioneers had come out of churches who taught the trinity. This is one of the first false doctrines that God taught the corrected truth on. The proof is that for the first 50 years, there was unanimity amongst the pioneers as to who God is. Doesn't common sense teach us that if the trinity were a true doctrine, wouldn't the pioneers have remained trinitarians? Sister White was a Methodist. But when God gave the clear non-trinitarian teaching to these pioneers, Sister White went into her grave never believing otherwise.

Continuing, look at this statement: ***“Let none seek to tear away the foundations of our faith – the foundations that were laid at the beginning of our work by prayerful study of the word and by revelation. Upon these foundations we have been building for the last fifty years. Men may suppose that they have found a new way and that they can lay a stronger foundation that that which has been laid. But this is a great deception. Other foundation can no man lay than that which has been laid.”*** (8T 297.1)

Also, this statement: ***“Where shall we find safety unless it be in the truths that the Lord has been giving for the last fifty years?”*** (Counsels to Writers and Editors, 53. CIHS 11.2)

And: ***“How dangerous it is so to exalt any man that he becomes confused, and confuses the minds of others in regard to the truths that for the last fifty years the Lord has been giving his people.”*** (SpTB07 36-37)

And this statement: ***“I entreat our medical missionary workers to be afraid to trust the suppositions and devisings of any human being who entertains the thought that the path over which the people of God have been led for the last fifty years is a wrong path. Beware of those who, not having had any decided experience in the leading of the Lord's Spirit, would suppose that this leading is all a fallacy; that we have not the truth; that we are not the people of the Lord, gathered by Him for all countries and nations. Beware of those who would tear down the foundation, upon which we have been building for the last fifty years, to establish a new doctrine. I know that these new theories are from the enemy.”*** (Ms137-1903.10)

We need to point out that she said in 1903, the very year that the church was in a crisis, over the concept of who God is, over the presence and personality of God. And there are many more statements just like these, emphasizing the veracity of truth, that God had given his people, in the first 50 years. Now, think very carefully on these things, because, these warnings describe nearly every leader in the denomination, right up to and including the General Conference president, who all believe that what the Pioneers and Sister White advocated in the first 50 years concerning God, is error. For such individuals advocating these ideas, Ellen White said, to be ***“be afraid”*** of them. ***“Be afraid of those who would tearing down the foundation”, “to establish a new doctrine.”*** And that is exactly what the trinity is. A new doctrine, that undermines the pillars of the Advent Faith concerning the presence and the personality of God.

Now, God had given the Pioneers, the true understanding, and it was the enemy then, that brought in these new ideas, that undermine the old truths, that God had given. And, one more warning I want to share, goes into more detail, concerning this change that the enemy was bringing upon our people.

Sister White warns: ***“The enemy of souls has sought to bring in the supposition that a great reformation was to take place among Seventh-day Adventist, 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... Their foundation (because it is not the original foundation) would be built on the sand, and storm and tempest would sweep away the structure.”*** (Lt242-1903.13) – The only part of that amazing prophecy that has not been fulfilled is the last eight words.

The quickest way to change your religion, or change a religion, is to change gods, and to change the God that you worship. And that is exactly what has happened. How would it be changed? “The fundamental principles that have sustained the work for the last fifty years would be accounted as error.” And upon this basis, that the old fundamental principles of the first 50 years were error, upon this basis “A new organization would be established”. And ultimately, the structure of this new organization, would be built on a “foundation of sand”, that would consist of rejecting the truths given to the Advent people during the first 50 years. And as a result, “storm and tempest would sweep away the structure.”

The 1872 Fundamental Principles is a declaration of the beliefs taught and practiced by Pioneer Seventh-day Adventists. These principles consist of the understanding that our Pioneers and Sister White held, concerning God, and other doctrines. When you take these Fundamental Principles of those first fifty years, and compare them with today’s 28 Fundamental Beliefs, there is a glaring difference. These two sets of beliefs consist of two different religions. In the 1872 Fundamental Principles, the accepted understanding was the non-trinitarian view of God, that God in His wisdom had given to the remnant church, to the Seventh-day Adventist during the first 50 years of the movement.

So, this new view, that incorporates and includes the trinity doctrine, which began coming into the church in the 1890’s, and carried on into the early 1900’s, into the crisis of 1903 that nearly split the church, concerning which view of God was correct.

Listen to this statement, in the Adventist Review from 1994: **“Adventist beliefs have changed over the years under the impact of ‘present truth’. Most startling is the teaching regarding Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord... the Trinitarian understanding of God, now part of our fundamental beliefs was not generally held by the early Adventists. Even a few today do not subscribe to it.”** (William Johnsson, “Present Truth: Walking in God’s Light”, Adventist Review, Jan 6, 1994, p. 10)

Note - The most significant change to take place in our religion, is that concerning Jesus Christ, in particular, His Sonship, and His Spirit. And these two views are reflected, by these two, foundations. The foundation: The Fundamental Principles held by the early Adventist in the first 50 years, versus, the 28 Fundamental Beliefs, now held by the present Seventh-day Adventist church. And these two beliefs are **antithetical** to one another.

Either, the Pioneers and Sister White were under a great delusion for the first 50 years, and Ellen White is a false Prophet, and the present Seventh-day Adventist church is correct, or, the views held by the Pioneers and Ellen White during the first 50 years are correct, and the present Seventh-day Adventist church has apostatized from biblical truth. And that is what one Andrews University historian was suggesting in a 2002 book about the Trinity.

It is true that the trinitarian understanding of God, now part of the present Fundamental Beliefs, was not held by early Adventists. It wasn't until about the 1890's, after the first 50 years of the movement, the different view was presenting a challenge. Understand that by this time, the church was growing rapidly, and many new converts were still coming from trinitarian backgrounds. It wasn't until 1980 in a General Conference session, that the trinity doctrine was officially voted in, and with little protest, as a doctrine of the Seventh-day Adventist church, 65 years after the death of Ellen White.

From the early 1890's, past the turn of the century, conflicting ideas about God were swelling to a crisis, and this was exacerbated by the denominations leading physician, John Harvey Kellogg, especially by the book he authored and published, called "The Living Temple". Now about this time, after the publication of "The Living Temple", things were astir in the church, regarding who God is. There was an uprising, a rebellion that was taking place. Satan was at work, bringing in new theories, as Sister White warned that would lead to spiritualism: **"... such ideas would lead the people into spiritualism."** (Letter 271a, 1903, 5BIO 302.7)

The judgements of God were falling upon Adventist institutions and publishing houses, in the form of destructive fires. And the prophet of God was given visions and dreams, and was up at 1am, writing out warnings for the church as fast as her hand could pass over the paper.

"That night I was up at one o'clock, writing as fast as my hand could pass over the paper." (Lt238-1903.3)

It was, a turbulent time, in the history of our church. This whole controversy had swelled to a crisis point that culminated at the Autumn council of 1903, held in Washington D.C. At this time, Sister White had written some letters to the church, and they had arrived, at the council, the last weekend, the council was taking place. The letters were received by then General Conference president, A.G. Daniels, and read by him before all the council attendees Sunday morning.

Now again, remember that at this time, the emotions were high, and opinions were heated and there was intense debate going on concerning the presence and personality of God. And, it was imperative that this being one of the landmarks of our faith, that this one key crisis in our history as Seventh-day Adventists, in which the Lord intervened. Remember that statement **"That we need to know the way that the Lord has led His people and His teaching in our past history"**. Well this is one of those moments that we need to understand how the Lord led His people.

The letter from the prophet, to the council, began: **"I have some things to say to our teachers in reference to the new book, "The Living Temple." Be careful how you sustain the sentiments of this book regarding the personality of God. As the Lord represents matters to me, these sentiments do not bear the endorsement of God. They are a snare that the enemy has prepared for these last days. I thought that this would surely be discerned, and that it would not be necessary for me to say anything about it. But since the claim has been made that the teachings of this book can be sustained by statements from my writings, I am compelled to speak in denial of this claim. This may give apparent support to the assertion that the sentiments in "The Living Temple" are in harmony with my writings. But God forbid that this opinion should prevail. We need not the mysticism that is in this book. Those who entertain these sophistries will soon find themselves in a position where the enemy can talk with them and lead them away from God. It is represented to me that the writer of this book is on a false track. He has lost sight of the distinguishing truths for this time. He knows not whither his steps are tending. I am placed under necessity of bearing the heavy burden of showing the evil of the plans that I know are not born of heaven. This is the**

burden that many times in the past the Lord has laid upon me, in order that His work might be advanced along right lines. How much care and anxiety, how much mental anguish and wearing physical labor, might be saved me in my old age! But still I am under the necessity of going into the battle, and of discharging in the presence of important assemblies the duty that the Lord has laid upon me – the duty of correcting the wrong course of men who profess to be Christians, but who are doing a work that will have to be undone at a great loss, both financially and in the shaking of the confidence of the people. (Letter 216, 1903. 5BIO 298)

These letters, from the prophet, clearly differentiate between what was truth, and what was error. And that should be read at such a momentous crisis, was emotionally overwhelming for many of the attendees. For example, A.G. Daniels reports of this event: **“As I read to the assembly statement after statement setting forth the falsity of the teaching in the book, “The Living Temple”, many loud “Amens” broke forth, and tears flowed freely. From that hour light came into the council, and the presence of God was clearly felt through the day. When I had finished reading, the brethren immediately began to express their gratitude to God for this clear voice that had spoken to us. So precisely did these messages point out the situation that everyone who spoke at all was obliged to say that it was the voice of God speaking to us. Before the council closed, the author of the book stated that he would take it from the market.”** (Arthur G. Daniels, “The Abiding Gift of Prophecy” pp. 336-339)

“At the close of the reading one of the ministers arose and stated that he felt impressed to ask all who proposed to take a firm stand with Sister White in this great struggle, to arise to their feet. Nearly every person in the room arose.” (5BIO 300.2)

This event was a momentous victory for God, His church, and for the truth. But sadly, it was short lived, because Dr. Kellogg, the main advocate of these new views, concerning the presence and personality of God, could see that due to this defeat, at the 1903 Autumn council, that he could not continue his present course and expect the support of his brethren. So, just 9 days later he had come up with a plan, it would be a new approach, one that would present his views about the presence and personality of God in a new light, in such a way that it would be accepted by the church.

Kellogg writes of this new view himself, and he says: **“As far as I can fathom, the difficulty which is found in the Living Temple, the whole thing may be simmered down to this question: is the Holy Ghost a person. You say no. I had supposed the Bible said this for the reason that the personal pronoun ‘he’ is used in speaking of the Holy Ghost. Sister White uses the pronoun ‘he’ and has said in as many words that the Holy Ghost is the third person of the Godhead. How the Holy Ghost can be the third person and not be a person at all is difficult for me to see.”** (Letter, J.H. Kellogg to G.I. Butler, Oct 28th, 1903) And, still today, most Adventists, like Kellogg, understand Sister Whites statement in the same way he did.

Not realizing, that it was in reference to statements like this, that Sister White said this: **“The messages that the Lord has been giving me for the past half century have never, never**

sanctioned the cherishing of these erroneous sentiments. And yet the assertion of some is that Sister White teaches these very things. I say in the name of the Lord that the truth has been misinterpreted and misapplied.” (10MR 47.3)

Now, it's important to note, that, when we look at this crisis in 1903 that most Seventh-day Adventists think it has nothing to do with the trinity. They will say, what does Kellogg's book, the Living Temple and this whole controversy, have to do with the trinity? Well here's what it has to do with the trinity, as Kellogg himself said: . **“...the whole thing may be simmered down to this question: is the Holy Ghost a person?”** And the answer to this question has everything to do with the trinity.

“...the whole thing may be simmered down to this question: is the Holy Ghost a person?” (Letter, J.H. Kellogg to G.I. Butler, Oct 28th, 1903)

“This refers to the omnipresence of the Spirit of Christ, called the Comforter.” (14MR 179.2)

Whether or not the “Holy Spirit is a person”, or an individual being like the Father and the Son, or whether it is “the omnipresence of the Spirit of Christ” has everything to with the trinity belief.

And the plot thickens. The very day, after Kellogg says: “the whole thing may be simmered down to this question: is the Holy Ghost a person?” The very day, after he said that, A.G. Daniels, wrote to Willie C. White, son of Ellen White, about a conversation he had with Dr. Kellogg. A.G. Daniels wrote: **“He [that is Dr. Kellogg] then stated that his former views [non trinitarian views] regarding the trinity had stood in his way of making a clear and absolutely correct statement but that within a short time he had come to believe in the trinity and could now see pretty clearly where all the difficulty was and believed that he could clear up the matter satisfactorily... He told me that he now believed in God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Ghost and his view was that if was God the Holy Ghost and not God the Father that filled all space and every living thing. He said that if he had believed this before writing the book, he could have expressed his views without giving the wrong impression the book now gives.”** (Letter, A.G. Daniels to W.C. White Oct 29, 1903)

So, in Kellogg's mind, adopting the trinity doctrine, of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, and believing the Holy Spirit, is a third person like the Father and the Son, that this view solved the entire crisis over his book. So, for him in his mind, it was a way out of the persecution of being in a bad light. So, the idea of this crisis over pantheism and Kellogg's book had nothing to do with the trinity, really comes from a lack of understanding the core of the controversy, Now Kellogg professed, that he “believed in the trinity”.

Remember the date of that letter, October 29, 1903, because, now what we want to do, is look at some statements that Ellen White made concerning Kellogg's beliefs, and sentiments, after October 29, 1903, after Kellogg had accepted the trinity doctrine.

In 1904, Ellen White said this about Dr. Kellogg: ***“His mind is being worked by the very one who seduced the angels of God in the heavenly courts... he is working under the advice of the one who talked with Eve. Through this subtle reasoning the future of the cause is imperiled. I shall now have to be far more explicit than I have been in the past. I shall be compelled to make statements that I have not wanted to make, but I must be more explicit in order to save the flock of God from deceptive influences.”*** (13MR 378) In accepting the trinity,

was not Kellogg's "mind being worked by the very one who seduced the angels of God in the heavenly courts". What might that say about the flock today?

On July 14, 1904 she wrote: ***"We are to refuse to listen to the sophistries that have been brought in to make of no effect the truth for this time. Not a stone is to be moved in the foundation of this truth – not a pillar moved... The time has come when even in the church and in our institutions, some will depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils."*** (7MR 188.1) Again, this is in light of the controversy of these new ideas being advanced by Dr. Kellogg. And we see that the end result, of accepting these new ideas, is that they would "remove the foundation of the truth" that God had given, in the first 50 years of the movement. She certainly implied that Kellogg's new belief in the trinity was a departure from the faith. July 24th 1904, just 10 days later, she said: ***"Be not deceived; many will depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils. We have now before us the alpha of this danger. The omega will be of a most startling nature."*** (Lt263-1904.15)

Now pause for a moment. What will the **omega** do? It will lead people to "depart from the faith", to depart from what faith? To depart from the faith that God had given to His people during the first 50 years, from the fundamental principles, that has guided them through the first 50 years of the movement. The omega would lead people to depart from this foundation, and to stand on a new foundation. Again in 1904, just less than a year after Kellogg had accepted the trinity doctrine. She says: ***"I have been instructed to warn our people; for many are in danger of receiving theories and sophistries that undermine the foundation pillars of the faith. We cannot accept as present truth the theories and explanations made by Dr. Kellogg; for it is not a true presentation."*** (Lt263-1904.13)

"...He told me that he now believed in God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Ghost..." (Letter A.G. Daniels to W.C. White Oct. 29, 1903)

So, how would you answer this question: In 1904, what were the "theories and explanations" being made by Dr. Kellogg? Answer: They were the Trinity doctrine?

What was it that Ellen White was warning us against? Answer: That embracing Kellogg's trinity doctrine would do what? She said, that if we embrace these theories and explanations being made by Dr. Kellogg, including the trinity, that they would "undermine the foundational pillars of our faith". That's the Fundamental Principles. She said we cannot accept as present truth, the theories made by Dr. Kellogg.

Now, what this also tells us, is that at that time, the trinity doctrine was being heralded as "present truth". So, Sister White was combating this sentiment. And to this day, Seventh-day Adventist theologians and historians maintain that position, that the trinity doctrine that was brought into the church in the early 1900's was present truth.

For example, consider this statement. We already saw this, in the 1994 article from the Advent Review about the trinity, that said: ***"Adventist beliefs have changed over the years under the impact of 'present truth'. Most startling is the teaching regarding Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord... the Trinitarian understanding of God, now part of our fundamental beliefs was not generally held by the early Adventists. Even a few today do not subscribe to it.***

(William Johnsson, "Present Truth: Walking in God's Light", Adventist Review, Jan 6, 1994, p. 10)

And still, less than one year from Kellogg adopting the trinity, Ellen White said: ***"The Lord has shown me that the writer has not changed, and that there can be no unity between him and the ministers of the gospel while he continues to cherish his present sentiments. I am bidden to lift my voice in warning to our people, saying, "Be not deceived; God is not mocked" (Galatians 6:7). While the misleading theories of this book are entertained by our physicians, there cannot be union between them and the ministers who are bearing the gospel message. There should be no union until there is a change."*** (1SM 199.4)

So, even today, Seventh-day Adventist are maintaining, that the trinity doctrine was brought into the Adventist movement, as present truth, and this was the very sentiment, that Sister White was warning against. So, significant, is the difference, in theology concerning God, that Sister White tells us, "that there can be no unity between him [that is between Kellogg] and the ministers of the gospel, while he [Kellogg] continues to cherish his present sentiments.

Now, what was Dr. Kellogg's present sentiment, in 1904? We saw that it was the trinity doctrine, and that he believed that the trinity doctrine was an explanation that solved the crisis over his book and over pantheism. Now if we're to bring that principle, that warning to today, this would tell us that there "could be no unity, between those that hold a trinitarian view of God and the ministers of the gospel, until there is a change." And this is why we believe God is trying to restore the TRUTH, that He had given to the Pioneers and Sister White during the first 50 years of this movement. He wants to restore this foundation and bring His people back to stand upon this foundation, so that the commission that he has given to the Seventh-day Adventist Church, can be called out and given.

So, does it not follow then, that those advocating the trinity today must have no union with the ministers of the gospel? And we saw that Kellogg's sentiment, in the theories that he had, were the product of Satan. And we saw that Ellen White told us this, after Kellogg had accepted the trinity doctrine.

And, again we see in April of 1905 she says this, concerning Kellogg's view: ***"I have seen that Satan's power over him has not been broken. Those who choose to sustain the man who so greatly dishonors God and has stood directly in the way of His work, will themselves become so deceived that their work will not be accepted by God. I have felt reluctant to say these things, but I know the Lord would not have souls endangered any longer by Dr. Kellogg."*** (11MR 320)

So, in 1905, Dr. Kellogg was still holding to these trinitarian concepts and views. And it was at this time, that Sister White tells us that "Satan's power over him has not been broken." And that those who embrace his ideas will be under a strong deception, that they will become so deceived, that their work will not be accepted by God. And we should not want any of our brothers and sisters in the faith, finding themselves in that position, because their works cannot save them. So many have worked their whole lives in service, but in vain because it would have been to the god of Kellogg, not the God of the Bible. Wake up church!

In May of 1905, she adds: ***“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.”*** (Ms62-1905.14)

It was while teaching these things about the trinity, and the Holy Ghost, being a person, or a being other than Christ, that Sister White said that Dr. Kellogg was being led of Satan. ***“Satan’s power over him has not been broken”*** (Letter 116, 1905, pp. 1, 3, 10) And that, ***“We cannot accept as present truth the theories and explanations made by Dr. Kellogg.”*** (Lt263-1904.13)

Yet those theories and explanations made by Dr. Kellogg, are today embraced by nearly every minister in the Seventh-day Adventist church. Thinking about this, we are bewildered, that the same view held by Dr. Kellogg at the time when Sister White said: ***“... his mind is being worked by the very one who seduced the angels of God in the heavenly courts”*** (Letter 116, 1905, pp. 1, 3, 10) is now a requirement for church membership. That is the deceiving power of the gigantic intellect of Satan. Be sober, be vigilant means just that, and not to lean on the arm of flesh. Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling does not mean believe the intellectual philosophies of the theologians.

We were instructed that: ***“We are to refuse to listen to the sophistries that have been brought in to make of no effect the truth for this time. Not a stone is to be moved in the foundation of this truth – not a pillar moved.”*** (Letter 237, 1904, pp. 5, 6)

And yet, what Sister White warned we should not do, is exactly what the trinity doctrine has done. It is a snare concerning the presence and personality of God, that the enemy has prepared for these last days. And Jesus, through Ellen White has warned us that this would take place.

She says: ***“During the past few months, I have had so much writing to do in regard to the personality of God, and other matters of grave importance, that I have worked very steadily, early and late. I have endeavored to warn our people against the delusions of the last days.”*** (Lt27-1904.2)

So, in “the last days”, there will be “delusions”. One of which, we are told in the statement, will be in regard to “the personality of God” So, why cannot intelligent ministers, in the Adventist church discern the deception? It has to do with taking a look at some of the deceptions and delusions in the last days, that we are told that that will lead many to depart from the faith. And it was only after understanding, how the trinity doctrine played a role in the 1903 crisis, over the presence and personality of God, that we can clearly see the significance of the warnings in scripture regarding the same subject.

For example, in the book “Eternity Past” she says: ***“In the last days there will be false teachers. (2 Peter 2:1-2) Spiritualist teachers refuse to acknowledge Christ as the Son of God. Concerning such teachers, the beloved John declares: “Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son. Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father.” 1 John 2:22, 23. Spiritualism, by denying Christ, denies both the Father and the Son, and the Bible pronounces it the manifestation of antichrist.*** (Eternity Past 497.3)

In the last days there will be false teachers, now she's quoting 2 Peter chapter 2, but she elaborates on this verse, and explains that these false teachers would be spiritualist teachers, who would refuse to acknowledge Christ as the Son of God. Concerning such teachers, the beloved John declares: "Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son. Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father." 1 John 2:22, 23. Spiritualism, by denying Christ, denies both the Father and the Son, and the Bible pronounces it the manifestation of antichrist.

So how can the Adventist church give the first, second or third angel's messages to the world, while, in its teachings it refuses to acknowledge Christ as the Son of God. Ellen White warned against this spiritualism coming into the church, and yet that is exactly what has happened. The Fatherhood of God and the Sonship of Christ have been spiritualized away into metaphors, or roleplay, or symbols. And these teachings were bringing into the Adventist movement, that which the Bible declared to be a manifestation of anti-Christ.

Scripture Says: "**But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.**" (2 Peter 2:1)

So, even Peter has warned us that in the later days, spiritual teachers would come that would bring a doctrine or an understanding that would "deny the Lord", and that would "deny Him as the Son." Denying the Devine Sonship of Christ, that He is in reality, the only Begotten Son of God, is "Spiritualism". It's a deception that Satan has prepared for "the last days", and God warns us, that this is where Kellogg's ideas would lead.

Sister white tell us: "***The Lord presented this matter to me, revealing that the result of such teaching was a subtle beguiling of the mind, and that the doctor himself did not foresee this result of his extreme views in regard to God in nature ... I told him that the Lord was greatly dishonored by being thus represented, and that such ideas would lead the people into spiritualism.***" (Letter 271a, 1903, 5BIO 302.7)

So, today we have arrived, the Seventh-day Adventist Church is now, fully persuaded, that Jesus's Sonship is metaphorical. And in this way, the church has spiritualized away, the Sonship of Christ. And that as a result of accepting these ideas, many would depart from the faith.

Sadly, you hear nothing in the SDA churches today regarding the Alpha crisis, which we have been studying today. Any reference to the pioneers today are lies stating that they were in error, but finally saw the light of present truth and accepted the trinity. Where did they get that explanation? From the father of lies who they actually serve ignorantly. This has created the condition that the Omega, like the Alpha, would be a crisis concerning the presence and personality of God, and it would be one that would embrace spiritualism and lead the church to deny the Devine Sonship of its Saviour.

Ellen White said: "***We have now before us the alpha of this danger. The omega will be of a most startling nature...***" (Lt263-1904.15)

And, again she said this in 1904 when she said that they have the alpha before us, and what did Dr. Kellogg believe in 1904, he believed in the trinity.

“...He told me that he now believed in God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Ghost...” (Letter, A.G. Daniels to W.C. White Oct 29, 1903) So, back in 1904, Ellen White warned that **“We have now before us the alpha of this danger”**. (Lt263-1904.15)

It can now be said with certainty, we have before us the Omega of this danger, and the corporate church as we know it has been fully taken by this deception.

“The teachers of spiritualism come in a pleasing, bewitching manner to deceive you, and if you listen to their fables you are beguiled by the enemy of righteousness and will surely lose your reward. When once the fascinating influence of the archdeceiver overcomes you, you are poisoned, and its deadly influence adulterates and destroys your faith in Christ's being the Son of God, and you cease to rely on the merits of His blood.” (1T 297.2)

We need to understand the significance of this crisis, still many today say that its no big deal, that it's a side issue, that it's not important or that it can't be understood. Various views are out there about this subject of who God is, but so few understand the significance of this beguiling deception, and that its deadly influence, **“adulterates and destroys your faith in Christ's being the Son of God”**, and that is exactly what's happened in our church, in embracing the new fundamental beliefs, that maintain that Christ Sonship is metaphorical. And if Christ Sonship is metaphorical, then God is not really a Father either. And thus, the presence and the personality of God are destroyed. And Sister White warns us, that if we are beguiled by the enemy of righteousness, **“we will surely lose our reward”** Spiritualism is deadly, and it is something that we must study and understand so that we are not taken by this deception.

Perhaps you can now begin to understand why this last day deception made the prophet tremble when she said: **“The Omega would follow in a little while. I tremble for our people.”** (Ms46-1904.9)

Today, the trinity doctrine embraced and advocated by Dr. Kellogg under the advice and the working of the power of Satan, has become the number 2 fundamental belief of the Seventh-day Adventist church, and it's time that God's people realize, that our faith has hijacked by the enemy of souls.

And we are now entering the time, when: **“The duty of correcting the wrong course of men who profess to be Christians, but who are doing a work that will have to be undone at a great loss, both financially and in the shaking of the confidence of the people.”** (Lt216-1903.17)

This work must be done. The advocating of the truth about who God is will undoubtedly, shake the confidence of God's people, yes it means that much of our work in the Adventist institutions, must be undone. Yes, it will involve great loss, both financially, and in the shaking of people, but it must be done. This truth must be restored. God will have it be restored, so that His people can give glory to Him and call people out of Babylon and prepare them to stand during the investigative judgment.

“Like our Saviour, we are in this world to do service for God. We are here to become like God in character, and by a life of service to reveal Him to the world, In order to be co-workers with God, in order to become like Him and to reveal His character, we must know Him aright. We must know Him as He reveals Himself ... It is this alone that can make us like God in character ... all depend upon a right knowledge of God.” (Ministry of Healing 409)

It is necessary that we understand God and Christ “as He reveals Himself” in order to represent Him “aright” Undeniably this subject is shaking the confidence of God's people today,

hopefully helping them to realize that they are standing on a foundation that will not last. The agitation of this subject MUST cause us to study this subject more deeply, and as a result, God brings us into an understanding of who He is, and for that we are eternally grateful.

Our confidence in Christ, in His messenger Ellen White, and the light given by His Holy Spirit to our Pioneers, during the first 50 years of the movement, has been incredibly strengthened. We can see more clearly now, then ever that this movement, was firmly set on a correct course, armed with the truths that would enable it to finish its mission.

And the light that they were given was to be as: ***“A line of truth extending from that time [1844, 1845, 1846] to the time when we shall enter the city of God ...”*** (1SM 206) It was as a line of truth, it was not to be deviated, or change direction. The truth that God gave the Pioneers in the first 50 years of the movement, is the foundation upon which we were to stand to finish the commission that God had given the movement.

And now, as we come full circle, back to the place where we started in regard to the Seventh-day Adventist church, fulfilling its commission. It could only be after coming to an understanding of these things that we’ve studied, that we can fully comprehend the significance of the statement in “Ministry of Healing “. This one we looked at earlier: ***“Like our Saviour, we are in this world to do service for God. We are here to become like God in character, and by a life of service to reveal Him to the world, In order to be co-workers with God, in order to become like Him and to reveal His character, we must know Him aright. We must know Him as He reveals Himself ... It is this alone that can make us like God in character ... all depend upon a right knowledge of God.”*** (Ministry of Healing 409)

Therefore, this understanding of who God is, is not a side issue, it is not a distraction. It is the most important subject with which we must wrestle, right now in these last days, when delusions have come into the church to spiritualize away the Sonship of Christ.

If we are to be “like God in character”, “We must know Him as He reveals Himself”. And the present Seventh-day Adventist Church, regrettably, has lost this knowledge, yet it did have it. God did give the Seventh-day Adventist Church a correct view of God, but this view given by God to the church through His Holy Spirit, has been accounted as error, exactly as Ellen White warned the enemy would attempt to do. ***“The fundamental principles that have sustained the work for the last fifty years would be accounted as error.”*** (Lt242-1903.13)

How far can things go in today’s church? The bottom line is, that if the compromised church is to represent Christ to the world, and to give the Three Angel’s Messages, it needs to recognize, that it is by beholding that we become changed. And by beholding three co-eternal, co-equal divine persons, and they just took on interchangeable roles, then it makes sense then, that men and women being equal and being made in the image of God, might just take on which ever role they please, we are made in His image. Then, perhaps gender roles too are metaphorical, and interchangeable. And not just the roles, but even the gender itself. Do we see homosexuality coming into the church, saying that all genders are equal, or that even genders can be interchangeable, because after all if its metaphorical, if Christs Sonship is metaphorical, and the roles of god, the gods are interchangeable, then what about genders, then it would make sense then that genders too would be interchangeable, then a man can become a woman, or a woman can become a man. So, you can see how this logic of beholding a trinitarian view of God, plays into where the SDA church is today, as a church. And we wonder why these issues are a problem in the church.

Obviously, the church is sick, and we are instructed that: ***“In case of sickness, the cause should be ascertained.”*** (Ministry of Healing 127) The Bible says, ***“The curse causeless shall not come”*** (Proverbs 26:2) The church is sick and has brought a curse upon itself and the cause is

obvious. Women's ordination, and homosexuality in the church, is not the problem, they are symptoms of the problem, and the cause of these problems lie in idolatry. And we see this also in Romans Chapter 1, as Paul lays it out clearly.

The knowledge of the one True God has been lost, but it is being restored. Since 2015 alone, thousands have accepted as truth the principles that have made us a denominated people, that have made us what we are as Seventh-day Adventist.

Isaiah 58:12 **“And [they that shall be] of thee shall build the old waste places: thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be called, The repairer of the breach, The restorer of paths to dwell in.”**

God is restoring the knowledge of who He is and setting His people back upon the true foundation of the Fundamental Principles that were believed by Adventist in the first 50 years. And as a result of this restoration of who God is among His people, we see the church combating this growth, this understanding. Church campaigns, and seminars, and books against it are increasing exponentially.

We are in the antitypical day of atonement, and we know as Seventh-day Adventist that the things represented in the Most Holy Place of the heavenly Sanctuary constitute present truth. So, in studying the Most Holy Place, the two most important objects in that area are the presence and personality of the Father and His Son. And these truths also concerning the Father and the Son are also, present truth, not a new truth, but old light that is to be restored to its proper place, so that the sanctuary can be cleansed.

Every truth seen in the Most Holy Place is being attacked and undermined, even within the church. And if we continue to deny the Sonship of Christ and accept spiritualistic ideas, and accept as a third God, a being that is not Christ, we will not be able to be cleanse of sin. Because such a teaching prohibits the inworking of Christ by His Spirit, leaving the individual to depend upon human power. And this was the warning that Sister White had given us concerning this new organization that would be established.

She Said: ***“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... 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 built on the sand, and storm and tempest would sweep away the structure.”*** (1SM 204)

Now, as Seventh-day Adventists, which is more important? Who we worship or when we worship? There has been a tendency, to make a day, the Sabbath, more important than the God of the Sabbath. But notice, the God of the Sabbath, the eternal Father, put the Sabbath commandment fourth. His first commandment said **“Thou (that's us) shalt have NO other gods (plural) before Me.** (singular). Is the God of the Seventh-day Adventist Church today the one true eternal Father God (singular) or is the god of the Seventh-day Adventist Church three co-eternal gods? (plural). What did the angel ascending from the east have in Revelation 7:2? He had the seal of the living God. What was he going to do with this seal to the servants of God? Revelation 7:3. He was going to seal the servants of God in their foreheads. Is this seal the Sabbath? No, the servants of God are already Sabbath keepers. They know that the Sabbath is a sign of the owner of the Sabbath. Ezekiel: 20:12, 20. If this seal of the living God is not the Sabbath, what then, is the seal of the living God?

Revelation 14:1, **“And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty [and] four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads.”** This special seal in God’s servant’s foreheads is the Father’s name. (singular). What does that mean? They have a correct understanding of the One True God and who He is. Everyone else, who were lost, chose to have the name of the trinity god in their frontal lobes, which earned them the mark of the beast. This is no small matter.

It is now that we must have a faith that overcomes, and this faith is only found in believing that Jesus is truly the only begotten Son of God: **“For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. [but our faith in what?] Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?”** (1 John 5:4, 5)

How can one have victory, while one embrace a fundamental belief that denies that Jesus is the Son of God, and clings to another view of His Sonship that casts doubt upon the plain words spoken from heaven: **“This is my beloved Son”**. We can not have the victory this way, and we will not. It is for the reason, that we have forgotten the way the Lord has led us and His teaching in our past history, and denying the truth concerning the presence and personality of God, that was given to us by the Holy Spirit in the first 50 years of our movement, that the Seventh-day Adventist church today, has unfitted itself to fulfill the commission to lighten the earth with the glory of God, unless of course it repents, as we see in Revelation Chapter 3:19.

But short of this, the church as it stands today, does not stand upon the same foundation built by Christ in the first 50 years. It stands on a new foundation, with new pillars, and as Sister White warned of this new foundation: **“*storm and tempest would sweep away the structure.*”** 1SM 204.2) Sister White wrote: **“*But God would have a people upon the earth to maintain the Bible, and the Bible only, as the standard of all doctrines and the basis of all reforms.*”** (The Great Controversy 595)

The corporate Seventh-day Adventist church has embraced, as truth, the sophistries of the enemy and the central doctrine of Romanism. But this does not mean that God is without a church: **“*God has a church. It is not the great cathedral, neither is it the national establishment, neither is it the various denominations; it is the people who love God and keep His commandments.*”** (Lt108-1886.17)

This would be the church, against which the gates of hell shall not prevail. And when we have woken up, we have realized that the trinity was not new light, but old error. Inevitably this question would come to us, “Can I still be a Seventh-day Adventist?” But God shows us that, by embracing the truths given to the Pioneers, and to Ellen White in the first 50 years, to set it on a firm foundation, by embracing those fundamental principles, we are now more of a Seventh-day Adventist than when we took our vows or our profession of faith. But since Adventism has become confused and has denied the fundamental principles that were given to it by God, a distinction must be made between truth and error. So now, by the grace of God, we of the correct view, should consider each of us to be more of an “Historic Seventh-day Adventist.”

Having the theological differences concerning the presence and personality of God, with the corporate Adventist church today, some will say that we have departed from the faith and that we have fallen away. But we want to ask them: fallen away and departed from what? Because truth be told, we have not departed from the faith, rather we have returned to it. And the present Seventh-day Adventist church organization itself is what has departed from the faith once delivered to the Saints.

Many understand, departing from the faith today to relate to their own experience. So, if for example someone came into the Adventist church many, many years ago, or was raised a Seventh-day Adventist, they might see the words “departing from the faith”, to mean, leaving the current

church with its current beliefs. But let's look at this from God's perspective, and from the perspective of the entire church history, from 1844 to present day. Then, from that perspective, what does it then mean to depart from the faith? Because from that perspective it means something entirely different. And departing from the faith, means, departing from the Fundamental Principles that God had given to the church in the first 50 years. And this is why the trinity doctrine is such a deadly heresy.

Unfortunately, there are many poor souls who say that they will not consider or ever study these things. They say that those that become anti-trinitarian, or non-trinitarian always leave the church, and they say, I'm just not going down that road. And we sympathize with that position. We can agree with their concerns and we see that they want to be true to God, and true to the Pioneers, and to the movement that God miraculously raised up to proclaim the Three Angels' Messages. And we see that they are terribly fearful of departing from the sacred commission. And we can agree with that, they should have their guard up, they should be cautious. Nobody wants to depart from the faith. Nobody wants to dishonor God and turn away from the faith once given to the saints. These are all positive sentiments. But unless they go back and study the way the Lord has led us, and the teachings in our past history, they will never see that the thing which they are most afraid of happening to them, has already happened. They are terrified of departing from the faith and being caught up in a doctrine that would take them away from the truth. But again, for them, it has already happened to them.

“Here is the greatest deception that can affect the human mind; these persons believe that they are right when they are wrong.” (1T 417) Mark Twain once said, “It is easier to fool a person, then it is to convince them that they have been fooled.”

We are not saying non-trinitarian beliefs are confusing, or that it is a mystery, or it can't be understood. To the contrary, it embraces the plainest teachings of the Bible, and takes God at His word, as He reveals Himself.

We certainly believe that most Seventh-day Adventists, including lay people, leaders, Pastors and missionaries, who have themselves, been misled, that they are sincerely serving God with all their heart, and to the best of their knowledge. And it is to such, that we know that Jesus is aching to reveal Himself. That he might fit them to give the last message of mercy to the world. We know that there are people out there, Seventh-day Adventists like ourselves, who just want to know the truth, and they don't want to be deceived. We know that there are people out there who will hear these things, who will study them, and who will rejoice at the truth that it will bring to their hearts when they realize that it is “Christ in them, the Hope of Glory”.

And to this end, we want to share one last warning from Sister White regarding the history of this controversy over the presence and personality of God, as it relates to the Seventh-day Adventist movement. Sister White says: ***“One thing it is certain is soon to be realized - the great apostasy, which is developing and increasing and waxing stronger and will continue to do so until the Lord shall descend from heaven with a shout. We are to hold fast the first principles of our denominated faith and go forward from strength to increased faith. Ever we are to keep the faith that has been substantiated by the Holy Spirit of God from the earlier events of our experience until the present time. We need now larger breadth and deeper, more earnest, unwavering faith in the leadings of the Holy Spirit. If we needed the manifest proof of the Holy Spirit's power to confirm truth in the beginning, after the passing of the time [which is in reference to 1844], we need today all the evidence in the confirmation of the truth, when souls are departing from the faith and giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils. There must not be any languishing of soul now. If ever there was a period of time when we needed the Holy Spirit's power in our discourses, in our prayers, in every action proposed, it is now. We are not to stop at the first experience, but while we bear the same message to the people,*”**

this message is to be strengthened and enlarged. We are to see and realize the importance of the message made certain by its divine origin. We are to follow on to know the Lord, that we may know that His going forth is prepared as the morning. Our souls need the quickening from the Source of all power. 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 Adventist.” (Lt325-1905.2)

In this statement, Sister White is telling us, that when souls are “departing from the faith,” that they were departing from the “principles of our denominated faith” that was giving to us in the first 50 years. So, again, we need to understand, that the present Seventh-day corporate Adventist church, has indeed, departed from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils. If ever there was a period of time when we needed the Holy Spirit’s power in our discourses, in our prayers, in every action proposed, it is now. We are not to stop at the first experience, but while we “bear the same message” to the people, “this message” is to be strengthened and enlarged. And that is happening today in the restoration of this truth about who God is, about the Father and the Son. We are to see and realize the importance of the message made certain by its divine origin. We are to follow on to know the Lord, that we may know that His going forth is prepared as the morning. Our souls need the quickening from the Source of all power. 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 Adventist.”

Today, the Seventh-day Adventist church has abandoned these essential points of truth, and as a result, our identity as Seventh-day Adventists has been lost, but it must be restored, and it will be restored, and it is being restored; if only by a faithful few.

Before Jesus departed the final time, He tested His disciples to see if they were ready to take the gospel commission to the world. And He asked His disciples saying, **“Whom do men say that I the Son of man am? And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets. He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am?”** (Matt 16:13-15)

Do you see what Jesus was doing here? He wanted to make sure that His disciples could differentiate, between what men said about Jesus, and what He said about Himself. And, He wanted to make sure that His disciples understanding of Him came from Him. And that they understood Jesus as He revealed Himself.

And Jesus, in testing His disciples, personally addressed them with the question: **“But whom say ye that I am?” “And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven”.** (Matt 16: 16-17)

This revelation, that Christ is “the Son of the living God” was not a human concoction or a philosophy, it was not a tradition or a creed. It was revealed to Peter by “God Himself” as it was a heaven born revelation. And Jesus said of this truth: **“... upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.** (Matt 16:18)

We like Peter, need a personal revelation of this truth directly from heaven. We need to pray and study and ask God to teach us who He is, and who His Son is. We need the Father Himself to show us, that He means exactly what His words say they mean. That Jesus really is, the Son of the living God.

When this revelation was confirmed in Peter and the disciples, then they were prepared to go forth and proclaim the risen Son of the living God to all the earth. And to those who are seeking to finish this commission and lighten the earth with the Glory of God and to be giving the Three Angel’s

Messages in these last days. Jesus is now wanting to confirm this truth in His professed people today.

Today, when God is trying to restore this truth, the question is coming to each of us, and Jesus is addressing you personally, saying, **“But whom say ye that I am?”** May the Lord lead you as you seek to answer His question.