

The Trinity & Ellen White – Nader Mansour

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The title of today's study is "The Trinity & Ellen White," and we want to provide a historical basis and understanding, so that we can see and be clear on this topic. First, we need to give a definition of the trinity.

"Now this is the Catholic faith; We worship One God in the trinity and the trinity in unity, without either confusing the persons or dividing the substance; for the person of the Father is one, the Son is another, the Holy Spirit is another; but the Godhead of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit is one, their glory equal, their majesty coeternal." Roman Catholic Catechism, page 67, 68.

Three persons united together, making up one God and you don't confuse the persons. That is what that is saying. The Father is not the Son, the Son is not the Spirit, the Spirit is not the Father. They are three united, making up one God. And this is the Athanasian Creed, that a number of Christian denominations subscribe to.

Here is another definition of the trinity. **"Trinity – There is one God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, a unity of three co-eternal Persons."**

Now, is that a different definition? No, it's the same thing summarized without the details. This particular definition comes from the "SDA Church, Fundamental Belief #2. The Church holds to an idea of God that comes from the tradition of a Christian creed.

It was adopted by the church of Rome and was predominately orchestrated and influenced by Rome. The issue of the trinity was formulated in the Council of Nicea in 325 AD.

Today, the SDA belief in the trinity, was not always the belief of the church. It is something that has changed over the years, which a lot of people are not even aware. Here is a quote from the Bishop of San Diego, CA. USA: **Seventh-day Adventists agree with many Catholic doctrines, including the trinity.**" So, Rome recognizes that the SDA trinity is basically what the Roman Catholic doctrine of the trinity is. That should cause alarm bells in every SDA, because we understand the Papacy to be the anti-Christ beast power in Bible prophecy. We also understand that the worship that takes place there, is not the worship of the true God, even though it is claimed that they do.

Many people claim that our trinity is different from the Roman Catholic trinity; but they never tell what those differences are. The fact is, it is defined the same way, using the same words. It's the same concept which came from the Athanasian Creed. The Son is not a truly begotten Son. The Holy Spirit is not the Spirit of God or the Spirit of Christ, it's another person. Three role playing co-eternal Gods; with a metaphorical father and son. That's the basic fundamental components of the understanding of the trinity. It's not important how close the SDA trinity is to the Roman Catholic trinity, the real issue is, it's unbiblical. The foundation of the problem is, that it is not revealed in Scripture.



The illustration on the above left is a diagram of the Roman Catholic trinity, while the diagram of the trinity on the right is the SDA version. Each diagram is the same except for the Catholic illustration shows 2 angels.

This was not always the case and why it is important to look at our history. Mrs. White tells us, ***"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."*** {GCDB, January 29, 1893 par. 3}

What was God teaching, as far as this particular doctrine, in our past history? You will find that when the church was founded, the pioneers did not believe in the doctrine of the trinity. As a matter of fact, they rejected it as biblically unsound. We will see what Ellen White had to say on this topic, and what she did, or did not support. The consistent picture of God's church through the ages, is that it holds true to God's Word and God's Word is what defines God's church.

So, in 1844, you have the Millerite message and then on October 22, 1844 was the great disappointment. We are looking at a little of the history today. Many thousands of people were anxiously looking forward to the second coming of Christ, but they misunderstood the Bible teaching of the Sanctuary in heaven and the cleansing of the sanctuary. Well, Christ did not come, and many left the faith, leaving a small band of believers that went on to form the Seventh-day Adventist Church. In December of that year, 1844, God called Ellen White to be a prophet and gave her, her first vision.

If you are familiar with Adventist history, you may be aware that God called other messengers before Ellen. There were two, William E. Foy and Hazen Foss. William Foy was a black man who was given visions by God. One time he was in a meeting where Ellen White was speaking and he recognized something that Ellen was sharing, as something God had revealed to him.

Many people today believe that these two men were unfaithful, and Ellen White was faithful, so God had rejected them both. That was true for Hazen Foss, but it wasn't true for William Foy. William Foy shared and published what he actually received. This is what Ellen White said about meeting William Foy. ***"Then another time, there was Foy that had had visions. He had had four visions. ... They were written out and published, and it is queer that I cannot find them in any of my books. But we have moved so many times. He had four."*** {17 MR 95.4} So she knew about Foy, a Millerite, and she had access to him, and Foy's published works were in her library. His published visions were called, *"The Christian Experience of William Foy."*

God does not send mixed or conflicting messages to His prophets, and since Foy preceded Ellen White, there should be no conflict with either. We test the later prophets with the established previous ones, with Scripture, of course, being the key. The following is a passage from his book, **“At the right side of the mountain appeared a mighty angel, with raiment like unto burnished gold, his legs were like pillars of flaming fire, his countenance was like the lightning, and his crown gave light to this boundless place, and those that had not passed through death, could not look upon his countenance. I then beheld on the side of this mountain, letters like pure gold which said, “THE FATHER, AND THE SON.” Directly under these letters stood the mighty angel, whose crown lighted up the place, and all the heavenly host worshipped at his feet, round about the mountain.”** {The Christian Experience of William Foy, p. 12, 13}

There is no trinity as far as this vision was concerned. What mountain did Foy see? As a reminder it is where Lucifer wanted to sit. Isaiah 14:13, 14 **“For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.”** So, who is it that wanted to be worshipped on that mountain? Satan. However, who is it that is worshipped on that mountain according to the book of Revelation? The Father and the Son.

So, in December 1844, Ellen White had her first vision which is recorded in her book ‘Early Writings’. Her ministry continued until her death, July 16, 1915. In the first vision about the Advent people, she was looking for the Adventist band and the angel told her to look a little higher. It was a beautiful vision.

When Ellen White was in the Millerite movement, she was a Methodist and ended up being cast out of the Methodist church. The Methodist teaching about God is that God is a trinity. Here is the first article of religion from the Methodist faith. **“There is but one living and true God, everlasting, without body or parts, of infinite power, wisdom and goodness: the maker and preserver of all things, visible and invisible. And in unity of the Godhead, there are three persons of one substance, power and eternity; the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost.”** {The first article of the Methodist Religion, p. 8} Doesn’t that sound like the Athanasian Creed? It does with different words describing the same thing. A key here is that this god is without body or parts. That means he is neither physical nor tangible. They say that because that is the only way that you can have three persons that make up one being. It had to be a philosophical concept. It cannot exist in reality. But this intangible, immaterial god is what Ellen White believed as a Methodist, before she became an Adventist.

The question we need an answer to is: What did God reveal to her about Himself? Did He affirm to her this idea about Him being a trinity, as is believed by the majority of Christianity, or did He say something different? The answer to this question depends on who you ask today. That’s why we will be looking at what she wrote on the topic.

Progressive truth, and the nature of progressive truth. Many people say we have changed and truth is developing. Here is a quotation from God’s prophet addressing such thought, **“I do not wish to ignore or drop one link in the chain of evidence that was formed as, after the passing of the time in 1844 ... 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 in every particular.”** {E.G. White, Manuscript Releases Volume 1, p.52 1906}

What this statement means is, truth is consistent. While the nature of truth may be progressive, it does not contradict. What God reveals as truth today, is not going to be outdated and superseded by the opposite thing in 10 years or 100 years. It's a very important principle to keep in mind, because when it comes to the trinity, a lot of people recognize that Ellen White did not support that concept, however, as it progressed later, that's when she came out for the trinity. If that were so, we need to test that supposition against her writings, but her writings have to be consistent with what God revealed already, prior to that, as that is what she is saying here.

What about foundational truths? We are told a number of foundational truths, and this is important to keep in mind, because she pinpointed the years of their study and nothing has changed in what they studied then. She wrote, ***“Many of our people do not realize how firmly the foundation of our faith has been laid. My husband, Elder Joseph Bates, Father Pierce, Elder {Hiram} Edson, and others who were keen, noble, and true, were among those who, after the passing of the time in 1844, searched for the truth as for hidden treasure. ... I would be taken off in vision, and a clear explanation of the passages we had been studying would be given me, with instruction as to how we were to labor and teach effectively. Thus light was given that helped us to understand the scriptures in regard to Christ, His mission, and His priesthood.”*** {1SM 206, 207} 1904.

This was written in 1904. It was in relation to the study that happened, just after 1844. It says they understood the Scriptures in regard to Christ. That was a foundational point of our faith, understanding who Christ was as a part of that foundation. Not just who He was, but to understand His mission and His priesthood. Everything is based on knowing who Christ is. The argument today goes something like this, *“The issue of the trinity was not a foundational point that the brethren studied, early on in our experience. It was revealed later on in the ministry of Ellen White.”*

But in 1904, Mrs. White said they understood the Scriptures, in regard to Christ, from 1844, or shortly thereafter. We are going to see what they understood and what they taught, and when we see that, we were told that it cannot be contradicted by any later revelations. This is regarding old landmarks, another way of expressing it, foundational truth or old landmark. She wrote, ***“Those who seek to remove the old landmarks are not holding fast; they are not remembering how they have received and heard. Those who try to bring in theories that would remove the pillars of our faith concerning the sanctuary or concerning the personality of God or of Christ, are working as blind men.”*** {MR 760 9.5} 1905

Again, 1905, referring to the same thing, old landmarks. Not only did they understand the Scriptures in regard to Christ, His mission, His Priesthood, the Sanctuary doctrine, but also the personality of God and of Christ. This is the foundation that was laid. Why is that, knowing who Christ is, knowing the personality of God, why do you think that was foundational and important? Because we were given a message to the world called, “The Three Angel's Messages”, which are about worshipping God. So, you need to know which God you are going to tell people to worship. It just can't be a later revelation, otherwise they would wonder what message were they preaching all this time, while they were waiting for Jesus to come? If the message is “Fear God and give glory to Him and worship Him”, they needed to understand who they worshipped, so they could tell people who to worship. And here's a newsflash: it can't be the same god as Rome, because all the churches were worshipping that god anyway. You can't tell the other denominations to fear God and worship the trinity. They will say we already do, thank you very much.

False worship is what the three angel's messages was designed to correct, and that's why God raised up the Advent movement, and it just wasn't about the Sabbath. We seem to think the Advent message is basically the fourth commandment. We emphasize it so much, almost to the neglect of everything else. There are nine other commandments. The day is not the whole story of our message.

So, when someone comes and talks about something else, they say no, no, that's a distraction, that's a side issue. They will say don't talk about the Godhead, don't talk about the trinity, we need to talk about the three angel's messages, in other words, the Sabbath. That's how people think. To them the key point of the three angel's messages is about the Sabbath, and because it talks about the judgment there, well the sanctuary message, 1844 and the judgment, and of course the mark of the beast. Well, that's Sunday and there you go, the three angel's messages. That is basically the core points that we think to be the unique, distinctive truth of Adventism. That's very true, but that's not it. There's more and we hear now from the servant of the Lord and she's telling us of these things that are more.

So, what did they believe, teach and understand about the personality of Christ? Here it is from her own husband, who was present in those meetings. **“Here we might mention the Trinity, which does away with the personality of God and of His son Jesus Christ.”** {RH December 11, 1855} As far as the pioneers were concerned, they rejected the trinity, because it does away with the personality of God and of His son Jesus Christ. That was one of the things they studied, it was an old landmark and is why they rejected the trinity, because the trinity teaches that the Father is not a true Father that has an only begotten Son. It simply says these are terms, titles and metaphors, that do not reflect a reality. In other words, one being did not beget another being in the trinity. They are all co-equal and co-eternal, they just have titles that they carry.

Here is another, **“God has permitted the precious light of truth to shine upon His word and illuminate the mind of my husband. He may reflect the rays of light from the presence of Jesus upon others by his preaching and writing.”** {3T 502.2}

Well we just read a statement from James White as to what they understood about the personality of God and Christ. The trinity doctrine is in conflict with what God taught our pioneers. This was part of our history that most of our people are not aware of. The truth is consistent, and it does not contradict. Here it is, **“That which was sought for out of the Word in 1844, 1845, and 1846 remains the truth in every particular.”** {E.G. White, Manuscript Releases Volume 1, p.52 1906} She said that towards the end of her ministry in 1906.

Why is she reflecting on the early years, all the way in 1906? It was because things were already starting to change, and what she is basically saying is 'Don't change the pillar doctrines.' From 1846 – 1906 was 60 years.

What was their teaching about Christ and the personality of Christ? Here is a statement from that year 1846, from James White, **“The way spiritualizers have disposed of or denied the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ is first using that old unscriptural Trinitarian creed, viz., that Jesus Christ is the eternal God, though they have not one passage to support it, while we have plain scripture testimony in abundance that He is the Son of the eternal God.”** {J. S. White, The Day Star, January 24, 1846}

When he said Son of the eternal God, he meant that He was truly born of the Father, and he is distinguishing between the Father and the Son, and thereby indicating that the Father is the source of the Son. That is why Jesus refers to Him in Scripture as His Father and His God.

The Bible tells us that there is a doctrine, the teaching of anti-Christ. 1 John 2:22, **“Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son.”** The old trinitarian creed is what we read from the Athanasian Creed and is what we have currently as Fundamental Belief #2. It was not so back in the mid 1840’s and onward.

Next, here is John Matteson, another one of the pioneers and what he said in 1869, **“Christ is the only literal son of God. “The only begotten of the Father.” John 1:14. He is God because He is the Son of God; not by virtue of his resurrection.”** {J. G. Matteson, Review and Herald, October 12, 1869 p. 123} Matteson is saying that because Christ is begotten of the Father, that is what makes Him God, because He has the God nature by virtue of His Divine birth. These men understood Jesus was a literal Son of God.

Sister White wrote, **“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 nearing the judgment.”** {2T 355.1 1870} This was said in 1870, so by that time, the basic beliefs were laid and were foundational. That included who Christ was, and the personality of God and Christ. Well what was the stated beliefs of the pioneers back then?

The following propositions may be taken as a summary of the principal features of their religious faith, upon which there is, as far as we know, *entire unanimity* throughout the body.

1872 Statement of Beliefs

- I. 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**. Psalm 139:7
- II. That there is one Lord Jesus Christ; the Son of the Eternal Father, the one by whom he created all things, and by whom they do consist; ...
- III. That the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, were given by inspiration of God, contain a full revelation of His will to man, and are the only infallible rule of faith ... {Fundamental Principles of SDA’s, No. 1 p. 147}

So, in Article I, they believed in One God, the Father and that He is everywhere present by His Holy Spirit. Where it says His representative, they did not understand the Holy Spirit to be anyone but His omnipresent Spirit.

In Article II, they believed Jesus to be the One Lord, the Son of the Eternal Father. And they understood that by His Divine birth He had the God nature, and that’s what makes Him God.

Article III is not about a third being, it’s about the Holy Scriptures, which are the infallible rule of our faith.

There is no third article about the Holy Spirit, it was included in the Father’s Article I. Why? Because they understood the Spirit was not a separate person to the Father and the Son. It is the mechanism

by which God can be present anywhere that He wants to be present, and He does that by His Spirit. The problem is, finite humanity cannot understand how God can do that, so they assume He sends someone else. Why can't the Father do it? Well, He does. and He is the only One eternal God and is source for all that there is.

Here is another quote from James White in 1881, **“The Father was *greater* than the Son in that he was *first*. The Son was *equal* with the Father in that he had *received all things from the Father.*”** {J. S. White, Review and Herald, January 4, 1881} Does that sound like the trinity? No! The Father was first. What does that mean? He is the source of all things including His Son. The Son came out from God and that is why He is called the begotten Son. As such, He inherited from the Father, the God nature. It is interesting that James White died that year, 1881. He held his non-trinitarian belief all his life. Some people say that James White changed and became a trinitarian before he died. To say that, one needs evidence to back up their claim, for which there is none. The statement we cited was made seven months before he died.

This is what the pioneer SDA's believed regarding the Father and the Son, that the Son was begotten of the Father. Here it is from the pen of Ellen White, **“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. All the counsels of God are opened to His Son.”** {8T 268.3} The trinity does not teach that. Here we are told that not only is the Father/Son relationship real and not a role play-metaphor, which goes against the co-eternal theory, but that Jesus was given an exalted position and was made equal with the Father, which goes against the co-equal theory of the trinity, which says no one received anything from the other two and no one came before or after the other two, and that all three form the one god. The trinity destroys the Sonship of God. The three-word phrase ‘Son of God’ appears 47 times in the Bible. Whereas the Father is the only source of everything that is, while the trinity creates three sources instead of one.

Think about it. God called this group of believers out of trinitarian churches, Ellen White having been a Methodist before she was an Adventist. When God showed her the truth about God, which was opposed to what she believed as a Methodist, then she accepted the Biblical teaching of one God and an only begotten Son. James White was formerly a member of the Christian Connection and they did not believe in the trinity. But all of the early pioneers embraced all the truth about God, that He was leading and teaching them in their intense studies. As you can imagine, this was a matter of discussion because of their different religious backgrounds. The God you worship is a very important matter, so they studied, they prayed, and Ellen was often taken in vision to get the clear truth on matters of disagreement, and all came to a unified understanding.

Here is another one from J. N. Loughborough in an article titled, “Objections to the Trinity”, **“1. It is contrary to common sense. 2. It is contrary to scripture. 3. Its origin is Pagan and fabulous (fable). 1. It is not very consonant (consistent) with common sense to talk to of three being one, and one being three. Or as some express it, calling God “the Triune God,” or “the three-one-God.” If Father, Son, and Holy Ghost are each God, it would be three Gods; for three times one is not one, but three.”** {J. N. Loughborough, Review & Herald, November 5, 1861} So, this was 1861 and why they rejected the idea that God was a trinity. This is the history of our movement. Loughborough went to the same church as Ellen White and prayed with her and they all worshipped the same God. It's important to highlight that' because sometimes people don't stop to think

and consider the ramifications of attributing the trinity doctrine to Ellen White, and they say she supported the trinity doctrine. It would put her out of harmony with all the brethren and her husband, that she worshipped with at that time. And of course, the trinity doctrine is unbiblical as well. John Loughborough was a very close companion with Ellen White, and he often travelled with her to different venues.

We need to look at the three mentioned in the trinity, God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. This is how the three are expressed in the creed, and with a diagram showing the three separate but making up one triune God. Then there is the variation of the trinity, called Tritheism. Three separate and distinct beings, each called God, not three persons making up one being. Three individual God Beings, God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. This is how they say ours is not the Roman Catholic trinity of three in one. Ours, they say, is three separate Gods. The problem is that tritheism becomes a form of polytheism, where you have multiple gods. None would be coming out from another, and all three would be sources, all three would be Almighty gods. You can insist on them being one God, they are however, three gods. It doesn't matter that all three agree, they are not one, they are three gods. Everyone says one God because that's what the Bible says. But to say there are three co-eternal, co-equal gods, the first commandment knocks out such theories. But a three-god scenario destroys the first commandment. Trinity, Tri-unity, Tritheism illustrated this way:



At the end of the day, it all amounts to the same thing. How many times does it say, God the Son, in the Bible? It's not there, but it does say, Son of God, 47 times. The Bible does not say anything about God the Holy Spirit. It does say, Spirit of God - 26 times, God's Spirit - 9 times, Spirit of the Lord - 31 times, Thy Spirit - 4 times, Spirit of Christ - 2 times, the Holy Spirit of God - 1 time. But everything is truly of God, the source of all that there is. He is the God of the Bible. He has a real Son who is the Son of the God of the Bible, and He has a real Spirit, which is One Spirit that Father and Son share called the Holy Spirit, or Their Omnipresence.

In 1888 we have Jones and Waggoner, and they brought a message, 'righteousness by faith'. Did they have anything to say about this? They sure did. This is a quote from a book titled, 'Christ and His Righteousness', **“There was a time when Christ proceeded forth and came from God, from the bosom of the Father, (John 8:42; 1:18), but that time was so far back in the days of eternity that to finite comprehension, it is practically without beginning.”** {E. J. Waggoner, Christ and His Righteousness, pg. 19-24. 1890}

Did he believe that Christ was a truly begotten Son? He sure did, and he was in harmony with the foundation of the faith. Here is how he expressed it, same book, page 12. **“The angels were sons of God, as was Adam...by creation; Christians are sons of God by adoption (Romans 8:14, 15), but Christ is the Son of God by birth...and so Christ is the express image of the Father’s person.”** {E. J. Waggoner, Christ and His Righteousness, pg. 12. 1890} Just to be clear, he was not talking about His birth in Bethlehem. Waggoner is talking about Christ being the Son of God by being born of God.

Did Ellen White agree with Waggoner? Here it is from her own pen, five years after Waggoner wrote the above statement. **““God so loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son,”-- 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 This statement brings out the same points as Waggoner. She is in harmony with what the pioneers and her husband believed.

There was a book publisher, not to long ago titled “The Trinity,” which was written by three Andrews University professors. They are defending this concept of the trinity, trying to show that it is biblical, and part of the Adventist message, and that Ellen White supported the trinity. The book was published by the church and the key point that needs to be highlighted is that they talk about a paradigm shift, and this is what they say, **“Nevertheless, the publication of Ellen White’s Desire of Ages in 1898, became the continental divide for the Adventist’s understanding of the trinity.”** What that is basically saying is this, that the Desire of Ages turned the ship around, and it was a paradigm shift. She introduced the trinity into the church and gave us this advanced light. This is the theologians of our church telling us that. Okay then, we can test that claim as we have the Desire of Ages. But remember, truth does not contradict. What ever the Desire of Ages has to say, it cannot contradict what God revealed to her earlier.

“In Christ is life, original, unborrowed, underived.” {DA 530.3} People have taken that statement and have gotten a lot of mileage from it, while ignoring the many statements that have a lot of mileage in them. They use this statement to prove that Christ did not receive life from the Father; He had it on and in Himself. He has life, original, unborrowed, underived. The fact is that this is actually the Father’s life, and in the first chapter of Desire of Ages, it tells us that.

““I lay it down of myself” (John 10:18), He said. In Him was life, original, unborrowed, underived. This life is not inherent in man. He can possess it only through Christ. He cannot earn it; it is given him as a free gift if he will believe in Christ as His personal Saviour.” {1SM 296.2} Notice – Original unborrowed, underived life can be given. That is the testimony of Jesus through His prophet. Who would be given this life? The believer. So, when the believer receives Christ, they are given the original, unborrowed, underived life of Christ. So, here is the question, where did Christ get it from? Is it His, independent to of the Father, or did He get it from the Father? Remember what James White said earlier? “All things Christ received from God.”

Here it is in the Desire of Ages, page 21.2, **“All things Christ received from God, but He took to give.”** Continuing, **“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.”** {DA 21.2} Page 21 comes before 530. The

statement, "... through the beloved Son, the Father's life flows out to all," can also be stated, "... through the beloved Son, life original, unborrowed, underived, flows out to all."

Jesus actually said it in the Bible, John 5:26, "**For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself.**" The Father has given this life as part of Christ's Divine inheritance. If a person chooses to deny Christ's Divine birth, then such person would have a problem of Christ inheriting from the Father, and he/she has to make Christ a possessor of his own life as a co-eternal. He then would be another source, and then there is the third god, who would be yet another source, since the trinity doctrine teaches the three gods are co-equal and co-eternal. So, since there would be three ultimate sources, it totally destroys the position of God the Father, as well as the Sonship of Christ, and creates a third god called god the holy spirit. But the Holy Spirit is the omnipresent Spirit of God and His Son. It belongs only to them. And this is why there is a conflict that now exists.

Here is another one from Desire of Ages, page 51, "**The dedication of the first-born had its origin in the earliest times. God had promised to give the First-born of heaven to save the sinner.**" {DA 51.1} This verse is ignored by those who believe Jesus never became the Son of God until Bethlehem, and it does not fit the trinity narrative. But God had a first-born of heaven. Do you remember in the Old Testament, the first-born of every household was to be dedicated? Where did that come from? It was a reminder that God's own first-born would save the sinner. It wouldn't make any sense for God to require Israel to dedicate their first-born if He had no first-born (begotten). Then it would only be a title or a metaphor.

So, the paradigm shift in the book, "The Trinity," doesn't exist. Mrs. White said, "**There will be those once united with us in the faith who will search for new, strange doctrines, for something odd and sensational to present to the people. They will bring in all conceivable fallacies, and will present them as coming from Mrs. White, that they may beguile souls.**" {1SM 41.3} That was a prophecy that has come true with the idea of God being a trinity, and it is attributed to Ellen White. She believed no such thing as an Adventist, although she may have as a young Methodist, but God revealed the truth to her. The church believes in the trinity today because they say Ellen White changed it in the book, 'Desire if Ages'. That holds no water.

What about some of these statements, "**Christ the Word, the Only Begotten of God, was one with the eternal Father,--one in nature, in character, and in purpose,--the only being in all the universe that could enter into all the counsels and purposes of God.**" {GC 493.1} There is no other being, in all of the universe, that can be a part of the counsels and purposes of God. No one else. Someone may say, what about the Holy Spirit? A person would ask such a question when they think the Holy Spirit is another being. But the Holy Spirit is part of God, it's God's presence, it's His life, it's His power, it's His personal presence in the soul of the believer, it's how He sustains life, It's His omnipresence in the universe, and it is not a separate individual from the Father and the Son.

Here now, it's very simple to understand as you have a spirit. Is your spirit a different person to you? Of course not. Then how can we think that about God, that His Spirit is a different person to Himself? Satan just needed to separate God's Spirit from God and make it someone else and all of the Christian world says, Amen. And that is precisely what the trinity doctrine has done.

Here is another one, "**The Father and the Son alone are to be exalted.**" {YI, July 7, 1898 par.2} Why is that? Because that is what we find in the book of Revelation and that is what we find throughout the Bible, the Father and the Son.

Here is another one, ***“The only being who was one with God lived the law in humanity, descended to the lowly life of a common laborer, and toiled at the carpenter’s bench with his earthly parent.”*** {ST, October 14, 1897 par. 3} Who is that only being? Christ, the Son of God. He was the only being who was one with God. There is no other being who is one with God, according to the Spirit of Prophecy. Do you know why? It is because God only has one Son. If you believe in the Sonship of Christ, then your understanding of the Holy Spirit is automatically in place. You can’t believe the Holy Spirit is another being besides the Father and the Son, because God had only one Son and His Son inherited the Father’s Divine nature and attributes. So, only one Being in the universe, is one with God. John 3:16 should mean more to us now, that God gave His real Son to save us. This is not about arguing doctrine, this is about God’s love for the sinful race.

Here it is again from the Spirit of Prophecy, ***“Speaking of Satan, our Lord says that “he abode not in the truth.” He was once the covering cherub, glorious in beauty and holiness. He was next to Christ in exaltation and character.”*** {RH, October 22, 1895 par. 1} According to this statement, the third highest being in heaven was Lucifer, before his fall. This is why Satan (Lucifer) does not believe in the trinity. He knows, because he was there in heaven, and he was the highest being next to Christ. The pre-fall order was the Father, the Son and third was Lucifer, and he rebelled. Where is God the Holy Spirit in this? Some people will counter with, Lucifer didn’t know about god the holy spirit. Let us be guided by the evidence and not bend and put our own spin on the evidence.

What about after the fall? ***“It was Gabriel, the angel next in rank to the Son of God, who came with the divine message to Daniel.”*** {DA 234.2} So, post fall, the angel Gabriel holds the position of the third highest being in heaven, vacated by Lucifer. It was Father, Son, Lucifer pre-fall, it is Father, Son, Gabriel post fall and no trinity on either side. People do not like to quote these non-trinity statements.

Deuteronomy 6:7, ***“And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.”*** The instruction is to teach truth to their children. Do you think Ellen Whit followed this instruction in teaching her children? She surely did. What did she teach them as to who God is?

Here is a statement from her son James Edson White, in his book, “Past, Present and Future”, published in 1909. ***“The angels, therefore, are created beings, necessarily of a lower order than their Creator. Christ is the only being begotten of the Father.”*** {J. E. White, Past, Present and Future, p. 52. 1909} It is obvious that he understood the truth. It is evident when the parents, Ellen and James White had family worship, the children were taught the truth.

Another quote from the same author, ***“Only one being in the universe, besides the Father bears the name of God, and that is His Son Jesus Christ.”*** {J. E. White, The Coming King, p. 33. 1909} That is what his mother said in earlier statements in this study. There is no trinity there, and she taught no trinity to her children. The fact is, she didn’t change her belief to a trinity and the evidence is in what her children continued to believe, who outlived her.

Here is a quote from This Day With God, ***“Angels were expelled from heaven because they would not work in harmony with God. They fell from their high estate because they wanted to be exalted. They had come to exalt themselves, and they forgot that their beauty of person and***

of character came from the Lord Jesus. This fact the [fallen] angels would obscure, that Christ was the only begotten Son of God, and they came to consider that they were not to consult Christ. {TDG 128.2}

What was their rebellion all about? It was about the Sonship of Christ. It is no wonder that there is so much confusion and controversy and debate over the trinity and the Sonship of Christ. Satan continues His warfare started in heaven and continues to try to obscure the fact that Christ is the only begotten Son of God. This is not about the incarnation. What Satan is trying to obscure occurred long before Bethlehem. It was while he and his angels had not yet been cast out of heaven. He wanted worship, so he was trying to obscure what distinguished Christ from himself. The difference of course was Christ was begotten and Lucifer was created. Satan and his angels are still doing that today. The question is, have you fallen for it, because the trinity doctrine obscures the Sonship of Christ. It is a subtle and Satanic deception, that denies the fact that Christ is the only, truly begotten Son of God.

Here is another one from another son of Ellen White, a son we are more familiar with, Willie White, and he is the only one that had children and grandchildren. Here's what he said in 1935, 20 years after his mother was laid to rest, ***"The statements and arguments of some of our ministers, in their effort to prove that the Holy Spirit is an individual as are God the Father and Christ, the eternal Son, have perplexed me, and sometimes they have made me sad. One popular teacher said, 'We may regard Him, as the fellow who is down here running things.'"*** {Letter, W. C. White to H. W. Carr, April 30, 1935} What do you think he understood about God? Was it a trinity? Certainly not. It was at that time, some people were trying to promote the trinity in our church, and when Willie White heard it he was perplexed and saddened, that there was a teaching that the Holy Spirit is an individual, just like the Father and the Son. He was taught by his mother as to what the truth was. He read the Desire of Ages and he didn't come to the conclusion that some people come to today.

As a matter of fact, this is what Mrs. White said about Willie White. ***"It was also shown me that my son, W. C. White, should be my helper and counselor, and that the Lord would place on him the spirit of wisdom and of a sound mind. I was shown that the Lord would guide him, and that he would not be led away, because he would recognize the leadings and guidance of the Holy Spirit."*** {1SM 54.3}

Willie White heard some ministers were attempting to prove that the Holy Spirit is an individual as are God the Father and Christ, and that perplexed and saddened him. The common teaching that we have today is that we have somebody down here running the show, and it's not Christ or the Father, it's someone else called god the Holy Spirit. That is because of the trinity doctrine and that's what most people believe today. Most people who believe that are believing it innocently, because that is what they were taught. The Bible says times of our ignorance God winked at. But God does not want any of us to stay ignorant. We are to become intelligent and investigate the matter. If there were no information available, that would be one thing. But there is a plethora of information that is readily available in videos, books and literature.

Here is another important quotation, ***"The reason why the churches are weak and sickly and ready to die, is that the enemy has brought influences of a discouraging nature to bear upon trembling souls. He has sought to shut Jesus from their view as the Comforter, as one who reproves, who warns, who admonishes them, saying, "This is the way, walk ye in it."*** {RH, August 26, 1890 par. 10}

Did you get that? The reason for the weak and sickly condition of the church is because Satan has sought to shut Jesus from their view as the Comforter. You know how in John chapters 14 to 16, where Jesus speaks of another Comforter, many automatically conclude that it has to be someone else. Jesus was speaking in parable (proverb) and that's why He talked that way. But Jesus was not talking about someone else, He was talking about Himself. The other Comforter is Jesus Christ in a Spiritual manifestation. That is what Mrs. White understood. Some will ask, what about when she wrote "the third person of the Godhead." She was speaking of the indwelling Christ. The Comforter is Jesus Christ and that is the term she used to describe Him.

We are not to read her writings wearing trinitarian glasses, and conclude something different to what she did, and what her son did, and what the whole church did at the time she was alive and wrote all these things.

The claim is that she changed the church belief with the Desire of Ages, and no one picked up on it. All these great Adventist members in her time read Desire of Ages, and nobody perceived a trinity in her writings. They are long dead, but the great theologians of today say that's when she became a trinitarian. Preposterous! It sounds so sneaky, but that's not how God works. That is how the enemy of souls works, however. Jesus is the Comforter and it's His Spirit that comforts and ministers in the human body temple.

So, regarding progressive truth, ***"The Word of the Lord has guided our steps since the passing of the time in 1844. We have searched the Scriptures; we have built solidly; and we have not had to tear up our foundations and put in new timbers."*** {1MR 54.1}

That is pretty plain. We didn't need to change what we had as foundational truth. So, to claim that she changed goes against what she said and wrote, particularly when something she said is a landmark, and was foundational. Understanding the Scriptures in relation to Christ and who He was and understanding the personality of God and of Christ. What does it mean to understand the personality of God and of Christ? It is to know He is a real Father and Christ is a real Son. Anyone who says He is not a real Father and Christ is not a real Son, just a metaphor, you have literally destroyed Their personalities and makes God a liar. It's like saying, what God has revealed about Himself, they are saying, doesn't mean what He said. Really? Okay, so what does it mean? Then they say, well, we don't know. That is why the biggest excuse people hide behind is, 'It's a mystery.' It produces self-conflicting ideas that go contrary to the common sense that God put in our heads. Their position #1. Makes God a poor communicator; #2. You really can't know God or have a proper relationship with Him because He doesn't mean what He says. It's very problematic. Then you add to that the fact that they start condemning and attacking the characters of those who disagree with the trinitarian doctrine, and start disfellowshipping them and not allowing them in their church. All the while they are saying, it's a mystery. The question is, if it is such a mystery, how can you be so solid in defining it, if there are aspects to it that you do not understand? There is a lot of conflict and contradiction.

God has given us common sense in our heads, and He gives us truth that appeals to our intellect, that people can hear, and for God to do that, His purpose is that we can understand what He reveals. That's the whole purpose of His revealing. What we don't understand, and what He has not revealed is God's business. But let us never call what God has revealed, a mystery.

Here is heaven: ***"The years will move on in gladness. Over the scene the morning stars will sing together, and the sons of God will shout for joy, while God and Christ will unite in***

proclaiming, "There shall be no more sin, neither shall there be any more death." {CG 568.1}
Father and Son will declare that, and no one else.

The trinity comes from tradition and it is the foundational pillar of the false system of worship. Roman Catholic catechism, from 'Handbook for Today's Catholic, page 16, it says, **"The mystery of the Trinity is the central doctrine of the Catholic Faith. Upon it are based all the other teachings of the Church."**

It was not the foundation God established His church on. It's the foundation of the other system. We cannot have that in common and think that we have the truth and they have the error. As far as Rome is concerned, Sunday worship is not as important as the trinity; the state of the dead, and eternal torment is not as important as the trinity. As a matter of fact, all their beliefs are derived from the trinity according to what they are saying. The god they worship, the trinity, dictates all the other beliefs they hold to.

In like manner, the God we worship, is to dictate or influence the beliefs we hold to. You know what we believe about the state of the dead is because of our understanding of who God is and what He has revealed. We believe in the Sabbath because we believe it was the Father who created all things through His Son and rested on the seventh day. And every other belief we hold dear, is based on our concept of God, and that is why Jesus said, eternal life is to know the only true God and Jesus Christ whom He has sent.

We end this study with this statement, ***"After the passing of the time in 1844 we searched for the truth as for hidden treasure. ... Thus light was given that helped us to understand the scriptures in regard to Christ, his mission, and his priesthood. A line of truth extending from that time to the time when we shall enter the city of God, was made plain to me, and I gave to others the instruction that the Lord had given me."*** {RH, May 25, 1905 par. 24}

A line of truth, consistent truth, particularly when it comes to who Christ is. Moses and all the prophets had a consistent line of truth on who God is. And Moses never taught a trinity as theologians will admit. When Christ was on earth, He never taught a trinity. He stated His Father was the only true God. He said the Father is His God and our Father and God as well. The apostle Paul and the Apostles never contradicted what Jesus said. No references at all to a trinity, or that God is a trinity. It was a consistent teaching of one God. The wilderness church did not believe in a trinity. William Foy, prophet before Ellen White, no vision of a trinity. And Ellen White, from beginning her office as a prophet in December 1844, to the very end of her ministry, no vision or written statements supporting a trinity. Despite the trinitarians using trinity-sounding statements, there is no trinity there. Ellen White's sons, no trinity belief at all. And all the way to heaven and in heaven, God and His Son will be worshipped, no third being.