

## Can the Understanding of WHO God is, be a Salvational Issue?

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In this study, we will present the position of the Seventh-day Adventist Church today regarding who God is, and we will present the position of the pioneers regarding who God is, so as to determine which position is correct, because they are diametrically opposed. The first three Spirit of Prophecy quotations below, coupled with the single Scripture between them, contain the answer to the title question. In the explanation following the third quote, we will see just how the correct answer is verified. Why is this important? Because no one wants to be lost, however, one side is wrong and is worshipping the false god that Satan has created, in order to deceive the denomination into breaking the first commandment.

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*“Messages of every order and kind have been urged upon Seventh-day Adventists, to take the place of the truth which, point by point, has been sought out by prayerful study, and testified to by the miracle-working power of the Lord. But the waymarks which have made us what we are, are to be preserved, and they will be preserved, as God has signified through His word and the testimony of His Spirit. He calls upon us to hold firmly, with the grip of faith, to the fundamental principles that are based upon unquestionable authority.”*--Special Testimonies, Series B, No. 2, p. 59. (1904.) {CW 52.1}

The period of the pioneers, where there was unanimity in the faith regarding the understanding of who God is, was from 1844,1845 through the early 1900's. This was the period in which the Philadelphia Church of Revelation 3:7-13 was growing. What is so amazing about this church, is that Jesus found no fault with Philadelphia. Listen to the instruction of Jesus gives to this church in Revelation 3:11, “Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.”

In 1SM 200.1 Mrs. White wrote, “*In the book Living Temple there is presented the alpha of deadly heresies. The omega will follow and will be received by those who are not willing to heed the warning God has given.*” {1SM 200.1}

In 1SM 197 she wrote, “*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.*”

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Before we will unravel this questionable mystery, we need to re-examine some pertinent Scriptures that will make clear the fact that if a person ends their probation as an unconfessed and unrepented commandment breaker, they will be lost. That is why understanding WHO God is. Is so vital to salvation.

1. First, the definition of sin according to 1 John 3:4: “**Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.**”

2. The ultimate payment for unforgiven sin, according to Romans 6:23 “**For the wages of sin [is] death; but the gift of God [is] eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.**” This of course is speaking of the second death, from which sin is forever eradicated.
3. Who only has immortality? 1 Timothy 6:16. “**Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom [be] honour and power everlasting. Amen**” So, because the Father is the only eternal God who had no beginning, He possesses immortality, which can be described as life original, unborrowed and underived. That is the same life the Father put in Jesus, and Jesus will put the Father’s life in His redeemed ones, according to Romans 6:23 above.
4. Can a man be saved who has worked his whole life for the Lord, but died with an unconfessed, unrepented sin on his record? Well, that question asks another question. Is God a respecter of persons? Acts 10:34 “**Then Peter opened [his] mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons:**” That being the case, then the answer to the previous question is no, a man cannot be saved by his works. Confirmation is in Ephesians 2:8, 9 “**For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: [it is] the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.**” So, if a man spent his whole life in soul winning, but broke the fourth commandment 52 times a year, can’t God make an exception? No, he had the time and could have learned the truth, also every person that he won, became a chromic sinner as well.
5. If a Seventh-day Adventist dies breaking the first commandment, can’t God forgive him on the basis of ignorance? In times of ignorance God winked, but these are not the times of ignorance. We have the time and the resources, to investigate this matter, which puts the spotlight on the first commandment. The criteria is all about WHO is the God that we worship?

It is a critically important matter, as it has shaken the Seventh-day Adventist Church to its core. Therefore, we will look at who God is, according to today’s Seventh-day Adventist Church, and then how the pioneers of this denominated faith, understood who God is.

### The Seventh-day Adventist Church Today

We will look first at the current Fundamental Belief number 2, which states God is a trinity, a unity of three co-eternal Persons. F.B. Number 3 is regarding God the eternal Father; F.B. Number 4 is about God the eternal Son; and F.B. Number 5 is about God the eternal Holy Spirit.

There are two concepts of God in today’s church. The first is a Triune God, composed of three persons, but is one God. This is the position of the General Conference president and many other leaders and members. The second position taken by many in the church, as well as many in independent ministries, is a tri-theistic God composed of three separate and distinct Gods.

In each case, Triune or Tri-theism, they both believe the three Gods are co-eternal and co-equal and are role playing. Both positions do not believe in a true Father-Son relationship, because, as co-eternals, neither the Father nor the Son are older or younger than the other. The B.R.I. explains that their relationship is therefore a metaphor.

Now we need the Biblical evidence for this position. Below we will give the word, or phrase, followed by the number of times the word or phrase is found in the Bible.

**Trinity: 0 times; co-eternal: 0 times; co-equal: 0 times; God the Father: 13 times; God the Son: 0 times; God the Holy Spirit: 0 times; God the Holy Ghost: 0 times; God in three persons: 0 times.**

Further Biblical evidence: Every reference to God's Spirit or the Spirit of God, found in the Bible, pertains to the eternal Father God. We found no biblical evidence of a God the Holy Spirit. There is no evidence of any one of the 40 or more biblical authors being a trinitarian, which may be due to the fact that the trinity doctrine did not enter the church as an official established doctrine until the Council at Nicea in 325 AD.

Thought question: Is it possible to establish a doctrinal belief without Biblical support?

### **The Seventh-day Adventist Church – In the time of our Pioneers**

Now we will look at the position of the pioneers as to who God is. Here is their position, according to the 1872 Fundamental Principles - Number 1, that there is only one true eternal God and that would be the Father, and that He is everywhere present by His Spirit, which they believed was the Holy Spirit. According to Fundamental Principles - Number 2, That there is one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Eternal Father. There is no other Fundamental Principle regarding another member of the Godhead. Their position was non-trinitarian.

The pioneers believed that at some point in eternity, Jesus was begotten of the Father and had beginning of days. They also believed that the Father gave Jesus His attributes of omnipotence, omniscience and His Spirit which they share, and while they may be physically present in heaven, they can be everywhere omnipresent in the universe. It is by their Spirit that they are able to make their abode in us. Also, it is how Jesus would never leave us nor forsake us, and it is how Jesus can be in the midst of two or three gathered in His name.

Now we need the Biblical evidence for this position. Below we will give the word, or phrase, followed by the number of times the word or phrase is found in the Bible.

**THE FATHER** - God the Father: 13 times; **The Most High God**: 11 times; **Abba**: 3 times; **the only true God**: 1 time. **THE SON** - Son of God: 47 times; My beloved Son: 9 times; begotten Son: 5 times; His firstborn: 4 times; Son of the living God: 2 times; **THE SPIRIT OF GOD** - Holy Spirit: 7 times; **Holy Ghost**: 89 times; Spirit of God: 26 times; Spirit of Christ: 2 times.

Further Scriptural evidence:

1 Corinthians 8:6, “But to us [there is but] **one** God, the Father, of whom [are] all things, and we in him; and **one** Lord Jesus Christ, by whom [are] all things, and we by him.”

John 17:3 “**And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.**” Note – This scripture from the mouth of Jesus says that our eternal life is based on knowing that the Father is the only true God. This destroys any philosophical suggestion that there are co-eternal gods. This statement of Jesus solidifies the fact that the God of the first commandment is only the Father

Spirit of Prophecy evidence:

**“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} Note- The church today says Jesus was not the begotten Son of God until Bethlehem. God's prophet says God promised to give the first-born of heaven, Jesus, to save sinners.

**“O how little man can comprehend the perfection of God, His omnipresence united with His almighty power.”** {3SM 311.3}

**"It is not essential for you to know and be able to define just what the Holy Spirit is. Christ tells us that the Holy Spirit is the Comforter, and the Comforter is the Holy Ghost, "the Spirit of truth, which the Father shall send in My name." "I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you for ever; even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth Him not, neither knoweth Him: but ye know Him, for He dwelleth with you, and shall be in you" [John 14:16, 17]. This refers to the omnipresence of the Spirit of Christ, called the Comforter.** {14MR 179.2} This is a very important quote because it says we are not to know just what the Holy Spirit is and that is true. But we are to know WHO the Holy Spirit is, and we find that identity given in the last sentence of this quote. The omnipresence of the Spirit of Christ, called the Comforter.

Now we are going to wrap up this study by repeating the title. "Can the Understanding of who God is, be a Salvational Issue?" The Pioneers believed in and taught, as they were led by God. The church today says that the pioneers were in error. Who is right and how is this issue salvational? This is salvational because, one of these beliefs on who God is, breaks the first commandment. What does the first commandment say? The Father speaking, "**Thou shalt have no other gods** (plural) **before Me** (singular). This is the one true God the pioneers worshipped. There is only one way to read the first commandment if the trinity were God. "**Thou shalt have no other God** (singular) **before us** (plural). The trinity god destroys the first commandment. All who preach and teach it break the third and the ninth commandment as well.

Now we need to show how Jesus, by the Spirit of Prophecy and Scripture, declares this issue as salvational. The first SOP quote at the beginning of this study: "**Messages of every order and kind have been urged upon Seventh-day Adventists, to take the place of the truth which, point by point, has been sought out by prayerful study, and testified to by the miracle-working power of the Lord. But the waymarks which have made us what we are, are to be preserved, and they will be preserved, as God has signified through His word and the testimony of His Spirit. He calls upon us to hold firmly, with the grip of faith, to the fundamental principles that are based upon unquestionable authority.**"--Special Testimonies, Series B, No. 2, p. 59. (1904.) {CW 52.1}

So, Jesus by His prophet told the SDA church to, "**hold firmly, with the grip of faith, to the fundamental principles that are based upon unquestionable authority.**" Just what do the Fundamental Principles reveal? That there is one true eternal God the Father and He has an omnipresent Spirit. Also, that He has a begotten Son. Two Divine Beings. Not three!!! It was God leading and teaching them. But the church today says they were in error. If the charge is against the pioneers, it is God. who by implication, is in error!. God's prophet said fundamental principles founded on unquestionable authority. How dare the Adventist intellectuals make such a vain charge. So, who do you believe?

The early pioneers came out of trinitarian churches. Doesn't it make sense that if the trinity doctrine were a true doctrine, that they would not have changed? But God was leading and teaching them, and they had a unanimity in their non-trinitarian faith for more than fifty years.

In 1903, Dr. John Harvey Kellogg and a few followers departed from the non-trinitarian faith and embraced the trinity. As he stated, he now believes in God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. Sister White said this is the Alpha of deadly heresy.

The period in which the Philadelphia Church of Revelation 3:7-13 had a pure faith and Jesus found no fault with them. Now listen with your understanding to the instruction of Jesus that He gives to this church in Revelation 3:11, “**Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.**” What is it that they had, that they were to hold fast so as not to lose their crown? It’s what He spoke through His prophet in the quote above: “**hold firmly, with the grip of faith, to the fundamental principles that are based upon unquestionable authority.**” The absolute truth about the Godhead was in those Fundamental Principles. They were to be held fast by the church until probation for the world had ended.

History shows that the watchmen on the walls of Zion went to sleep. Intellectual philosophy ruled the day and the trinity became a doctrine of the SDA church in 1980, at a General Conference session in Dallas, Texas. They appeared in the 1981 church yearbook..

Sister White 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. They are seeking to bring in uncertainties and to set the people of God adrift without an anchor.*** {MR760 9.5}

Sister White was speaking of Kellogg and his followers and their new found trinity faith. But now that the trinity is a fundamental belief of the church, well does Jesus describe Laodicea as “wretched, miserable, poor, BLIND and naked.

The alpha of deadly heresy was all about forsaking the non-trinitarian pure faith of the pioneers, for the trinity faith consisting of god the father, god the son and god the holy spirit. Listen to this admission by an Andrews University professor, found in the book, “The Trinity” written by three Andrews University professors. Page 190, “**That most of the leading SDA pioneers were non-trinitarian in their theology has become accepted Adventist history, surprising as it sounded to most Adventists 40 years ago ...”** “**Was the pioneer belief about the Godhead right or wrong? As one line of reasoning goes, either the pioneers were wrong and the present church is right, or the pioneers were right and the present Seventh-day Adventist Church has apostatized from biblical truth.**” I believe the latter part of their statement is the truth.

The following warning needs to be read and understood be every SDA serious about their salvation. In 1SM 200.1 she wrote, “***In the book Living Temple there is presented the alpha of deadly heresies. The omega will follow and will be received by those who are not willing to heed the warning God has given.***” {1SM 200.1} The Omega has been in the church for 40 years as of 2020. The majority of the church have received the Omega.

One more point. In Revelation 7:3 it reads, “**Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.**” Sadly, many SDA’s believe this seal pertains to the Sabbath, which it does not. Verse 3 says they are the servants of God, so they are already Sabbath-keepers, and verse 4 says that this is the 144,000. What then is the seal? The answer is in 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.**” They are sealed with the Father’s name. They had the correct understanding of the Godhead. Who is not there standing on Mount Zion with Jesus? Those who had the trinity in their foreheads. They are having a millennial sleep.

The trinity god is the god of the anti-Christ beast power. Ellen White said if we ignore the warnings God has given, we **WILL** receive the Omega. According to Jesus, that would mean that man has taken the crown of everyone who did not hold fast to the fundamental principles given to the pioneers. **THE ISSUE IS SALVATIONAL.**