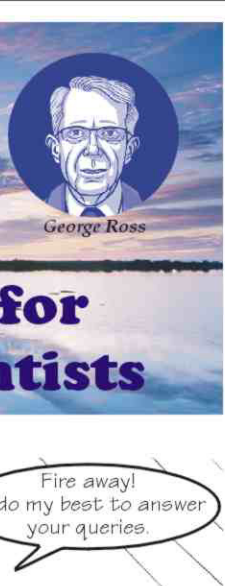
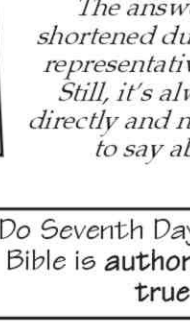
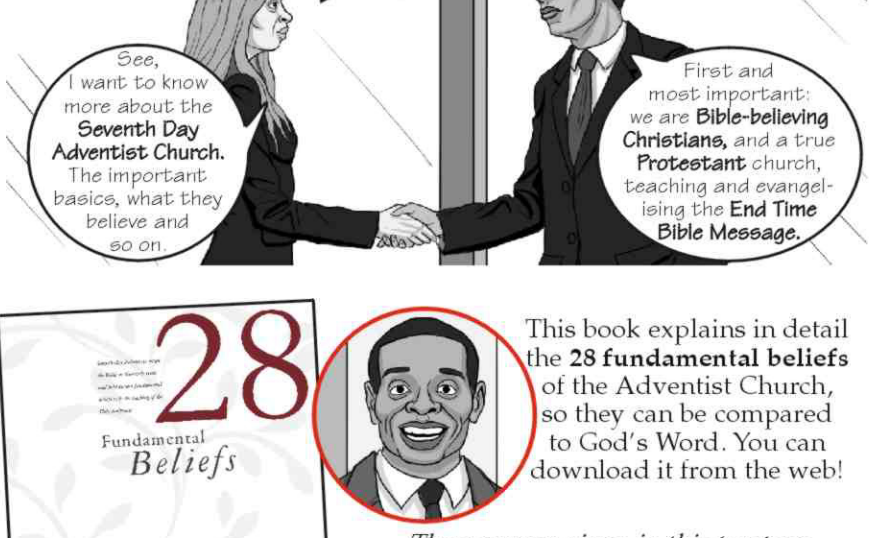




TRUTH THAT NEVER CHANGES



Some questions for Seventh Day Adventists



This book explains in detail the **28 fundamental beliefs** of the Adventist Church, so they can be compared to God's Word. You can download it from the web!

The answers given in this tract are shortened due to space available, but are representative of the Adventist Church. Still, it's always a good idea to ask us directly and not listen to what others have to say about us. So let's begin...



Question 1 Do Seventh Day Adventists believe the Bible is authoritative, being accurate, true and reliable?

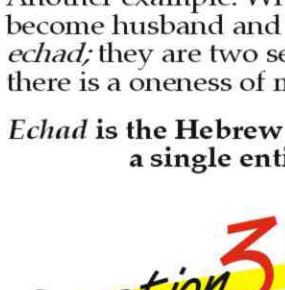
Yes, absolutely! Seventh Day Adventists believe the Bible is the **only source** of faith and practice. **All scripture is given by inspiration of God.**

This authority comes from 2 Timothy 3:16-17. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

We believe the Bible is the Living Word of God. As the prophets spoke, they revealed God's will to humanity. We as Seventh Day Adventists believe that.

Contrary to what some people may say, we don't have any additional source that has authority over the Bible. **The Bible is our only source of authority.** The Bible teaches that scripture is the very foundation of our faith.

THE BIBLE RIGHTLY CLAIMS IT IS INSPIRED BY GOD.



Question 2 Do Adventists accept the truth of the Holy Trinity?

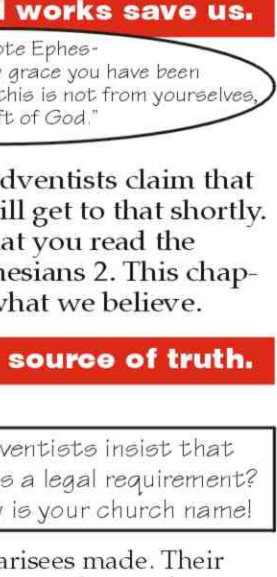
The Trinity is one of our **fundamental beliefs**. We believe that there are three co-eternal, co-equal persons in the Godhead: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. That statement is well-documented in the Bible. In Deuteronomy 6:4 the Bible uses the plural to describe God: "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one."

Yet the word for God here is *Elohim*, which is the **plural** form of the word *God*.

Although the word *Trinity* does not appear in the Bible, we use it to describe the **Godhead**. When we read that the Lord is one, the word used for *one* is *echad*. This word signifies the fusion of equals. So evening and morning were the first day, two elements of time giving one day, a single or *echad* day.

Another example: When a man and woman become husband and wife, they become one, *echad*; they are two separate beings, but there is a oneness of mind and purpose.

Echad is the Hebrew word for ONE, but more precisely it means a single entity made up of more than one part.



Question 3 How would you answer the assertion by some that Adventists believe in **salvation by works**, and that they are **Old Testament believers**?

Seventh Day Adventists do not believe in salvation by works, they do not believe they are saved by what they eat or what day they keep or the external works they perform. Seventh Day Adventists are solidly committed to the Bible teaching of righteousness by faith in Jesus Christ. They are solidly committed to the fact that we are saved by grace alone. 1 John 1:9: "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

Adventists do not believe that good works save us.



Let me quote Ephesians 2: 8: "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith - and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God."

Many critics of the Adventists claim that we are 'legalists'. I will get to that shortly. But let me suggest that you read the whole chapter of Ephesians 2. This chapter clearly sums up what we believe.

The Bible and the Bible alone is the source of truth.



Question 4 Do Seventh Day Adventists insist that **sabbath observance** is a legal requirement? After all, the 7th day is your church name!

This was a mistake the Pharisees made. Their legal obedience was excessive and imperfect, since they believed it was required for the forgiveness of sins. As Adventists we have the advantage, in that our adhering to the law is in fact perfect. The righteousness it demands is already there - the righteousness of Jesus, which submits to the Cross, as that is what the law demands.

We as Adventists do not teach salvation by legal obedience.

Nevertheless, let us be clear: We DO teach that the disciple of Jesus must learn that true salvation in Christ implies adherence to God's commandments.

We base this teaching on the words of Jesus as found in John 14:21: "Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, is the one who loves Me. The one who loves Me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and reveal Myself to him."

We do not accept the commonly held gospel that claims folk can be saved, yet be free from the law and the Ten Commandments. Such teaching creates enthusiasm, but neglects the foundation of truth.

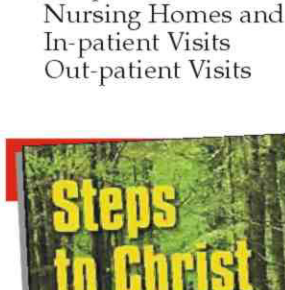


Question 5 So, Pastor, what is there to look forward to? I want to be happy! And you always sound so serious.

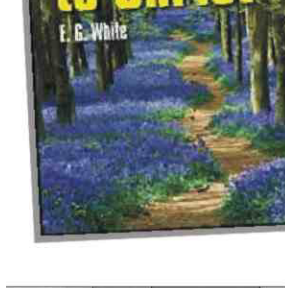
Seventh Day Adventists believe in hope. We hold onto the truth that Jesus said He was coming again. John 14: 1-3: "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also."

We firmly believe that the signs of the times mean Jesus is coming soon.

We base this hope on the Bible verse Titus 2:13: "Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ."



And also Thessalonians 4:16, 17 and 18: "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore we comfort one another with these words."



Question 6 I see you guys are big on diet! How does that help me in my relationship with God?

Wrong! Take a look at what we are in fact saying. Most good folk would agree with us that using good things moderately and avoiding the bad is obviously wise, yet often hard to practice. Temperance can neither be bought nor earned, but is rather **an important gift from God**, a "fruit of the spirit" (Galatians 5:22, 23).

Temperance is moderation in action, thought and feeling. Always a good thing...

Question 7 What does your church say about the source of good and evil?

There was a massive heavenly conflict in the distant past... we don't actually know when it occurred. We call it 'the Great Controversy' (see Revelation 12:7-9). Satan had misrepresented the character of God and wished to usurp God's throne. It was war in Heaven! War between the legions of God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit on the one side, led by Michael, and the great Dragon and his dark angels on the other. But the Dragon was weak and God ultimately prevailed.

God hurled the Dragon, that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, the one who leads the whole world astray, to the earth, and his fallen angels along with him. They lost their place in Heaven. The war was over, but the battle between good and evil continued, right here on earth.

As a 'Remnant' church we recognise that there is a conflict between good and evil in the universe, a conflict that is still raging between God and the forces of evil.

This struggle affects us as human beings every day. The Bible says: "Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." (James 4:7)

If you want to know more, we have a book entitled The Great Controversy.

Question 8 So just how big is your Church?

Let me answer you this way: Seventh Day Adventists, keepers of the Fourth Commandment, have a membership of just over 22 million people. In addition, we have the largest network of radio transmitters broadcasting the gospel worldwide. **But it's not about numbers - it's about truth, right and obedience to God.** However, since you ask the question, let me give you a few stats that show the true significance and value of our Church.

Take a look at some statistics:

- ◆ We have 92,186 churches and approximately 70,000 home groups worldwide, with 19,700 pastors. You can find us with no trouble!
- ◆ The Seventh Day Adventist Church is currently one of the world's fastest growing and most widespread churches.
- ◆ Worldwide, 516 languages are used in Seventh Day Adventist publications and oral work.

Some of the work we do...

The following Seventh Day Adventist Work is done in **212 countries**:

Education	
Secondary Schools	2,713
Primary Schools	6,621
Total Enrollment	2,044,709
Medical	
Hospitals and Sanitariums	227
Nursing Homes and Retirement Centers	133
In-patient Visits	Over 1 ½ million
Out-patient Visits	Over 20 million

Further Reading

Steps to Christ is Ellen G. White's most popular book. It has been translated into **more than 160 languages** and has been read by millions of people throughout the world. So after reading this tract, may I suggest you contact your local Seventh Day Adventist Church and secure a copy. You can also approach the local pastor with any questions you may have. **We have over 90,000 churches and 19,000 pastors all over the world.**

We trust you found this short tract useful in giving you an insight into some facts that are fundamental to the believer. A basic definition of the truth is **that which never changes**. These eternal truths are found only in the Bible, which remains the foundation of the Seventh Day Adventist Church.

George Ross BIBLE TRACT DEVELOPER

Got a question? Check: Gideon@PleaseConsider.Life