

Evangelical View vs. Seventh-day Adventist View

“Divisions will come in the church. Two parties will be developed. The wheat and tares grow up together for the harvest” (LDE 172).

Evangelical View (as it has intruded into Adventism)	Seventh-day Adventist View	God’s Word
Origin Point in Adventism: 1950s Evangelical Conferences	Origin Point in Adventism: 1840s Great Advent Awakening	
Definition of Sin (the Problem)		
Sin is a state of being; it is our nature that we are born with and cultivate.	Sin is a choice (a thought/action). It is the transgression of the law. It is also an attitude (state of being) that is brought on by choices (cultivated).	1 John 3:4 “The only definition of sin in the Word of God is given us in 1 John 3:4” (<i>OHC</i> 141).
Definition of the Gospel (the Remedy)		
Gospel is the “good news” that God “counts” sinners as holy.	Gospel is the “good news” that God counts, cleanses, and recreates sinners anew, restoring them back to the image of God.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ “Except a man be born again, he <u>cannot</u> see the kingdom of God” (John 3:3). ▪ “Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, <u>by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost</u>; Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life” (Titus 3:5-7). ▪ “Pardon and justification are one and the same thing” (<i>FW</i> 103). ▪ “God’s forgiveness is not merely a judicial act by which He sets us free from condemnation. It [God’s forgiveness] is not only forgiveness for sin, but reclaiming from sin” (<i>MB</i> 114). ▪ “To be pardoned in the way that Christ pardons, is not only to be forgiven, but to be renewed in the spirit of our mind” (<i>RH</i>, Aug 19, 1890 par. 7) ▪ “God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth” (2 Thessalonians 2:13).
Gospel is limited to a legal pardon	Gospel includes justification, sanctification, and restoration.	
Gospel promises a covering for sin	Gospel promises a removal of sin	
Justification is forensic (a legal pardon)	Justification is both a legal pardon and a making righteous of the person (but not apart from Christ)	
Sanctification is a result of already being saved	Sanctification is a part of being saved.	
Conditions of salvation: Belief, faith alone	Conditions of salvation: Belief, faith alone (but a faith that works)	
Assurance: Christ covers the sins that you can’t overcome based on an overarching umbrella of justification.	Assurance: Christ covers the sins that you commit (provided you confess and repent), but empowers you to overcome them so you stop committing those sins.	
Purpose of the Gospel: 1) To be saved	Purpose of the Gospel: 1) To be saved 2) To demonstrate God’s character 3) To glorify God 4) To help win great controversy war	
Claims to be grace oriented. But grace is usually limited to God’s lavishing of forgiveness on the sinner.	Grace is defined as the attitude and power of God to both forgive and empower the sinner to overcome. “And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye...may abound to every good work” (2 Cor. 9:8).	
View of Christ		
Christ was human, but did not have fallen, sinful flesh like us. He was not tempted from any inward pull toward sin.	Christ came in the same fallen, sinful flesh as us. He was tempted from without and from within by tendencies in the flesh like all humans (yet He was not corrupted and never sinned).	“God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh” (Romans 8:3). “verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham. Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren” (Hebrews 2:16-17).
Christ is our substitute (primarily) and possibly our example (a distant second)	Christ is our substitute and example, with both aspects non-negotiably crucial	“Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps” (1 Peter 2:21). “He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked” (1 John 2:6). “Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 2:5).

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View of the Atonement		
Atonement accomplished and completed at the cross	Sacrificial atonement completed at the cross; final atonement begins in 1844 ends with the close of probation and events surrounding the scapegoat.	Leviticus 16, Daniel 7-9, Hebrews, Revelation, <i>The Great Controversy</i> “In 1844 our great High Priest entered the most holy place of the heavenly sanctuary, to begin the work of the investigative judgment” (1SM 125).
If the heavenly ministry of Christ since 1844 is even considered noteworthy, it is merely a distribution of the benefits of the already-accomplished atonement that occurred at the cross.	The heavenly ministry of Christ since 1844 is a special work of at-one-ment that finally and fully eradicates sin from the lives of Christians in preparation for translation. It is considered essential, present truth with far-reaching implications for the Adventist word-view, lifestyle, message, and mission.	“Satan is striving <i>continually</i> to bring in fanciful suppositions in regard to the sanctuary, degrading the wonderful representations of God and the ministry of Christ for our salvation into something that <i>suits the carnal mind</i> . He removes its presiding power from the hearts of believers, and supplies its place with <i>fantastic theories</i> invented to make void the <i>truths of the atonement</i> , and destroy our confidence in the doctrines which we have held sacred since the third angel's message <i>was first given</i> . Thus he would rob us of our faith in the <i>very message</i> that has made us a separate people, and has given <i>character and power</i> to our work” (1905) { <i>Evangelism</i> 225}
View of the Church		
Seventh-day Adventist Church is part of God's remnant people	Seventh-day Adventist Church is the remnant church of Bible prophecy	Rev. 12:17 “Let all be careful not to make an outcry against the only people who are fulfilling the description given of the remnant people , who keep the commandments of God and have faith in Jesus.... God has a distinct people, a church on earth, second to none, but superior to all in their facilities to teach the truth, to vindicate the law of God.... My brother, if you are teaching that the Seventh-day Adventist Church is Babylon, you are wrong” (TM 50, 58, 59.)
Other Christian churches are being used by God and are more or less equally valid, so long as they teach the “gospel” (as defined above).	Christian churches that teach Sunday sacredness and immortality of the soul constitute fallen Babylon, although God has many faithful souls therein. They are called to come out.	Second angel's message. Rev 14:8. Fourth angel's message. Rev 18:1-4.
View of Inspiration		
Sola Scriptura (usually excludes or downplays writings of Ellen G. White as an authoritative source)	Sola Scriptura (including that part of Scripture that foretells an end-time gift of prophecy—thus the writings of Ellen G. White are included in the overall source of God's Word for His end time church).	Rev 12:17; 19:10 Joel 2:28-32

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View of the End Times		
Close of probation, final sealing, significance of Sabbath vs. Sunday is not considered central in the end times.	Close of probation, final sealing, Sabbath vs. Sunday as a sign of loyalty to God, significance of the experience of the 144,000 are central to the end times.	Revelation, <i>The Great Controversy</i> "Those who receive the seal of the living God and are protected in the time of trouble <i>must</i> reflect the image of Jesus <i>fully</i> " (RH, April 1, 1902, par. 8).
The cross is where God manifested His character to the world.	The cross is where God manifested His character to the universe. Additionally, the end-time final generation provides a full and final display of God's character to a watching universe.	"The Saviour came to glorify the Father by the demonstration of His love; so the Spirit was to glorify Christ by revealing His grace to the world. The very image of God is to be reproduced in humanity. <i>The honor of God, the honor of Christ, is involved in the perfection of the character of His people</i> " (DA 671). "Through the church will eventually be made manifest, even to 'the principalities and powers in heavenly places,' the final and full display of the love of God" (AA 9).
Biggest Challenges Facing the Church		
Legalism is the biggest problem the church faces. Too much focus on doctrine, lifestyle standards, a fundamentalist approach to the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy, triumphalism.	Worldliness and a lack of conversion is the biggest problem facing the church. A failure to accept a plain, thus saith the Lord, a lowering of lifestyle standards, compromise with surrounding worldly culture, rationalization of God's word, a loss of identity.	The church's "greatest danger is from worldly conformity" (LP 233).
Book that Expresses Each View Well (as claimed by them)		
<i>Questions on Doctrine</i>	<i>The Great Controversy</i>	
Implications of Each View		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Importance of obedience downplayed. 2. Importance of character perfection minimized. 3. Importance of distinctive Seventh-day Adventist doctrines reduced. 4. Importance of lifestyle standards lightly regarded. 5. Call to come out of Babylon is muted. 6. Message and mission of the church suffers. 7. The identity of God's special remnant church is imperiled. 8. God is robbed of His glory. 9. Sin and suffering is prolonged. 10. The Second Coming is delayed. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. End time call to obey all God's commandments by faith. 2. Character perfection brings glory to God. 3. Distinctive doctrines form a unified whole. 4. Lifestyle standards protect God's people from greater dangers. 5. Final call to separate from Babylon's false systems. 6. Message & mission of church is strengthened. 7. Identity of church is enhanced. 8. God is glorified by His people being in harmony with His message and with each other. 9. Sin and suffering is curtailed and shortened. 10. The Second Coming is hastened. 	"Seventh-day Adventists have been chosen by God as a peculiar people, separate from the world. By the great cleaver of truth He has cut them out from the quarry of the world, and brought them into connection with Himself. He has made them His representatives, and has called them to be ambassadors for Him in the last work of salvation. <i>The greatest wealth of truth ever entrusted to mortals, the most solemn and fearful warnings ever sent by God to man, have been committed to them to be given to the world</i> " (CW 178).

Evangelical (general definition): "The conservative wing of Protestant Christianity comprising many denominations and other faith groups that tightly hold to historical Christian creeds, beliefs and practices." This umbrella term includes [Christian Identity](#), Fundamentalist, [Pentecostal](#) and [Reconstructionist](#), some Baptist, and many other faith groups. . . . Most theologians recognize [two other main wings of Protestantism](#): mainline and liberal denominations. http://www.religioustolerance.org/evan_defn.htm

"There have ever been two classes among those who profess to be followers of Christ. While one class study the Saviour's life and earnestly seek to correct their defects and conform to the Pattern, the other class shun the plain, practical truths which expose their errors" (GC 43).

“False teachers may appear to be very zealous for the work of God, and may expend means to bring their theories before the world and the church; but as they mingle error with truth, their message is one of deception, and will lead souls into false paths. They are to be met and opposed, not because they are bad men, but because they are teachers of falsehood and are endeavoring to put upon falsehood the stamp of truth” (TM 55).

“Error will never sanctify” (2SM 69). We are sanctified by the truth. John 17:17.

“Babylon is fallen, ‘because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.’ What is that wine?—her false doctrines. She has given to the world a false sabbath instead of the Sabbath of the fourth commandment, and has repeated the falsehood that Satan first told to Eve in Eden—the natural immortality of the soul. Many kindred errors she has spread far and wide, ‘teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.’” —Ellen G. White, *Maranatha*, p. 171.

“Make your complaint, plainly and openly, in the right spirit, to the proper ones. Send in your petitions for things to be adjusted and set in order; but do not withdraw from the work of God, and prove unfaithful, because others are not doing right.”—Ellen G. White, *Testimonies*, Vol. 9, p. 249.

“My message to you is: No longer consent to listen without protest to the perversion of truth. Unmask the pretentious sophistries which, if received, will lead ministers and physicians and medical missionary workers to ignore the truth. Every one is now to stand on his guard.... 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.” —Ellen G. White, *Selected Messages*, Vol. 1, p. 196.

“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge; because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee” (Hosea 4:6).

“...because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved” (2 Thess. 2:10).

“Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God” (Matt. 4:4).

“If ye continue in My word, then are ye My disciples indeed” (John 8:31).

“But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed” (Gal. 1:8).

“God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit **and** belief of the truth” (2 Thess. 2:13).

“As I besought thee to abide still at Ephesus, when I went into Macedonia, that thou mightest charge some that they teach no other doctrine” (1 Tim. 1:3).

“In all things showing thyself a pattern of good works, in doctrine showing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity” (Titus 2:7).

“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations... Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you” (Matthew 28:19-20).

And the basis of a true relationship with Jesus is obedience to all His commandments:

“Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you” (John 15:14).

We cannot surrender the truth in order to accomplish this union; for the very means by which it is to be gained is sanctification through the truth. Human wisdom would change all this, thinking this basis of union too narrow. Men would effect a union through conformity to popular opinions, through a compromise with the world. But truth is God's basis for the unity of his people.—Ellen G. White, {GW92 391.2}

“I ask you... to do all in your power to lead... to the platform of eternal truth. Work in unity. Press together. Let each one stand in his place. Speak the truth plainly, but in love. Keep the standard of truth uplifted.” {Battle Creek Letters, p. 96.1}

“The track of truth lies close beside the track of error, and both tracks may seem to be one to minds which are not worked by the Holy Spirit, and which, therefore, are not quick to discern the difference between truth and error” {1SM 202.2}