REACTIONS TO THE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST
EVANGELICAL CONFERENCES AND
QUESTIONS ON DOCTRINE,
1955-1971

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Topic
The Seventh-day Adventist Evangelical Conferences of 1955-1956 resulted in the
publication of articles favorable to Adventists in Eternity magazine, and the publication
of the book Seventh-day Adventists Answer Questions on Doctrine, both of which evoked a
variety of reactions among evangelicals and Adventists.

Purpose
This study identifies and analyzes various evangelical and Adventist responses to the
Seventh-day Adventist Evangelical Conferences and Questions on Doctrine. In particular,
this investigation examines the interaction between the major theological camps that
emerged within and outside the Adventist Church.

Sources
This research is a documentary/analytical study of materials produced between 1955 and
1971 in reaction to the Seventh-day Adventist Evangelical Conferences and Questions on Doctrine. Sources of particular importance to this study have been major evangelical and
Adventist periodicals and unpublished materials gathered from archival collections at
Andrews University, the Ellen G. White Estate, the General Conference of Seventh-day
Adventists, Loma Linda University, and the Presbyterian Historical Society.

Conclusion
Four distinct types of reactions were identified by this research: pro-Adventist
evangelicals, anti-Adventist evangelicals, pro-Questions on Doctrine Adventists, and anti-
Questions on Doctrine Adventists. The first group was represented by Walter R. Martin,
Donald Grey Barnhouse, E. Schuyler English, and Frank Mead, who accepted Adventists as an evangelical church. The rest of the evangelical world belonged to the
second group and continued to regard Adventism as a cult. The third group was led by
those General Conference leaders who participated in the Adventist-evangelical
conferences and in the publication of Questions on Doctrine. The final group was led by
M. L. Andreasen, who strongly protested against the book, which he considered to be
significantly un-Adventist. The reactions by and interactions among these four groups
until 1971 show that the controversy over the Adventist-evangelical dialogues and
Questions on Doctrine was never fully resolved and the four sides remained in tension.