Contemporary Comments on the Adult Sabbath School Lesson

[Title] The Unity of the Gospel
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Our world has a way of uniting—of coming together during a catastrophe or loss. And although a recent loss involved the death of just one man, the world seemed to unite last week to honor Steve Jobs. His death brought and outpouring of both grief and gratitude when he died on October 5th. The Apple co-founder died of respiratory arrest resulting from cancer that initiated in his pancreas and had spread to other organs. He died at home the day after Apple's latest invention was birthed—the iPhone 4S.¹

News of his death brought tributes from around the world. Across the globe supporters gathered at local Mac stores to express their sympathies and support. Large crowds gathered at Apple headquarters in Cupertino, California where a memorial was established. Supporters stopped by to leave flowers and to light candles. Across the country, the Apple store in New York displayed a sign that simply said, “I Love Steve.”

Apparently Tokyo, Beijing, Seoul and other countries loved Steve, too. The day after his death, employees of the Ginza shopping district in Tokyo held a silent moment of prayer before opening their store to costumers. A Japanese Job's fan said, “His ability as a CEO was unmatched. I think he had an incredible impact on leaders of Japanese corporations.”² China was active in showing support by using their equivalent of Twitter. More than 50 million messages were posted regarding Jobs.

Perhaps Bill Gates best summed up the world’s response when he said, “The world rarely sees someone who has had the profound impact Steve has had, the effects of which will be felt for many generations to come.”³

While it’s inspiring to see such unity over the death of a historic individual, unity within the church is vital. Paul said to the people at Philippi, “Complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind” (Philippians 2:2). That seems like an impossible request for today’s church! How can we be “of the same mind” when we have so many different opinions? How can we be “in full accord” when there is often discord? We differ in styles of worship, in how to keep the Sabbath, in the role of women in the church, in how to apply the writings of Ellen White....

Obviously, in a church where the growth rate is one million per year, and a new member joins at a rate of one every 35 seconds, we’re not always going to agree.⁴ But the key is “unity in diversity.” We can be diverse in gender, culture, education, occupation and age—yet still be unified by the same gospel. Paul urges us to respect each other’s diversity, yet be one when it comes to the truth. And how do we know what “truth” is? By praying, studying, being open-minded, and listening as God reveals it to us.

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Additional resource: You Tube

¹ USA Today
² ABC News
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Thanks so much,

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