

Proposed Changes to the Fundamental Beliefs

From the Proceedings of Annual Council 2014 in Preparation for the 2015 General Conference Session

1 ADCOM/ADCOM/PREXAD/GCDO13AC/13AC/133-13GS/BRI/ADCOM/ADCOM/PreC/
2 SecC/TrC/GCDO14AC to AAS-14AC+15GCS*

3
4 124-14GS FUNDAMENTAL BELIEFS OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS -
5 AMENDMENT

6
7 RECOMMENDED, To amend the Fundamental Beliefs of Seventh-day Adventists, to read as
8 follows:

10 Fundamental Beliefs of Seventh-day Adventists

11
12 Seventh-day Adventists accept the Bible as their only creed and hold certain fundamental
13 beliefs to be the teaching of the Holy Scriptures. These beliefs, as set forth here, constitute the
14 church's understanding and expression of the teaching of Scripture. Revision of these statements
15 may be expected at a General Conference Session when the church is led by the Holy Spirit to a
16 fuller understanding of Bible truth or finds better language in which to express the teachings of
17 God's Holy Word.

19 1. The Holy Scriptures

20
21 The Holy Scriptures, Old and New Testaments, are the written Word of God, given by
22 divine inspiration through holy ~~men~~ **persons** of God who spoke and wrote as they were moved by
23 the Holy Spirit. In this Word, God has committed to ~~man~~ **humanity** the knowledge necessary for
24 salvation. The Holy Scriptures are **the final, authoritative, and** the infallible revelation of His
25 will. They are the standard of character, the test of experience, the **authoritative definitive**
26 revealer of doctrines, and the trustworthy record of God's acts in history. (Ps. 119:105; Prov
27 30:5, 6; Isa. 8:20; John 17:17; 1 Thess. 2:13; 2 Tim. 3:16, 17; Heb. 4:12; 2 Peter 1:20, 21.) (2
28 Peter 1:20, 21; 2 Tim. 3:16, 17; Ps. 119:105; Prov. 30:5, 6; Isa. 8:20; John 17:17; 1 Thess. 2:13;
29 Heb. 4:12.)

31 2. The Trinity

32
33 There is one God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, a unity of three coeternal Persons. God is
34 immortal, all-powerful, all-knowing, above all, and ever present. He is infinite and beyond
35 human comprehension, yet known through His self-revelation. **He God, who is love,** is forever
36 worthy of worship, adoration, and service by the whole creation. (Gen. 1:26; Deut. 6:4; Isa. 6:8;
37 Matt. 28:19; John 3:16 2 Cor. 1:21, 22; 13:14; Eph. 4:4-6; 1 Peter 1:2.) (Deut. 6:4; Matt. 28:19;
38 2 Cor. 13:14; Eph. 4:4-6; 1 Peter 1:2; 1 Tim. 1:17; Rev. 14:7.)

40 3. The Father

41
42 God the eternal Father is the Creator, Source, Sustainer, and Sovereign of all creation. He
43 is just and holy, merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and
44 faithfulness. The qualities and powers exhibited in the Son and the Holy Spirit are also **those**
45 **revelations** of the Father. (Gen. 1:1; Exod. 34:6, 7; Deut. 4:35; Ps. 110:1, 4; John 3:16; 14:9;

Comment [TKB1]: Inclusive language

Comment [TKB2]: Inclusive language

Comment [TKB3]: This addition aims to make explicit the principle of *sola scriptura*.

Comment [TKB4]: To avoid a repetitive use of "authoritative" the word "definitive" establishes an understanding of the Bible as its own standard, without implying that we evaluate the Bible's role relative to a human assessment of rationality.

Comment [TKB5]: There is no reference to divine love in this statement about the Godhead. The character of God is at the heart of the cosmic conflict and the work of Christ.

Comment [TKB6]: This addition emphasizes the three persons and avoids reading the statement along the lines of modalism (the idea that there is one God who revealed Himself in three different ways; there are not three persons).

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*These acronyms stand for the committees that have reviewed the proposed changes.

124-14GS FUNDAMENTAL BELIEFS OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS -
AMENDMENT - 2

1 1 Cor. 15:28; 1 Tim. 1:17; 1 John 4:8; Rev. 4:11.) Rev. 4:11; 1 Cor. 15:28; John 3:16; 1 John
2 4:8; 1 Tim. 1:17; Ex. 34:6, 7; John 14:9.)

3
4 4. The Son

5
6 God the eternal Son became incarnate in Jesus Christ. Through Him all things were
7 created, the character of God is revealed, the salvation of humanity is accomplished, and the
8 world is judged. Forever truly God, He became also truly human, man, Jesus the Christ. He was
9 conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He lived and experienced temptation
10 as a human being, but perfectly exemplified the righteousness and love of God. By His miracles
11 He manifested God's power and was attested as God's promised Messiah. He suffered and died
12 voluntarily on the cross for our sins and in our place, was raised from the dead, and ascended to
13 heaven to minister in the heavenly sanctuary in our behalf. He will come again in glory for the
14 final deliverance of His people and the restoration of all things. (Isa. 53:4-6; Dan. 9:25-27; Luke
15 1:35; John 1:1-3, 14; 5:22; 10:30; 14:1-3, 9; Rom. 6:23; 1 Cor. 15:3, 4; 2 Cor. 3:18; 5:17-19;
16 Phil. 2:5-11; Col. 1:15-19; Heb. 2:9-18; Heb. 8:1, 2.) (John 1:1-3, 14; Col. 1:15-19; John 10:30;
17 14:9; Rom. 6:23; 2 Cor. 5:17-19; John 5:22; Luke 1:35; Phil. 2:5-11; Heb. 2:9-18; 1 Cor. 15:3, 4;
18 Heb. 8:1, 2; John 14:13.)

19
20 5. The Holy Spirit

21
22 God the eternal Spirit was active with the Father and the Son in Creation, incarnation,
23 and redemption. He is as much a person as are the Father and the Son. He inspired the writers of
24 Scripture. He filled Christ's life with power. He draws and convicts human beings; and those
25 who respond He renews and transforms into the image of God. Sent by the Father and the Son to
26 be always with His children, He extends spiritual gifts to the church, empowers it to bear witness
27 to Christ, and in harmony with the Scriptures leads it into all truth. (Gen. 1:1, 2; 2 Sam. 23:2; Ps.
28 51:11; Isa. 61:1; Luke 1:35; 4:18; John 14:16-18, 26; 15:26; 16:7-13; Acts 1:8; 5:3; 10:38; 1 Cor.
29 12:7-11; 2 Cor. 3:18; 2 Peter 1:21.) (Gen. 1:1, 2; Luke 1:35; 4:18; Acts 10:38; 2 Peter 1:21; 2
30 Cor. 3:18; Eph. 4:11, 12; Acts 1:8; John 14:16-18, 26; 15:26, 27; 16:7-13.)

31
32 6. Creation

33
34 God is the Creator of all things, and has revealed in Scripture the authentic and historical
35 account of His creative activity. In six days a recent six-day creation the Lord made "the heavens
36 and the earth, the sea and all that is in them" and rested on the seventh day. "the heaven and the
37 earth" and all living things upon the earth, and rested on the seventh day of that first week. Thus
38 He established the Sabbath as a perpetual memorial of His creative work performed and
39 completed during six literal days that together with the Sabbath constituted a week as we
40 experience it today. completed creative work. The first man and woman were made in the image
41 of God as the crowning work of Creation, given dominion over the world, and charged with
42 responsibility to care for it. When the world was finished it was "very good," declaring the glory

Comment [TKB7]: Inclusive language

Comment [TKB8]: The addition provides consistency in the use of prepositional phrases in the sentence. It also includes the ascension among the events in the life of Jesus listed in the previous sentences.

Comment [TKB9]: The addition makes explicit what is implied in the Statement (the personhood of the Son and the Spirit) and thus removes any possible ambiguity.

Comment [TKB10]: The article was added for consistency; see # 3.

Comment [TKB11]: This may be the best place to incorporate the historicity of the narrative. We can explore other possibilities, but the impression we have is that if we place it somewhere else within the Statement, we may have to elaborate on it.

Comment [TKB12]: This is the best place to introduce the idea of a recent creation.

Comment [TKB13]: The quote is not from Genesis 1:1, but from Exodus 20:11. The reason is that terminology used in Exodus seems to restrict the creative act to what took place during the six days of creation and is not necessarily dealing with the creation of the cosmos. The Bible makes clear that during the creation of the earth, other intelligent beings already existed in the cosmos (Job 38:7). We also believe that sin originated in heaven among the angels before the creation of humans. Therefore our creation statement should reflect this biblical information without developing it. By quoting Exodus instead of Genesis, we leave open the possibility that Genesis 1:1 is dealing with the creation of the cosmos and the creation week is about life on the planet.

Comment [TKB14]: This is already included in the biblical quotation from Exodus.

Comment [TKB15]: We retain the verb "completed" to indicate that the biblical creation account is not describing a still ongoing process.

Comment [TKB16]: The question of a real week is considered to be important, but it is difficult to find a proper place for it and to express it in language that is clear and that does not add too much to the text.

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124-14GS FUNDAMENTAL BELIEFS OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS -
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1 of God. (Gen. 1-2; Ex. 20:8-11; Ps. 19:1-6; 33:6, 9; 104; Isa. 45:12; Acts 17:24; Col. 1:16;
2 Heb. 11:3; Rev. 10:6; 14:7.) (Gen. 1; 2; Ex. 20:8-11; Ps. 19:1-6; 33:6, 9; 104; Heb. 11:3.)

3
4 7. The Nature of Humanity ~~Man~~

5
6 Man and woman were made in the image of God with individuality, the power and
7 freedom to think and to do. Though created free beings, each is an indivisible unity of body,
8 mind, and spirit, dependent upon God for life and breath and all else. When our first parents
9 disobeyed God, they denied their dependence upon Him and fell from their high position.
10 ~~position under God.~~ The image of God in them was marred and they became subject to death.
11 Their descendants share this fallen nature and its consequences. They are born with weaknesses
12 and tendencies to evil. But God in Christ reconciled the world to Himself and by His Spirit
13 restores in penitent mortals the image of their Maker. Created for the glory of God, they are
14 called to love Him and one another, and to care for their environment. (Gen. 1:26-28; 2:7, 15; 3;
15 Ps. 8:4-8; 51:5, 10; 58:3; Jer. 17:9; Acts 17:24-28; Rom. 5:12-17; 2 Cor. 5:19, 20; Eph. 2:3; 1
16 John 4:7, 8, 11, 20.) (Gen. 1:26-28; 2:7; Ps. 8:4-8; Acts 17:24-28; Gen. 3; Ps. 51:5; Rom. 5:12-
17 17; 2 Cor. 5:19, 20; Ps. 51:10; 1 John 4:7, 8, 11, 20; Gen. 2:15.)

18
19 8. The Great Controversy

20
21 All humanity is now involved in a great controversy between Christ and Satan regarding
22 the character of God, His law, and His sovereignty over the universe. This conflict originated in
23 heaven when a created being, endowed with freedom of choice, in self-exaltation became Satan,
24 God's adversary, and led into rebellion a portion of the angels. He introduced the spirit of
25 rebellion into this world when he led Adam and Eve into sin. This human sin resulted in the
26 distortion of the image of God in humanity, the disordering of the created world, and its eventual
27 devastation at the time of the worldwide flood, as presented in the historical account of
28 Genesis 1-11. ~~flood.~~ Observed by the whole creation, this world became the arena of the
29 universal conflict, out of which the God of love will ultimately be vindicated. To assist His
30 people in this controversy, Christ sends the Holy Spirit and the loyal angels to guide, protect, and
31 sustain them in the way of salvation. (Gen. 3; 6-8; Job 1:6-12; Isa. 14:12-14; Ezek. 28:12-18;
32 Rom. 1:19-32; 5:12-21; 8:19-22; 1 Cor. 4:9; Heb. 1:14; 1 Peter 5:8; 2 Peter 3:6; Rev. 12:4-9.)
33 (Rev. 12:4-9; Isa. 14:12-14; Eze. 28:12-18; Gen. 3; Rom. 1:19-32; 5:12-21; 8:19-22; Gen. 6-8;
34 2 Peter 3:6; 1 Cor. 4:9; Heb. 1:14.)

35
36 9. The Life, Death, and Resurrection of Christ

37
38 In Christ's life of perfect obedience to God's will, His suffering, death, and resurrection,
39 God provided the only means of atonement for human sin, so that those who by faith accept this
40 atonement may have eternal life, and the whole creation may better understand the infinite and
41 holy love of the Creator. This perfect atonement vindicates the righteousness of God's law and
42 the graciousness of His character; for it both condemns our sin and provides for our forgiveness.

Comment [TKB17]: Inclusive language

Comment [TKB18]: This short phrase is redundant. It could also be misunderstood in its present context as suggesting that it was under God that Adam and Eve fell into sin.

Comment [TKB19]: There are a couple of reasons for placing this sentence here. First, this is the only place in the Statement of Fundamental Beliefs in which the flood is mentioned; second, the phrase "worldwide flood" is the equivalent of the originally suggested reading ("and that the flood was global in nature"); and third, Statement #8 takes us back to creation and the fall making it possible to make a reference to Genesis 1-11 and not only to chapters dealing with the flood.

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124-14GS FUNDAMENTAL BELIEFS OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS -
AMENDMENT - 4

1 The death of Christ is substitutionary and expiatory, reconciling and transforming. The bodily
2 resurrection of Christ proclaims God's triumph over the forces of evil, and for those who accept
3 the atonement assures their final victory over sin and death. It declares the Lordship of Jesus
4 Christ, before whom every knee in heaven and on earth will bow. (Gen. 3:15; Ps. 22:1; Isa. 53;
5 John 3:16; 14:30; Rom. 1:4; 3:25; 4:25; 8:3, 4; 1 Cor. 15:3, 4, 20-22; 2 Cor. 5:14, 15, 19-21;
6 Phil. 2:6-11; Col. 2:15; 1 Peter 2:21, 22; 1 John 2:2; 4:10.) (John 3:16; Isa. 53; 1 Peter 2:21, 22;
7 1 Cor. 15:3, 4, 20-22; 2 Cor. 5:14, 15, 19-21; Rom. 1:4; 3:25; 4:25; 8:3, 4; 1 John 2:2; 4:10;
8 Col. 2:15; Phil. 2:6-11.)

Comment [TKB20]: This makes explicit what is already implicit in the statement.

10 10. The Experience of Salvation

12 In infinite love and mercy God made Christ, who knew no sin, to be sin for us, so that in
13 Him we might be made the righteousness of God. Led by the Holy Spirit we sense our need,
14 acknowledge our sinfulness, repent of our transgressions, and exercise faith in Jesus as Saviour
15 and Lord, Lord and Christ, as Substitute and Example. This faith, which receives salvation, faith
16 which receives salvation comes through the divine power of the Word and is the gift of God's
17 grace. Through Christ we are justified, adopted as God's sons and daughters, and delivered from
18 the lordship of sin. Through the Spirit we are born again and sanctified; the Spirit renews our
19 minds, writes God's law of love in our hearts, and we are given the power to live a holy life.
20 Abiding in Him we become partakers of the divine nature and have the assurance of salvation
21 now and in the judgment. (Gen. 3:15; Isa. 45:22; 53; Jer. 31:31-34; Ezek. 33:11; 36:25-27; Hab.
22 2:4; Mark 9:23, 24; John 3:3-8, 16; 16:8; Rom. 3:21-26; 8:1-4, 14-17; 5:6-10; 10:17; 12:2;
23 2 Cor. 5:17-21; Gal. 1:4; 3:13, 14, 26; 4:4-7; Eph. 2:4-10; Col. 1:13, 14; Titus 3:3-7;
24 Heb. 8:7-12; 1 Peter 1:23; 2:21, 22; 2 Peter 1:3, 4; Rev. 13:8.) (2 Cor. 5:17-21; John 3:16;
25 Gal. 1:4; 4:4-7; Titus 3:3-7; John 16:8; Gal. 3:13, 14; 1 Peter 2:21, 22; Rom. 10:17; Luke 17:5;
26 Mark 9:23, 24; Eph. 2:5-10; Rom. 3:21-26; Col. 1:13, 14; Rom. 8:14-17; Gal. 3:26; John 3:3-8;
27 1 Peter 1:23; Rom. 12:2; Heb. 8:7-12; Eze. 36:25-27; 2 Peter 1:3, 4; Rom. 8:1-4; 5:6-10.)

Comment [TKB21]: The reason for using the title "Christ" is not clear. The connection between the two Christological titles and the final clause in the sentence ("as Substitute and Example") also needs clarification. The suggested changes resolve both items.

Comment [TKB22]: Proper English punctuation.

29 11. Growing in Christ

31 By His death on the cross Jesus triumphed over the forces of evil. He who subjugated the
32 demonic spirits during His earthly ministry has broken their power and made certain their
33 ultimate doom. Jesus' victory gives us victory over the evil forces that still seek to control us, as
34 we walk with Him in peace, joy, and assurance of His love. Now the Holy Spirit dwells within us
35 and empowers us. Continually committed to Jesus as our Saviour and Lord, we are set free from
36 the burden of our past deeds. No longer do we live in the darkness, fear of evil powers,
37 ignorance, and meaninglessness of our former way of life. In this new freedom in Jesus, we are
38 called to grow into the likeness of His character, communing with Him daily in prayer, feeding
39 on His Word, meditating on it and on His providence, singing His praises, gathering together for
40 worship, and participating in the mission of the Church. We are also called to follow Christ's
41 example by compassionately ministering to the physical, mental, social, emotional, and spiritual
42 needs of humanity. As we give ourselves in loving service to those around us and in witnessing

Comment [TKB23]: This addition summarizes a genuine Seventh-day Adventist concern for service to suffering human beings that is not emphasized in the Statement of Fundamental Beliefs and will make it unnecessary to add a new statement of faith on Christian Social Responsibility.

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AMENDMENT - 5

1 to His salvation, His constant presence with us through the Spirit transforms every moment and
2 every task into a spiritual experience. (1 Chron. 29:11; Ps. 1:1, 2: 23:4; 77:11, 12;
3 Matt. 20:25-28; 25:31-46; Luke 10:17-20; John 20:21; Rom. 8:38, 39; 2 Cor. 3:17, 18;
4 Gal. 5:22-25; Eph. 5:19, 20; 6:12-18; Phil. 3:7-14; Col. 1:13, 14; 2:6, 14, 15;
5 1 Thess. 5:16-18, 23; Heb. 10:25; James 1:27; 2 Peter 2:9; 3:18; 1 John 4:4.) (Ps. 1:1, 2: 23:4;
6 77:11, 12; Col. 1:13, 14; 2:6, 14, 15; Luke 10:17-20; Eph. 5:19, 20; 6:12-18; 1 Thess. 5:23;
7 2 Peter 2:9; 3:18; 2 Cor. 3:17, 18; Phil. 3:7-14; 1 Thess. 5:16-18; Matt. 20:25-28; John 20:21;
8 Gal. 5:22-25; Rom. 8:38, 39; 1 John 4:4; Heb. 10:25.)

9
10 12. The Church

11
12 The church is the community of believers who confess Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour.
13 In continuity with the people of God in Old Testament times, we are called out from the world;
14 and we join together for worship, for fellowship, for instruction in the Word, for the celebration
15 of the Lord's Supper, for service to humanity, all mankind, and for the worldwide proclamation
16 of the gospel. The church derives its authority from Christ, who is the incarnate Word revealed in
17 the Scriptures, Word, and from the Scriptures, which are the written Word. The church is God's
18 family; adopted by Him as children, its members live on the basis of the new covenant. The
19 church is the body of Christ, a community of faith of which Christ Himself is the Head. The
20 church is the bride for whom Christ died that He might sanctify and cleanse her. At His return in
21 triumph, He will present her to Himself a glorious church, the faithful of all the ages, the
22 purchase of His blood, not having spot or wrinkle, but holy and without blemish. (Gen. 12:1-3;
23 Exod. 19:3-7; Matt. 16:13-20; 18:18; 28:19, 20; Acts 2:38-42; 7:38; 1 Cor. 1:2; Eph. 1:22, 23;
24 2:19-22; 3:8-11; 5:23-27; Col. 1:17, 18; 1 Peter 2:9.) (Gen. 12:3; Acts 7:38; Eph. 4:11-15; 3:8-
25 11; Matt. 28:19, 20; 16:13-20; 18:18; Eph. 2:19-22; 1:22, 23; 5:23-27; Col. 1:17, 18.)

26
27 13. The Remnant and Its Mission

28
29 The universal church is composed of all who truly believe in Christ, but in the last days, a
30 time of widespread apostasy, a remnant has been called out to keep the commandments of God
31 and the faith of Jesus. This remnant announces the arrival of the judgment hour, proclaims
32 salvation through Christ, and heralds the approach of His second advent. This proclamation is
33 symbolized by the three angels of Revelation 14; it coincides with the work of judgment in
34 heaven and results in a work of repentance and reform on earth. Every believer is called to have
35 a personal part in this worldwide witness. (Dan. 7:9-14; Isa. 1:9; 11:11; Jer. 23:3; Mic. 2:12;
36 2 Cor. 5:10; 1 Peter 1:16-19; 4:17; 2 Peter 3:10-14; Jude 3, 14; Rev. 12:17; 14:6-12; 18:1-4.)
37 (Rev. 12:17; 14:6-12; 18:1-4; 2 Cor. 5:10; Jude 3, 14; 1 Peter 1:16-19; 2 Peter 3:10-14; Rev.
38 21:1-14.)

39

Comment [TKB24]: Inclusive language

Comment [TKB25]: The sentence implies that there are two sources of authority for the Church, namely Christ and the Scripture. But what we know about Christ is what the Scripture says or has revealed to us. The revision seeks to clarify this point.

Comment [TKB26]: This clause is now redundant.

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1 14. Unity in the Body of Christ
2

3 The church is one body with many members, called from every nation, kindred, tongue,
4 and people. In Christ we are a new creation; distinctions of race, culture, learning, and
5 nationality, and differences between high and low, rich and poor, male and female, must not be
6 divisive among us. We are all equal in Christ, who by one Spirit has bonded us into one
7 fellowship with Him and with one another; we are to serve and be served without partiality or
8 reservation. Through the revelation of Jesus Christ in the Scriptures we share the same faith and
9 hope, and reach out in one witness to all. This unity has its source in the oneness of the triune
10 God, who has adopted us as His children. (Ps. 133:1; Matt. 28:19, 20; John 17:20-23;
11 Acts 17:26, 27; Rom. 12:4, 5; 1 Cor. 12:12-14; 2 Cor. 5:16, 17; Gal. 3:27-29; Eph. 2:13-16;
12 4:3-6, 11-16; Col. 3:10-15.) (Rom. 12:4, 5; 1 Cor. 12:12-14; Matt. 28:19, 20; Ps. 133:1;
13 2 Cor. 5:16, 17; Acts 17:26, 27; Gal. 3:27, 29; Col. 3:10-15; Eph. 4:14-16; 4:1-6; John 17:20-23.)
14

15 15. Baptism
16

17 By baptism we confess our faith in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and testify
18 of our death to sin and of our purpose to walk in newness of life. Thus we acknowledge Christ as
19 Lord and Saviour, become His people, and are received as members by His church. Baptism is a
20 symbol of our union with Christ, the forgiveness of our sins, and our reception of the Holy Spirit.
21 It is by immersion in water and is contingent on an affirmation of faith in Jesus and evidence of
22 repentance of sin. It follows instruction in the Holy Scriptures and acceptance of their teachings.
23 (Matt. 28:19, 20; Acts 2:38; 16:30-33; 22:16; Rom. 6:1-6; Gal. 3:27; Col. 2:12, 13.) (Rom. 6:1-6;
24 Col. 2:12, 13; Acts 16:30-33; 22:16; 2:38; Matt. 28:19, 20.)
25

26 16. The Lord's Supper
27

28 The Lord's Supper is a participation in the emblems of the body and blood of Jesus as an
29 expression of faith in Him, our Lord and Saviour. In this experience of communion Christ is
30 present to meet and strengthen His people. As we partake, we joyfully proclaim the Lord's death
31 until He comes again. Preparation for the Supper includes self-examination, repentance, and
32 confession. The Master ordained the service of foot-washing to signify renewed cleansing, to
33 express a willingness to serve one another in Christlike humility, and to unite our hearts in love.
34 The communion service is open to all believing Christians. (Matt. 26:17-30; John 6:48-63; 13:1-
35 17; 1 Cor. 10:16, 17; 11:23-30; Rev. 3:20.) (1 Cor. 10:16, 17; 11:23-30; Matt. 26:17-30; Rev.
36 3:20; John 6:48-63; 13:1-17.)
37

38 17. Spiritual Gifts and Ministries
39

40 God bestows upon all members of His church in every age spiritual gifts which ~~that~~ each
41 member is to employ in loving ministry for the common good of the church and of humanity.
42 Given by the agency of the Holy Spirit, who apportions to each member as He wills, the gifts

Comment [TKB27]: Editorial change based on English usage.

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1 provide all abilities and ministries needed by the church to fulfill its divinely ordained functions.
2 According to the Scriptures, these gifts include such ministries as faith, healing, prophecy,
3 proclamation, teaching, administration, reconciliation, compassion, and self-sacrificing service
4 and charity for the help and encouragement of people. Some members are called of God and
5 endowed by the Spirit for functions recognized by the church in pastoral, evangelistic, ~~apostolic~~,
6 and teaching ministries particularly needed to equip the members for service, to build up the
7 church to spiritual maturity, and to foster unity of the faith and knowledge of God. When
8 members employ these spiritual gifts as faithful stewards of God's varied grace, the church is
9 protected from the destructive influence of false doctrine, grows with a growth that is from God,
10 and is built up in faith and love. (Acts 6:1-7; Rom. 12:4-8; 1 Cor. 12:7-11, 27, 28; Eph. 4:8, 11-
11 16; 1 Tim. 3:1-13; 1 Peter 4:10, 11.) (~~Rom. 12:4-8; 1 Cor. 12:9-11, 27, 28; Eph. 4:8, 11-16;~~
12 ~~Acts 6:1-7; 1 Tim. 3:1-13; 1 Peter 4:10, 11.~~)

13
14 18. The Gift of Prophecy

15
16 ~~One~~ The Scriptures testify that one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit is prophecy. This gift is
17 an identifying mark of the remnant church and we believe it was manifested in the ministry of
18 Ellen G. White. ~~As the Lord's messenger, her~~ Her writings speak with prophetic authority and
19 provide comfort, guidance, instruction, and correction to the church, are a continuing and
20 authoritative source of truth which provide for the church comfort, guidance, instruction, and
21 correction. They also make clear that the Bible is the standard by which all teaching and
22 experience must be tested. (Num. 12:6; 2 Chron. 20:20; Amos 3:7; Joel 2:28, 29; Acts 2:14-21;
23 Heb. 1:1-3; Rev. 12:17; 19:10; 22:8, 9.) (~~Joel 2:28, 29; Acts 2:14-21; Heb. 1:1-3; Rev. 12:17;~~
24 ~~19:10.~~)

25
26 19. The Law of God

27
28 The great principles of God's law are embodied in the Ten Commandments and
29 exemplified in the life of Christ. They express God's love, will, and purposes concerning human
30 conduct and relationships and are binding upon all people in every age. These precepts are the
31 basis of God's covenant with His people and the standard in God's judgment. Through the
32 agency of the Holy Spirit they point out sin and awaken a sense of need for a Saviour. Salvation
33 is all of grace and not of works, ~~but its fruitage~~ and its fruit is obedience to the Commandments.
34 This obedience develops Christian character and results in a sense of well-being. It is an
35 evidence of our love for the Lord and our concern for our fellow human beings, men. The
36 obedience of faith demonstrates the power of Christ to transform lives, and therefore strengthens
37 Christian witness. (Exod. 20:1-17; Deut. 28:1-14; Ps. 19:7-14; 40:7, 8; Matt. 5:17-20; 22:36-40;
38 John 14:15; 15:7-10; Rom. 8:3, 4; Eph. 2:8-10; Heb. 8:8-10; 1 John 2:3; 5:3; Rev. 12:17; 14:12.)
39 (~~Ex. 20:1-17; Ps. 40:7, 8; Matt. 22:36-40; Deut. 28:1-14; Matt. 5:17-20; Heb. 8:8-10; John 15:7-~~
40 ~~10; Eph. 2:8-10; 1 John 5:3; Rom. 8:3, 4; Ps. 19:7-14.~~)

Comment [TKB28]: If this term is retained, it would need to be clearly defined or it could be misunderstood.

Comment [TKB29]: This addition makes clear that the Church has recognized the manifestation of the biblical gift of prophecy in the ministry of Ellen G White.

Comment [TKB30]: This addition makes clear that the church has recognized the manifestation of the biblical gift of prophecy in the ministry of Ellen G White.

Comment [TKB31]: The suggested changes seek to avoid giving the impression that Ellen G White and the Bible are equivalent sources of truth. It has also been indicated that the term "source" is difficult to translate into some languages without conveying that idea that her writings are like the Bible.

Comment [TKB32]: The preposition "but" could be understood as antithetical (as expressing an idea that is fundamentally the opposite of the previous one). The conjunction "and" indicates complementarity (obedience is the evidence/fruit of salvation).

Comment [TKB33]: Upgrading language

Comment [TKB34]: Inclusive language

41
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124-14GS FUNDAMENTAL BELIEFS OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS -
AMENDMENT - 8

1 20. The Sabbath

2
3 The ~~beneficent~~ **gracious** Creator, after the six days of Creation, rested on the seventh day
4 and instituted the Sabbath for all people as a memorial of Creation. The fourth commandment of
5 God's unchangeable law requires the observance of this seventh-day Sabbath as the day of rest,
6 worship, and ministry in harmony with the teaching and practice of Jesus, the Lord of the
7 Sabbath. The Sabbath is a day of delightful communion with God and one another. It is a symbol
8 of our redemption in Christ, a sign of our sanctification, a token of our allegiance, and a foretaste
9 of our eternal future in God's kingdom. The Sabbath is God's perpetual sign of His eternal
10 covenant between Him and His people. Joyful observance of this holy time from evening to
11 evening, sunset to sunset, is a celebration of God's creative and redemptive acts. (Gen. 2:1-3;
12 Exod. 20:8-11; 31:13-17; Lev. 23:32; Deut. 5:12-15; Isa. 56:5, 6; 58:13, 14; Ezek. 20:12, 20;
13 Matt. 12:1-12; Mark 1:32; Luke 4:16; Heb. 4:1-11.) (~~Gen. 2:1-3; Ex. 20:8-11; Luke 4:16;~~
14 ~~Isa. 56:5, 6; 58:13, 14; Matt. 12:1-12; Ex. 31:13-17; Eze. 20:12, 20; Deut. 5:12-15; Heb. 4:1-11;~~
15 ~~Lev. 23:32; Mark 1:32.~~)

Comment [TKB35]: Upgrading language

17 21. Stewardship

18
19 We are God's stewards, entrusted by Him with time and opportunities, abilities and
20 possessions, and the blessings of the earth and its resources. We are responsible to Him for their
21 proper use. We acknowledge God's ownership by faithful service to Him and our fellow **human**
22 **beings, men,** and by returning ~~tithes~~ **tithe** and giving offerings for the proclamation of His gospel
23 and the support and growth of His church. Stewardship is a privilege given to us by God for
24 nurture in love and the victory over selfishness and covetousness. ~~The steward rejoices~~ **Stewards**
25 **rejoice in the blessings that come to others as a result of his their faithfulness.** (Gen. 1:26-28;
26 2:15; 1 Chron. 29:14; Haggai 1:3-11; Mal. 3:8-12; Matt. 23:23; Rom. 15:26, 27; 1 Cor. 9:9-14; 2
27 Cor. 8:1-15; 9:7.) (~~Gen. 1:26-28; 2:15; 1 Chron. 29:14; Haggai 1:3-11; Mal. 3:8-12; 1 Cor. 9:9-~~
28 ~~14; Matt. 23:23; 2 Cor. 8:1-15; Rom. 15:26, 27.~~)

Comment [TKB36]: Inclusive language

Comment [TKB37]: The plural "tithes" could be read as including the second tithe.

Comment [TKB38]: Inclusive language and consistence of using the plural in the Fundamental Beliefs.

29
30 22. Christian Behavior

31
32 We are called to be a godly people who think, feel, and act in harmony with ~~the biblical~~
33 **principles in all aspects of personal and social life, principles of heaven.** For the Spirit to recreate
34 in us the character of our Lord we involve ourselves only in those things ~~which that~~ will produce
35 Christlike purity, health, and joy in our lives. This means that our amusement and entertainment
36 should meet the highest standards of Christian taste and beauty. While recognizing cultural
37 differences, our dress is to be simple, modest, and neat, befitting those whose true beauty does
38 not consist of outward adornment but in the imperishable ornament of a gentle and quiet spirit. It
39 also means that because our bodies are the temples of the Holy Spirit, we are to care for them
40 intelligently. Along with adequate exercise and rest, we are to adopt the most healthful diet
41 possible and abstain from the unclean foods identified in the Scriptures. Since alcoholic
42 beverages, tobacco, and the irresponsible use of drugs and narcotics are harmful to our bodies,

Comment [TKB39]: Questions have been raised about the meaning of the phrase "principles of heaven" the change underlines the biblical foundation of the Statement and removes unnecessary ambiguities.

Comment [TKB40]: This addition seeks to clarify that Christian behavior does not only have to do with health, dressing, and adornment but also with our interaction with others in the market place, in business, etc., thus promoting honesty, integrity, fairness in all we do.

Comment [TKB41]: Editorial change based on English usage.

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124-14GS FUNDAMENTAL BELIEFS OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS - AMENDMENT - 9

1 we are to abstain from them as well. Instead, we are to engage in whatever brings our thoughts
2 and bodies into the discipline of Christ, who desires our wholesomeness, joy, and goodness.
3 (Gen. 7:2; Lev. 11:1-47; Rom. 12:1, 2; 1 Cor. 6:19, 20; 10:31; 2 Cor. 10:5; 6:14-7:1; Eph. 5:1-
4 21; Phil. 4:8; 1 Tim. 2:9, 10; 1 Peter 3:1-4; 1 John 2:6; 3 John 2.) (~~Rom. 12:1, 2; 1 John 2:6; Eph.~~
5 ~~5:1-21; Phil. 4:8; 2 Cor. 10:5; 6:14-7:1; 1 Peter 3:1-4; 1 Cor. 6:19, 20; 10:31; Lev. 11:1-47; 3~~
6 ~~John 2.~~)

7
8 23. Marriage and the Family
9

10 Marriage was divinely established in Eden and affirmed by Jesus to be a lifelong union
11 between a man and a woman in loving companionship. For the Christian a marriage commitment
12 is to God as well as to the spouse, and should be entered into only between a man and woman
13 partners who share a common faith. Mutual love, honor, respect, and responsibility are the fabric
14 of this relationship, which is to reflect the love, sanctity, closeness, and permanence of the
15 relationship between Christ and His church. Regarding divorce, Jesus taught that the person who
16 divorces a spouse, except for fornication, and marries another, commits adultery. Although some
17 family relationships may fall short of the ideal, marriage partners a man and a woman who fully
18 commit themselves to each other in Christ through marriage may achieve loving unity through
19 the guidance of the Spirit and the nurture of the church. God blesses the family and intends that
20 its members shall assist each other toward complete maturity. Increasing family closeness is one
21 of the earmarks of the final gospel message. Parents are to bring up their children to love and
22 obey the Lord. By their example and their words they are to teach them that Christ is a loving,
23 tender, and caring counselor loving disciplinarian, ever tender and caring, who wants them to
24 become members of His body, the family of God which embraces both single and married
25 persons. God. Increasing family closeness is one of the earmarks of the final gospel message.
26 (Gen. 2:18-25; Exod. 20:12; Deut. 6:5-9; Prov. 22:6; Mal. 4:5, 6; Matt. 5:31, 32; 19:3-9; Mark
27 10:11, 12; John 2:1-11; 1 Cor. 7:10, 11; 2 Cor. 6:14; Eph. 5:21-33; 6:1-4.) (~~Gen. 2:18-25; Matt.~~
28 ~~19:3-9; John 2:1-11; 2 Cor. 6:14; Eph. 5:21-33; Matt. 5:31, 32; Mark 10:11, 12; Luke 16:18;~~
29 ~~1 Cor. 7:10, 11; Ex. 20:12; Eph. 6:1-4; Deut. 6:5-9; Prov. 22:6; Mal. 4:5, 6.~~)

30
31 24. Christ's Ministry in the Heavenly Sanctuary
32

33 There is a sanctuary in heaven, the true tabernacle ~~which that~~ the Lord set up and not
34 humans. ~~man.~~ In it Christ ministers on our behalf, making available to believers the benefits of
35 His atoning sacrifice offered once for all on the cross. He was inaugurated as our great High
36 Priest ~~and~~ and, at the time of His ascension, He began His intercessory ministry at the time of
37 His ministry, which was symbolized by the work of the high priest in the holy place of the
38 earthly sanctuary, ascension. In 1844, at the end of the prophetic period of 2300 days, He entered
39 the second and last phase of His atoning ministry, which was symbolized by the work of the high
40 priest in the most holy place of the earthly sanctuary, ministry. It is a work of investigative
41 judgment which is part of the ultimate disposition of all sin, typified by the cleansing of the
42 ancient Hebrew sanctuary on the Day of Atonement. In that typical service the sanctuary was

Comment [TKB42]: The term "partners" and the phrase "marriage partners" could be misused by those promoting homosexuality. The revision removes any ambiguity.

Comment [TKB43]: The term "partners" and the phrase "marriage partners" could be misused by those promoting homosexuality. The revision removes any ambiguity.

Comment [TKB44]: The phrase "through marriage" reintroduced the term "marriage" deleted from the previous line.

Comment [TKB45]: Used to be the last sentence.

Comment [TKB46]: The English term "disciplinarian" has undergone some change in meaning, giving to the sentence a negative tone. The additions aim at correcting this.

Comment [TKB47]: This addition acknowledges that single church members are part of the family of God and as valuable to the church as married couples.

Comment [TKB48]: The addition made in the previous sentence closes well the paragraph making it necessary to move the last sentence earlier in the paragraph, where it seems to fit better.

Comment [TKB49]: Editorial change based on English usage.

Comment [TKB50]: Inclusive language

Comment [TKB51]: The statement does not mention the typological significance of the work of the high priest in the holy and most holy places of the earthly sanctuary. These additions make the connections clear.

Comment [TKB52]: The statement does not mention the typological significance of the work of the high priest in the holy and most holy places of the earthly sanctuary. These additions make the connections clear.

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124-14GS FUNDAMENTAL BELIEFS OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS -
AMENDMENT - 10

1 cleansed with the blood of animal sacrifices, but the heavenly things are purified with the perfect
2 sacrifice of the blood of Jesus. The investigative judgment reveals to heavenly intelligences who
3 among the dead are asleep in Christ and therefore, in Him, are deemed worthy to have part in the
4 first resurrection. It also makes manifest who among the living are abiding in Christ, keeping the
5 commandments of God and the faith of Jesus, and in Him, therefore, are ready for translation
6 into His everlasting kingdom. This judgment vindicates the justice of God in saving those who
7 believe in Jesus. It declares that those who have remained loyal to God shall receive the
8 kingdom. The completion of this ministry of Christ will mark the close of human probation
9 before the Second Advent. (Lev. 16; Num. 14:34; Ezek. 4:6; Dan. 7:9-27; 8:13, 14; 9:24-27;
10 Heb. 1:3; 2:16, 17; 4:14-16; 8:1-5; 9:11-28; 10:19-22; Rev. 8:3-5; 11:19; 14:6, 7; 20:12; 14:12;
11 22:11, 12.) (Heb. 8:1-5; 4:14-16; 9:11-28; 10:19-22; 1:3; 2:16, 17; Dan. 7:9-27; 8:13, 14; 9:24-
12 27; Num. 14:34; Eze. 4:6; Lev. 16; Rev. 14:6, 7; 20:12; 14:12; 22:12.)
13

14 25. The Second Coming of Christ
15

16 The second coming of Christ is the blessed hope of the church, the grand climax of the
17 gospel. The Saviour's coming will be literal, personal, visible, and worldwide. When He returns,
18 the righteous dead will be resurrected, and together with the righteous living will be glorified and
19 taken to heaven, but the unrighteous will die. The almost complete fulfillment of most lines of
20 prophecy, together with the present condition of the world, indicates that Christ is coming soon.
21 Christ's coming is imminent. The time of that event has not been revealed, and we are therefore
22 exhorted to be ready at all times. (Matt. 24; Mark 13; Luke 21; John 14:1-3; Acts 1:9-11; 1 Cor.
23 15:51-54; 1 Thess. 4:13-18; 5:1-6; 2 Thess. 1:7-10; 2:8; 2 Tim. 3:1-5; Titus 2:13; Heb. 9:28;
24 Rev. 1:7; 14:14-20; 19:11-21.) (Titus 2:13; Heb. 9:28; John 14:1-3; Acts 1:9-11; Matt. 24:14;
25 Rev. 1:7; Matt. 24:43, 44; 1 Thess. 4:13-18; 1 Cor. 15:51-54; 2 Thess. 1:7-10; 2:8; Rev. 14:14-
26 20; 19:11-21; Matt. 24; Mark 13; Luke 21; 2 Tim. 3:1-5; 1 Thess. 5:1-6.)
27

Comment [TKB53]: It is better to use the biblical term "soon."

28 26. Death and Resurrection
29

30 The wages of sin is death. But God, who alone is immortal, will grant eternal life to His
31 redeemed. Until that day death is an unconscious state for all people. When Christ, who is our
32 life, appears, the resurrected righteous and the living righteous will be glorified and caught up to
33 meet their Lord. The second resurrection, the resurrection of the unrighteous, will take place a
34 thousand years later. (Job 19:25-27; Ps. 146:3, 4; Eccl. 9:5, 6; Dan. 12:2, 13; Isa. 25:8;
35 John 5:28, 29; 11:11-14; Rom. 6:23; 16; 1 Cor. 15:51-54; Col. 3:4; 1 Thess. 4:13-17; 1
36 Tim. 6:15; Rev. 20:1-10.) (Rom. 6:23; 1 Tim. 6:15, 16; Eccl. 9:5, 6; Ps. 146:3, 4; John 11:11-14;
37 Col. 3:4; 1 Cor. 15:51-54; 1 Thess. 4:13-17; John 5:28, 29; Rev. 20:1-10.)
38
39

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124-14GS FUNDAMENTAL BELIEFS OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS -
AMENDMENT - 11

1 27. The Millennium and the End of Sin
2

3 The millennium is the thousand-year reign of Christ with His saints in heaven between
4 the first and second resurrections. During this time the wicked dead will be judged; the earth will
5 be utterly desolate, without living human inhabitants, but occupied by Satan and his angels. At
6 its close Christ with His saints and the Holy City will descend from heaven to earth. The
7 unrighteous dead will then be resurrected, and with Satan and his angels will surround the city;
8 but fire from God will consume them and cleanse the earth. The universe will thus be freed of sin
9 and sinners forever. (Jer. 4:23-26; Ezek. 28:18, 19; Mal. 4:1; 1 Cor. 6:2, 3; Rev. 20; 21:1-5.)
10 (~~Rev. 20; 1 Cor. 6:2, 3; Jer. 4:23-26; Rev. 21:1-5; Mal. 4:1; Eze. 28:18, 19.~~)
11

12 28. The New Earth
13

14 On the new earth, in which righteousness dwells, God will provide an eternal home for
15 the redeemed and a perfect environment for everlasting life, love, joy, and learning in His
16 presence. For here God Himself will dwell with His people, and suffering and death will have
17 passed away. The great controversy will be ended, and sin will be no more. All things, animate
18 and inanimate, will declare that God is love; and He shall reign forever. Amen. (Isa. 35;
19 65:17-25; Matt. 5:5; 2 Peter 3:13; Rev. 11:15; 21:1-7; 22:1-5.) (~~2 Peter 3:13; Isa. 35; 65:17-25;~~
20 ~~Matt. 5:5; Rev. 21:1-7; 22:1-5; 11:15.~~)

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