

# **THE DOCTRINE OF THE TRINITY**

# SDA CHURCH RAISED UP TO PREACH THE 3 A'S MESSAGES

“In a special sense **Seventh-day Adventists have been set in the world as watchmen and light bearers.**

To them has been entrusted the last warning for a perishing world.”

*Testimonies, Vol.9, 19.*



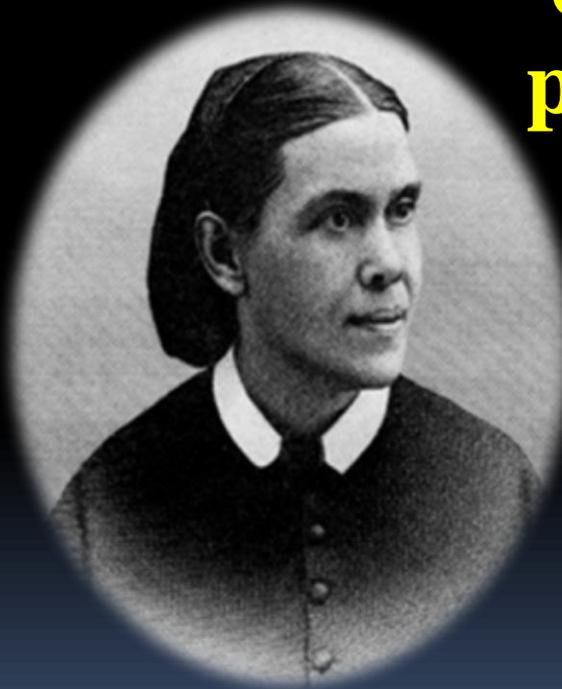
# SDA CHURCH RAISED UP TO PREACH THE 3 A'S MESSAGES

**“They have been given a work  
of the most solemn import—the  
proclamation of the first, second,  
and third angels' messages.**

There is no other work of  
so great importance.

**They are to allow nothing else  
to absorb their attention.”**

*Testimonies, Vol.9, 19.*



# **STAY ON THE FIRM PLATFORM**

**“I saw a company  
who stood well guarded and firm,  
giving no countenance to those  
who would unsettle the established  
faith of the body.**

**God looked upon them  
with approbation.”**

Early Writings, 258,259.

# A STRUCTURE OF TRUTH!

**I was shown three steps—the first, second, and third angels' messages.**

**Said my accompanying angel,**

**“Woe to him who shall move a block or stir a pin of these messages.**

**The true understanding of these messages is of vital importance. The destiny of souls hangs upon the manner in which they are received.” Early Writings, 258,259.**

# First Angel's Message

**Worship Him**

that made heaven,  
and earth, and the sea,  
and the fountains  
of waters. Rev. 14:7

Who is  
the  
Creator?

Genesis 1:26

**And God said,  
Let us make man  
in our image,  
after our likeness.**

Early Writings, 145

**But when  
God said to His Son,  
“Let us make man in our  
image,”  
Satan was jealous  
of Jesus.**

# Ephesians 3:9

And to make all *men* see what *is*  
the fellowship of the mystery,  
which from the beginning of the  
world hath been hid in **God,**  
**who created all things**  
**by Jesus Christ:**

## Acts 4:24

And when they heard that, they lifted up their voice **to God** with one accord, and said,

**Lord, thou *art* God,**  
**which hast made heaven,**  
**and earth, and the sea,**  
**and all that in them is:**

## Hebrews 1:1,2:

God, ...Hath in these last days spoken unto us by *his* Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, **by whom** also He [God the Father] made the worlds;

# Revelation 10:6

And [Jesus] sware by  
**him that liveth for ever  
and ever, who created  
heaven,** and the things  
that therein are,  
and **the earth,** and the  
things that therein are,  
and **the sea,** and the  
things which are therein...

# God the Father

He [Jesus] was  
ever directing their minds  
to God,  
the Creator of the universe,  
as the source of  
their strength and wisdom.

1 Testimonies to the Church, 297

# First Angel's Message

**Worship him**

that made heaven,  
and earth, and the sea,  
and the fountains  
of waters. Rev. 14:7

# Statement of Beliefs—1872

That there is **one God**,  
a personal, spiritual Being,  
**the Creator of all things**,  
omnipotent, omniscient, and eternal,  
infinite in wisdom, holiness, justice,  
goodness, truth, and mercy,  
unchangeable, and  
**everywhere present by**  
**His representative, the Holy Spirit.**

# Statement of Beliefs—1872

**That there is  
one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Son of the Eternal Father,  
the One by whom  
He created all things,  
and by whom they do consist.**

# **Worship God—Desire of Ages, 21**

**We behold God in Jesus.**

**Looking unto Jesus we see that  
it is the glory of our God to give.**

**“I do nothing of Myself,” said Christ;  
“the living Father hath sent Me,  
and I live by the Father.”**

**“I seek not Mine own glory,”  
but the glory of Him that sent Me.**

**John 8:28; 6:57; 8:50; 7:18.**

## **Worship God—Desire of Ages, 21**

**In these words is set forth  
the great principle which is  
the law of life for the universe.**

**All things**

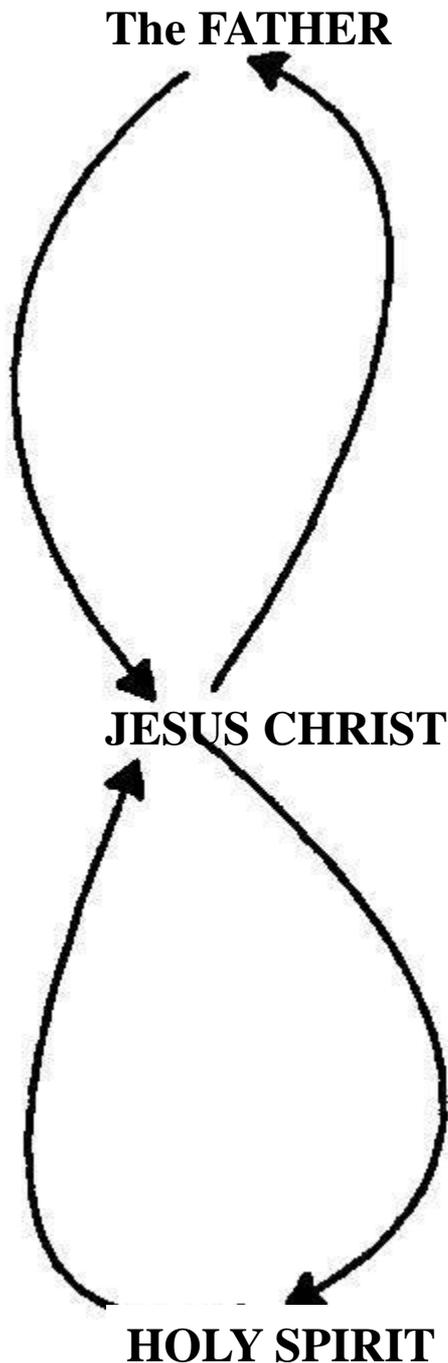
**Christ received from God,  
but He took to give.**

# **Worship God—Desire of Ages, 21**

**So in the heavenly courts,  
in His ministry for all created beings:  
through the beloved Son,  
the Father's life flows out to all;  
through the Son it returns,  
in praise and joyous service,  
a tide of love,  
to the great Source of all.**

# Worship God—Desire of Ages, 21

And thus through Christ  
**the circuit of beneficence**  
is complete,  
representing the  
character  
of the great Giver,  
the law of life.



# **Worship the Creator—Counsels to the Church, 75**

**As a personal being, God has revealed Himself in His Son.**

**Jesus, the outshining of the Father's glory, "and the express image of His person" Hebrews 1:3, was on earth found in fashion as a man.**

# **Worship the Creator—Counsels to the Church, 75**

**As a personal Saviour**

**He came to the world.**

**As a personal Saviour**

**He ascended on high.**

**As a personal Saviour He intercedes**

**in the heavenly courts.**

**Before the throne of God in our behalf**

**ministers “One like unto the Son of man.”**

**Revelation 1:13.**

## **Worship the Creator—Counsels to the Church, 75**

**Christ, the Light of the world, veiled the dazzling splendor of His divinity and came to live as a man among men, that they might, without being consumed, become acquainted with their Creator.**

**No man has seen God at any time except as He is revealed through Christ.**

# **Worship the Creator—Counsels to the Church, 75**

**Christ came to teach human beings  
what **God** desires them to know.**

**In the heavens above, in the earth,  
in the broad waters of the ocean,  
**we see the handiwork of God.****

**All created things testify to His  
power, His wisdom, His love.**

# **Worship the Creator—Counsels to the Church, 75**

**But not from the stars or the ocean  
or the cataract can we learn  
of the personality of God  
as it is revealed in Christ.**

**God saw that a clearer revelation than  
nature was needed to portray  
both His personality  
and His character.**

# **Worship the Creator—Counsels to the Church, 75**

**He sent His Son into the world  
to reveal,  
so far as could be endured  
by human sight,  
the nature and the attributes  
of the invisible God.**

# Statement of Beliefs—1872

That there is **one God**,  
a personal, spiritual Being,  
**the Creator of all things**,  
omnipotent, omniscient, and eternal,  
infinite in wisdom, holiness, justice,  
goodness, truth, and mercy,  
unchangeable, and  
**everywhere present by**  
**His representative, the Holy Spirit.**

# Statement of Beliefs—1872

**That there is  
one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Son of the Eternal Father,  
the One by whom  
He created all things,  
and by whom they do consist.**

# Distinct Persons

**There is a personal God,  
the Father;  
there is a personal Christ,  
the Son.**

Hebrews 1:1, 2: Psalm 19:1-3 quoted....  
6BC 1068.3

# What if God the Father came to Earth?

But one thing is impossible with God—the power of eclipsing the greatness of His gift, in showing His love for fallen man than He has given in Jesus.

# What if God the Father came to Earth?

In this wonderful expression of His love He has given to man fallen, and to all the unfallen worlds, and to the universe of heaven clear evidence that there is no love but His love.

{21MR 392.4}

# What if God the Father came to Earth?

The Lord has paid this infinite price in giving His only begotten Son

**that through belief in Jesus Christ  
is belief in God,**

and that the righteous laws, the ten precepts of His decalogue, may appear to the world, even to as many as will believe on Jesus Christ, as His just requirements and are ever to be maintained.

# What if God the Father came to Earth?

In every act of Jesus,  
in every lesson of His instruction,  
we are to see and hear  
and recognize God.

In sight, in hearing, in effect,  
it is the voice and movements  
of the Father.

Letter 83, 1895. 21MR 393.1

RH, May 4, 1876 par. 64

Is not the gift of Christ a pledge of the Father's love for sinners? I would say unto you who have come forward here,

The Father loves you.

In the popular churches, we hear but little except, "Do you love Jesus?" The love of the Father is scarcely mentioned; it is only Christ, Christ.

God the Father has given unto man the greatest gift that Heaven held.

# FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES

**THESE WOULD LAST TILL 1931—  
16 YEARS AFTER DEATH  
OF ELLEN WHITE**

STEAM PRESS  
OF THE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST  
PUBLISHING  
ASSOCIATION,  
BATTLE CREEK, MICH.:  
1872



# Deuteronomy 31:16

And the LORD said unto **Ellen White**

Behold, **thou shalt sleep with thy fathers;** and this people will rise up, and go a whoring after the gods of the strangers of the land, whither they go *to be* among them, and will forsake me, and break my covenant which I have made with them.

THE FALSE GOD  
IN THE  
THIRD ANGEL'S  
MESSAGE

Third Angel's Message

The Fallen  
Protestant Churches

If any man worship  
**the beast and his image,**

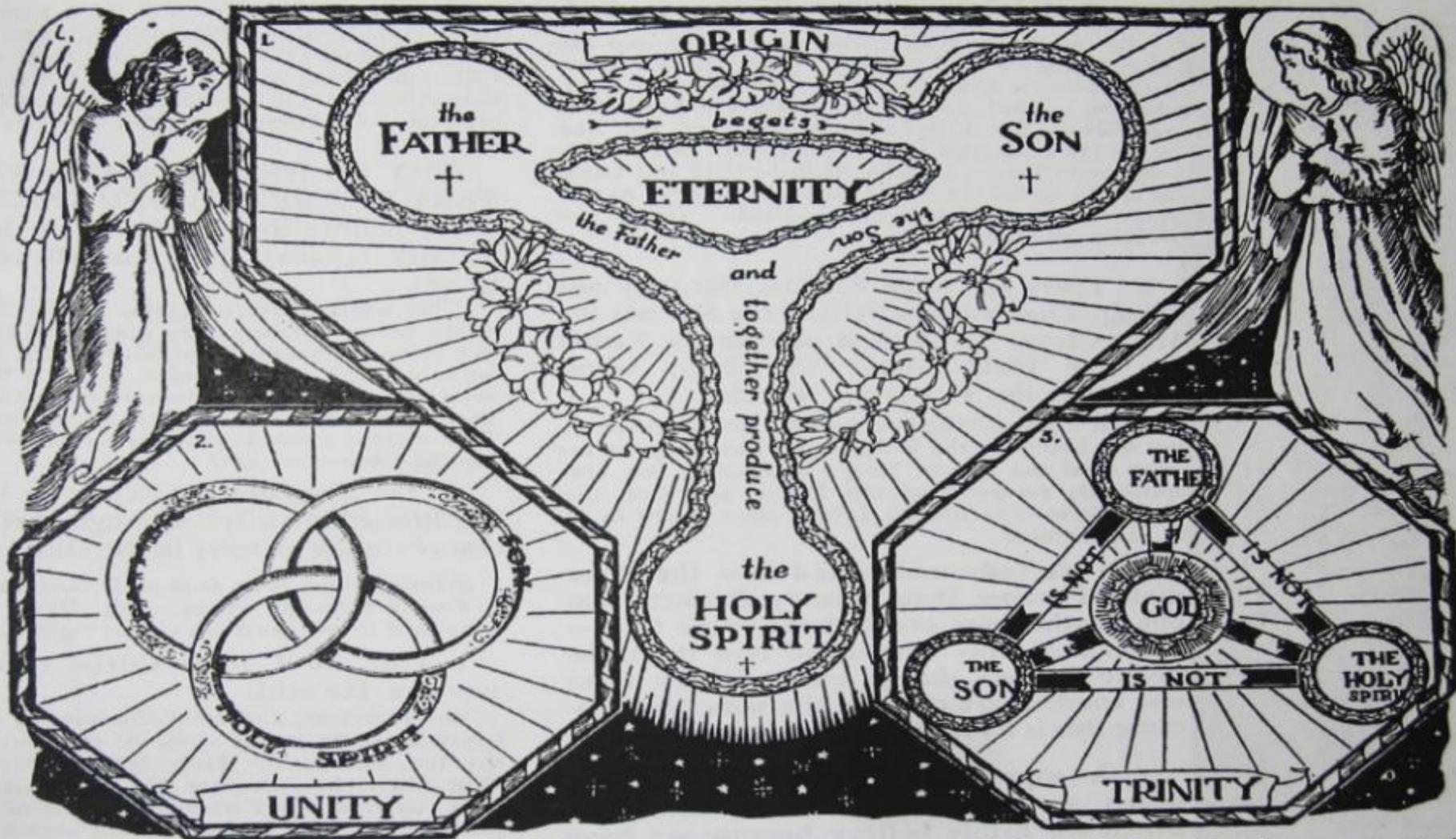
...The same shall drink  
of the wine of the wrath  
of God. Rev. 14: 9,10

The Roman  
Catholic Church

# The God of the Beast and Image

“There are many differences in doctrine between various mainstream Christian denominations, but the doctrine of the Trinity is not one of them.”

<http://www.religionfacts.com/christianity/beliefs/trinity.htm>



"And the Catholic Faith is this, that we worship one God in Trinity, and Trinity in unity. Neither confounding the persons, nor dividing the substance. . . . But the Godhead of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit is one, the glory equal, the majesty co-eternal. . . . The Father is made of none, neither created, nor begotten. The

Son is of the Father alone: not made, nor created, but begotten. The Holy Spirit is of the Father and the Son: not made, nor created, nor begotten, but proceeding. . . . And in this Trinity, nothing is afore or after, nothing is greater or less, but the whole three Persons are co-eternal together, and co-equal" (From the Athanasian Creed).

# The God of the Beast and Image

The mystery of the **Most Holy Trinity** is the central mystery of the Christian faith and of Christian life. -- **Roman Catholicism**

# The God of the Beast and Image

The fundamental truth of the Orthodox Church is the faith revealed in the True **God**: the Holy Trinity of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. --

**Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America**

# The God of the Beast and Image

We teach that the **one true God** is the Father and the Son and the Holy Ghost, three distinct persons, but of **one and the same divine essence**, equal in power, equal in eternity, equal in majesty, because each person possesses the one divine essence .--

**Lutheran Church (Missouri Synod)**

# The God of the Beast and Image

We trust in  
the **one triune God.**

**Presbyterian Church (USA)**

# The God of the Beast and Image

The eternal triune God  
reveals **Himself** to us  
as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
with distinct personal attributes,  
but **without division of nature,  
essence, or being.**

-- **Southern Baptist Convention**

# God of the Beast and Image

There is but **one living and true God**, everlasting, without body or parts, of infinite power, wisdom, and goodness; the maker and preserver of all things, both visible and invisible. And in unity of this Godhead there are three persons, **of one substance**, power, and eternity-the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost.

-- **United Methodist Church**

# Statement of [Erroneous] Belief #2—1980

**There is one God:  
Father, Son, and Holy  
Spirit, a unity of three  
co-eternal Persons.**

**ONE GOD COMPOSED OF THREE PERSONS!**

## 3 Angel's Message = Elijah Message

And Elijah came unto  
all the people, and said,  
How long halt ye  
between two opinions?

**if the LORD *be* God, follow him:  
but if Baal, *then* follow him.**

And the people answered him not a word.

1Ki 18:21

# Statement of Beliefs—1872

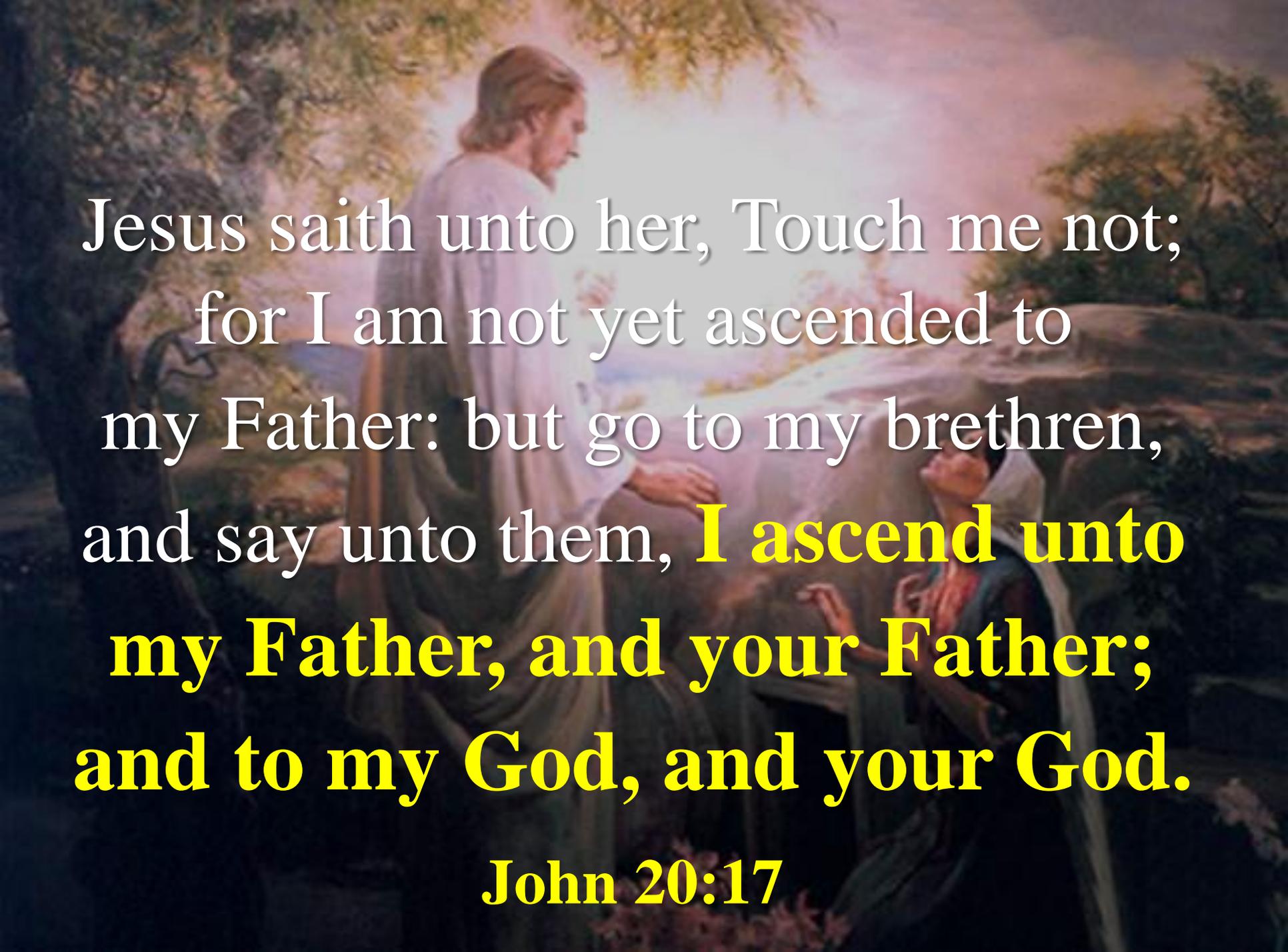
That there is **one God**,  
a personal, spiritual Being,  
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omnipotent, omniscient, and eternal,  
infinite in wisdom, holiness, justice,  
goodness, truth, and mercy,  
unchangeable, and **everywhere present**  
**by His representative, the Holy Spirit.**

# Statement of Beliefs—1872

**That there is**  
**one Lord Jesus Christ,**  
**the Son of the Eternal Father,**  
**the One by whom**  
**He created all things,**  
**and by whom they do consist.**

# John 17:3

And this is life eternal,  
that they might **know**  
**thee the only true God,**  
**and Jesus Christ,**  
**whom thou hast sent.**



Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not;  
for I am not yet ascended to  
my Father: but go to my brethren,  
and say unto them, **I ascend unto  
my Father, and your Father;  
and to my God, and your God.**

**John 20:17**

# Hebrews 1:8,9

**But unto the Son he saith,**

**Thy throne, O God,** is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom. Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity;

**therefore God, even thy God,** hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows.

# Revelation 3:12

Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of **my God**, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of **my God**, and the name of the city of **my God**, *which is* new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from **my God**:

# 1 Corinthians 11:3

But I would have you know,  
that the head of every man  
is Christ; and the head  
of the woman is the man;  
**and the head of Christ  
is God.**

# 1 Corinthians 15:27

“For **he (the Father)** hath put all things under his (Christ’s) feet. But when **he** saith all things are put under *him* (Christ), *it is* manifest that **he (the Father)** is excepted, which did put all things under him.”

# 1 Corinthians 15:28

“And when all things shall be  
subdued unto **him** (the Son),  
then shall **the Son** also himself  
be subject **unto him**  
(**the Father**)  
that put all things under him,  
**that God may be all in all.**”

Defined in the 1872 Statement of Beliefs

THE ORIGINAL GOD  
OF THE SECOND ADVENT  
MOVEMENT  
IS RIGHT IN THE  
3 ANGELS' MESSAGES.

# First Angel's Message

**Worship Him**

that made heaven,  
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# Statement of Beliefs—1872

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infinite in wisdom, holiness, justice,  
goodness, truth, and mercy, unchange-  
able, and **everywhere present by His**  
**representative, the Holy Spirit.**

# Revelation 14:1

“And I looked, and, lo,  
a Lamb stood on the mount  
Sion, and with him an hundred  
forty *and* four thousand,  
having **his Father's name**  
written in their foreheads.”

THE ORIGINAL GOD  
OF THE  
SECOND ADVENT  
MOVEMENT

# Statement of Beliefs—1872

**That there is one God, a personal, spiritual Being,** the Creator of all things, omnipotent, omniscient, and eternal, infinite in wisdom, holiness, justice, goodness, truth, and mercy, unchangeable, and **everywhere present by His representative, the Holy Spirit.**

# Statement of Beliefs—1872

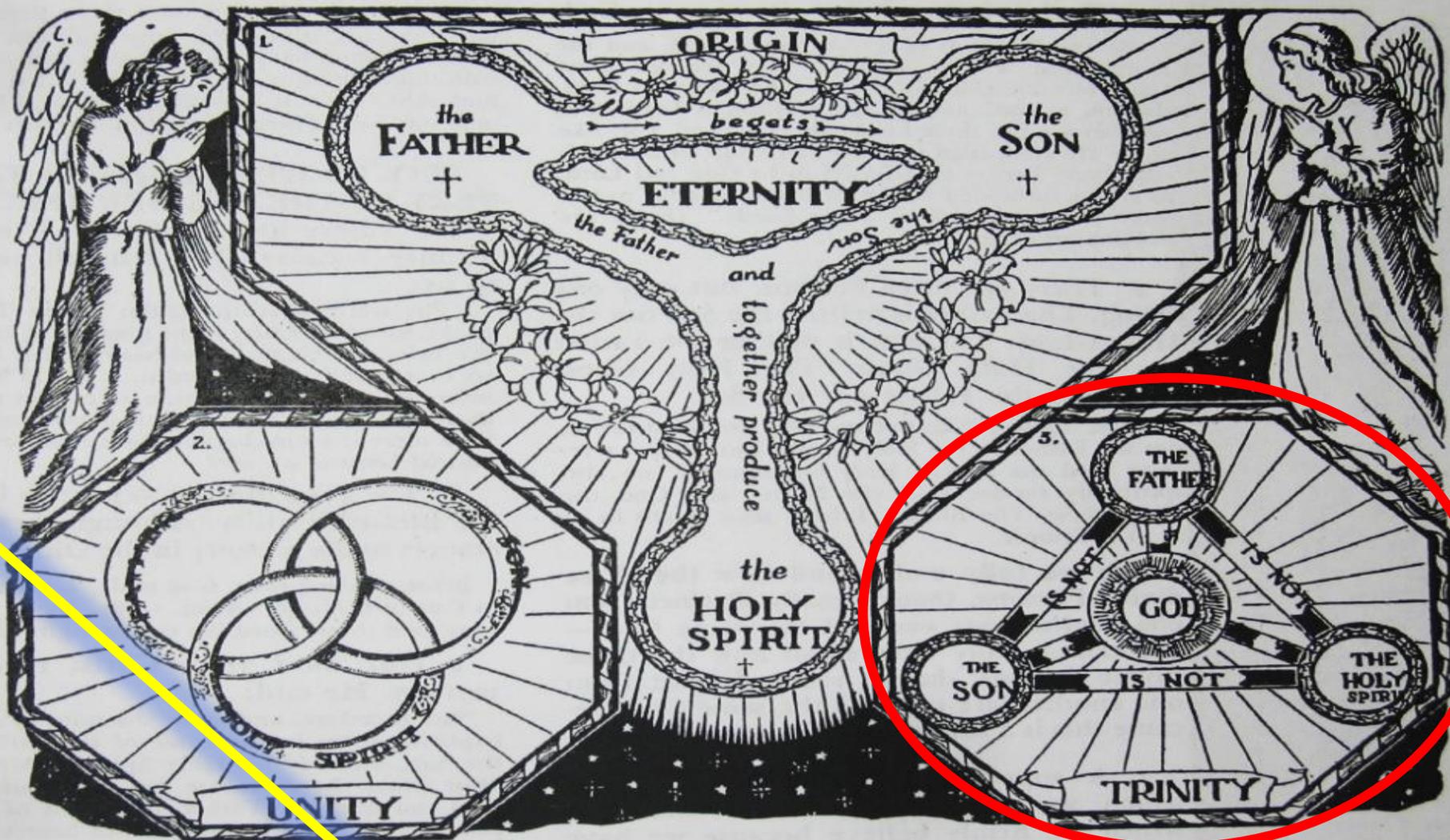
That there is  
**one Lord Jesus Christ,**  
**the Son of the Eternal Father,**  
**the One**  
by whom He created all things,  
and by whom they do consist.

THE  
NEW GOD  
In the  
SDA church

# Statement of [Erroneous] Belief #2—1980

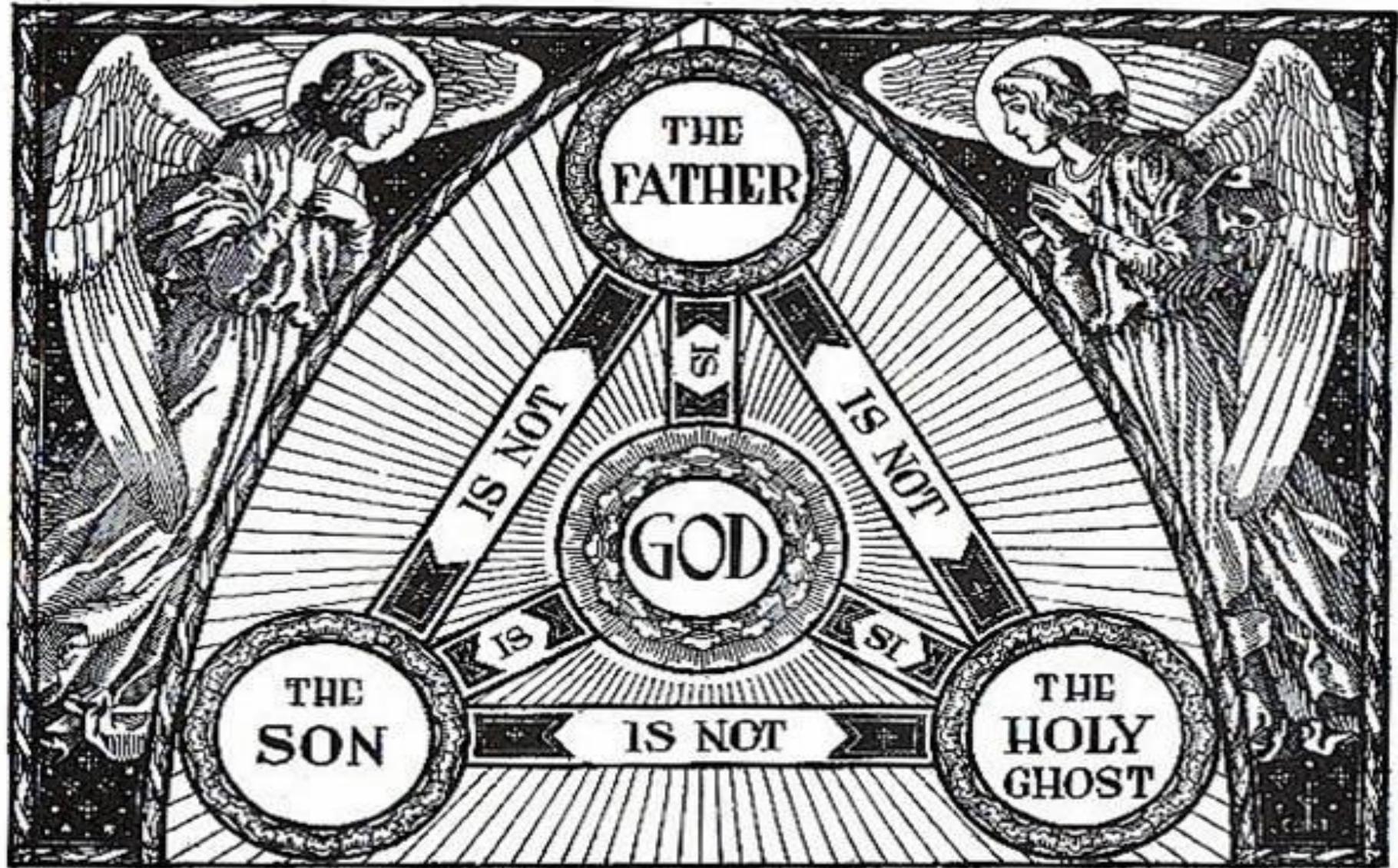
**There is one God:  
Father, Son, and Holy  
Spirit, a unity of three  
co-eternal Persons.**

**ONE GOD COMPOSED OF THREE PERSONS!**



"And the Catholic Faith is this, that we worship one God in Trinity, and Trinity in unity. Neither confounding the Persons, nor dividing the Substance. . . . But the Godhead of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit is one, the glory equal, the majesty co-eternal. . . . The Father is made of none, neither created, nor begotten. The

Son is of the Father alone: not made, nor created, but begotten. The Holy Spirit is of the Father and the Son: not made, nor created, nor begotten, but proceeding. . . . And in this Trinity, nothing is afore or after, nothing is greater or less, but the whole three Persons are co-eternal together, and co-equal" (From the Athanasian Creed).



A good concrete illustration of the Blessed Trinity is an equilateral triangle. Such a triangle has three sides equal in every way, and yet distinct from each other. There are three sides, but only one triangle. As we see in this illustration, each Divine

Person is different from the other two, but all three are God. Each one is God, distinct from the two others, and yet one with them. The three Persons are equal in every way, with one nature and one substance: three Divine Persons, but only one God.

# The TRINITY

One God with three personalities—  
**all of one identical indivisible substance—**  
**continually manifested.**

The Father knows Himself: Jesus continually begotten.

The Father & the Son know each Other:

The Holy Spirit continually proceeding.

325AD—

Council of Nicea—  
Trinity Established.

Sunday worship  
devoted to Trinity.

538 AD—One world religion

Roman Catholicism  
Fallen Protestantism

SDA Since 1980

Why  
is this  
important?

Just as God led His people  
out of Egypt by His Angel  
(Jesus Christ) and brought them to  
the Promised Land,

**it will be the same God who will lead  
His people by Jesus Christ  
out of Babylon (in 1844),  
and bring them into  
the heavenly Promised Land.**

SDA PIONEERS  
VIEW OF  
THE NEW GOD

*James White, Review & Herald, Sept. 12, 1854.*



“As **fundamental errors**, we might class with this counterfeit Sabbath **other errors** which Protestants have brought away from the Catholic Church, such as sprinkling for baptism, **the trinity**, the consciousness of the dead and eternal life in misery.

*James White, Review & Herald, Sept. 12, 1854.*

“The mass  
who have held these  
fundamental errors,  
have doubtless done it  
ignorantly,

*James White, Review & Herald, Sept. 12, 1854.*

“But can it be supposed  
that the church



**BUT 127 YEARS LATER,  
IT CHOSE TO ADOPT  
THIS FUNDAMENTAL ERROR  
AS A FUNDAMENTAL BELIEF!**

the world?  
burst

**We think not.”**

*James White, Review & Herald, Feb. 7, 1856.*



“Martin Luther, and other reformers, **arose in the strength of God, and with the Word and Spirit,** made mighty strides in the Reformation.

The greatest fault we can find in the Reformation is, **the Reformers stopped reforming.**

*James White, Review & Herald, Feb. 7, 1856.*



“Had they gone on, and onward, till they had left the last vestige of Papacy behind, such as natural immortality, sprinkling, **the trinity**, and Sunday keeping, the church would now be free from her **unscriptural errors.**”

# 1980—CATHOLIC GOD APPEARS IN SDA CHURCH

Using subtle wording, the worship of **the Catholic concept of the Trinity** is officially incorporated into the 27 Statements of Belief at the 1980 Dallas GC. **ONE GOD—THREE PERSONS; ALL OF ONE IDENTICAL SUBSTANCE.**

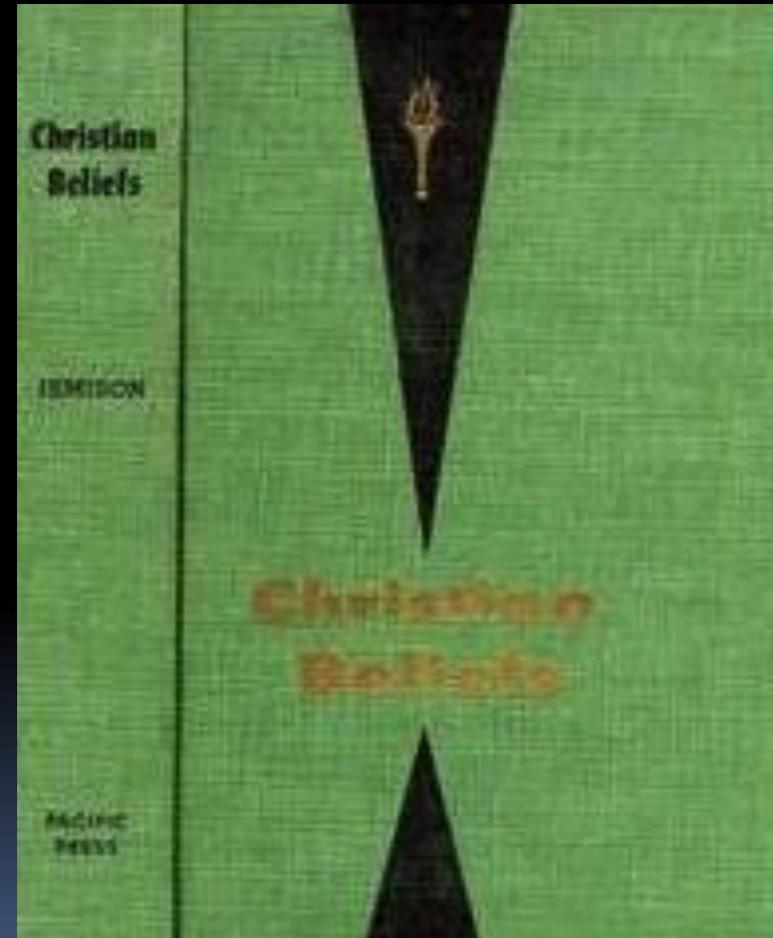
32 MY CATHOLIC FAITH

*"And the Catholic Faith is this, that we worship one God in Trinity, and Trinity in unity. Neither confounding the Persons, nor dividing the Substance. . . . But the Godhead of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit is one, the glory equal, the majesty co-eternal. . . . The Father is made of none, neither created, nor begotten. The Son is of the Father alone: not made, nor created, but begotten. The Holy Spirit is of the Father and the Son: not made, nor created, nor begotten, but proceeding. . . . And in this Trinity nothing is afore or after, nothing is greater or less, but the whole three Persons are co-eternal together, and co-equal" (From the Athanasian Creed).*

MORE EVIDENCES  
OF  
THE NEW GOD

# 1959: Christian Beliefs by T. H. Jemison

Teaches SDA college students the Trinity concept of god: “That there is one God, and **the divine nature is not and cannot be divided,** is an outstanding truth of the Old Testament.”  
p. 74.



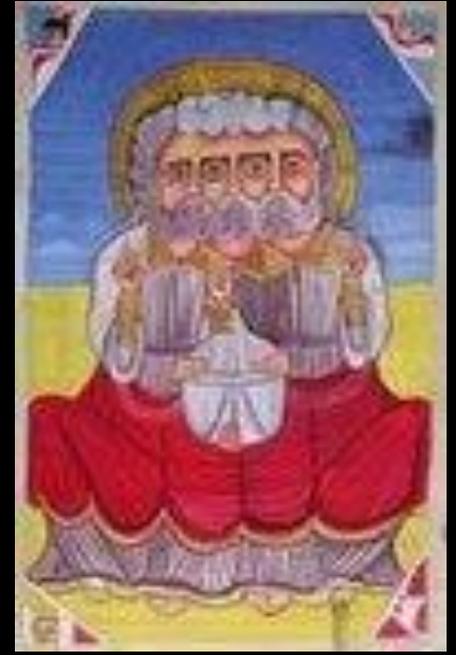
# HOW TO JOIN THE WCC?

Belief in the Trinity  
is the require-  
ment for  
membership.



# HOW TO JOIN THE WCC?

“The WCC is a fellowship of churches which confess the Lord Jesus Christ as God and Saviour according to the Scriptures and therefore seek to fulfill together their common calling to the glory of the one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.”



# 1980—ECUMENISM

## An official SDA belief!

**Belief #14: Unity** in the Body of Christ,  
the “church,”

“This unity has its source  
in the oneness of the triune God.”

**Pope John Paul II—“Ut Unim Sint”:**

“This is the hope of Christian unity,  
which has its divine source in the

Trinitarian unity

of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.”

# 1985—New SDA ECUMENICAL HYMNAL

18 new  
hymns  
to the  
Trinity.

NEVER BEFORE  
IN SDA HYMNALS



# George Knight, Ministry, Oct., 1993



“Most of the founders of Seventh-day Adventism would **not be able to join the church today** if they had to subscribe to the denomination’s Fundamental Beliefs.

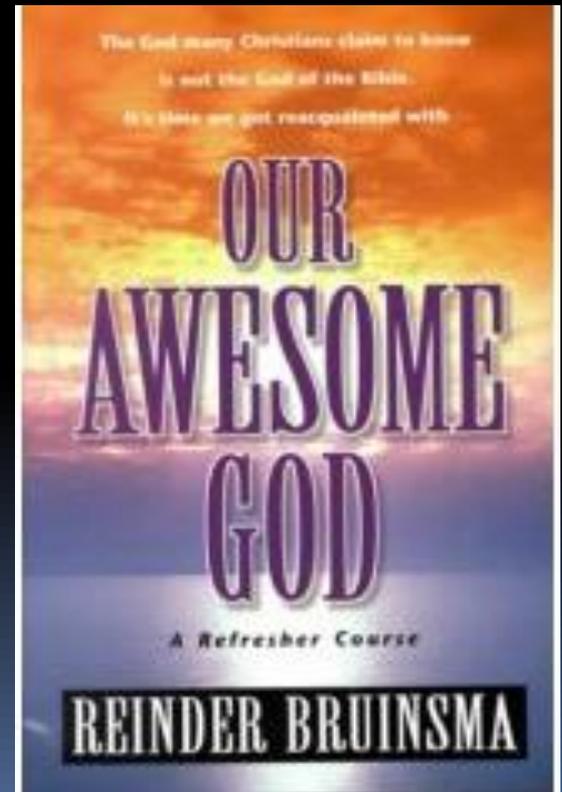
More specifically, **most would not be able to agree to belief number 2, which deals with the doctrine of the trinity.”**

# 1999 Polish SDA—Catholic Agreement

“The SDA Church  
...in its teaching and service,  
cultivates the most important  
principles of Catholic faith,  
**especially the belief  
in the Blessed Trinity.”**

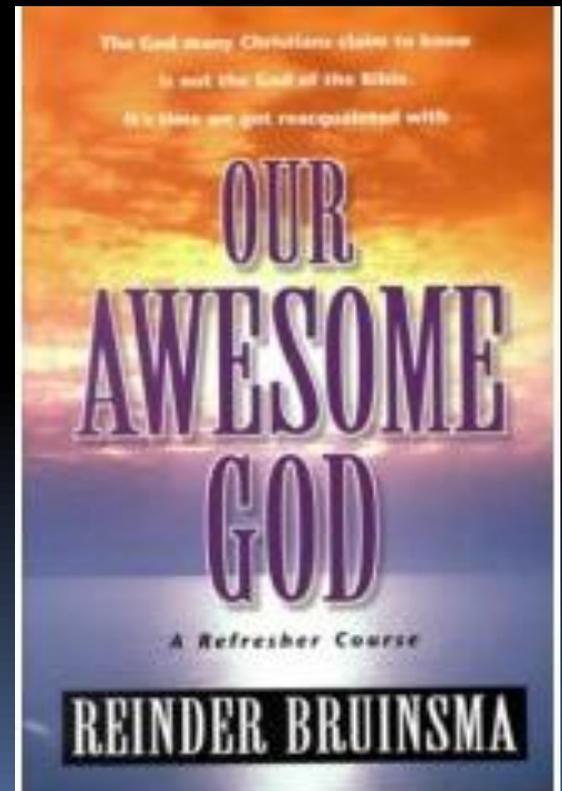
# 2000-OUR AWESOME GOD

“It is a basic Christian doctrine that God is a Trinity of three persons (‘modes of eternal manifestation’) having one substance (essence or being).”



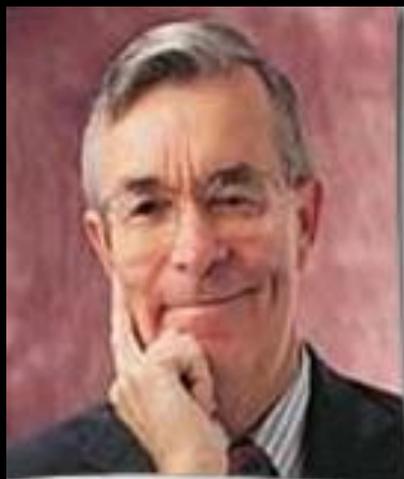
# 2000-OUR AWESOME GOD

“It took the Adventist Church until far into the 19<sup>th</sup> century to agree that the doctrine of the Trinity was indeed biblical and belonged among the fundamental Adventist beliefs.”



# November, 2006

## William Johnsson Presentation to Presbyterian Church in Ecumenical Dialogue #1

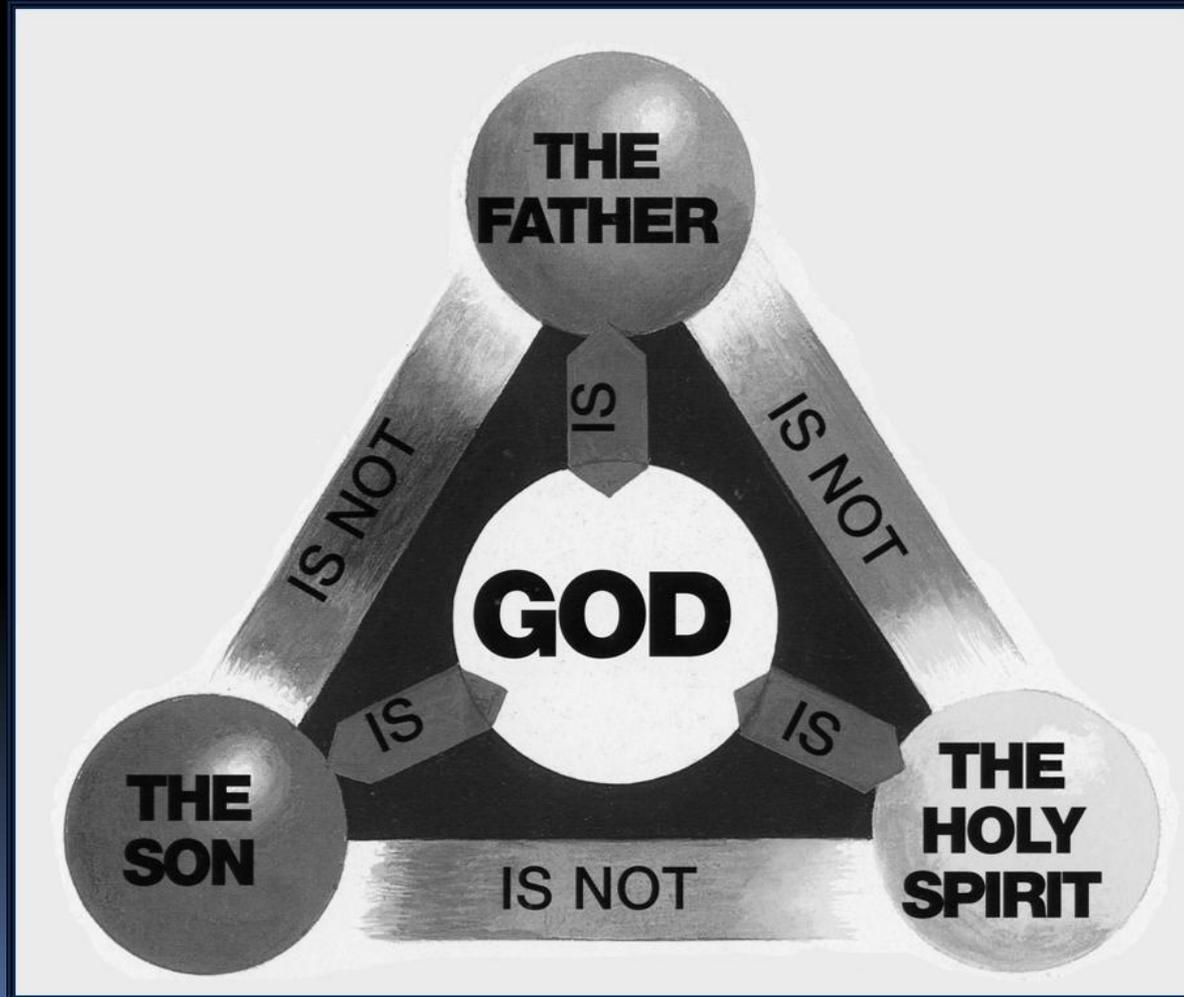


“As we look over the 28 statements of Adventist doctrine, we are led to three conclusions:

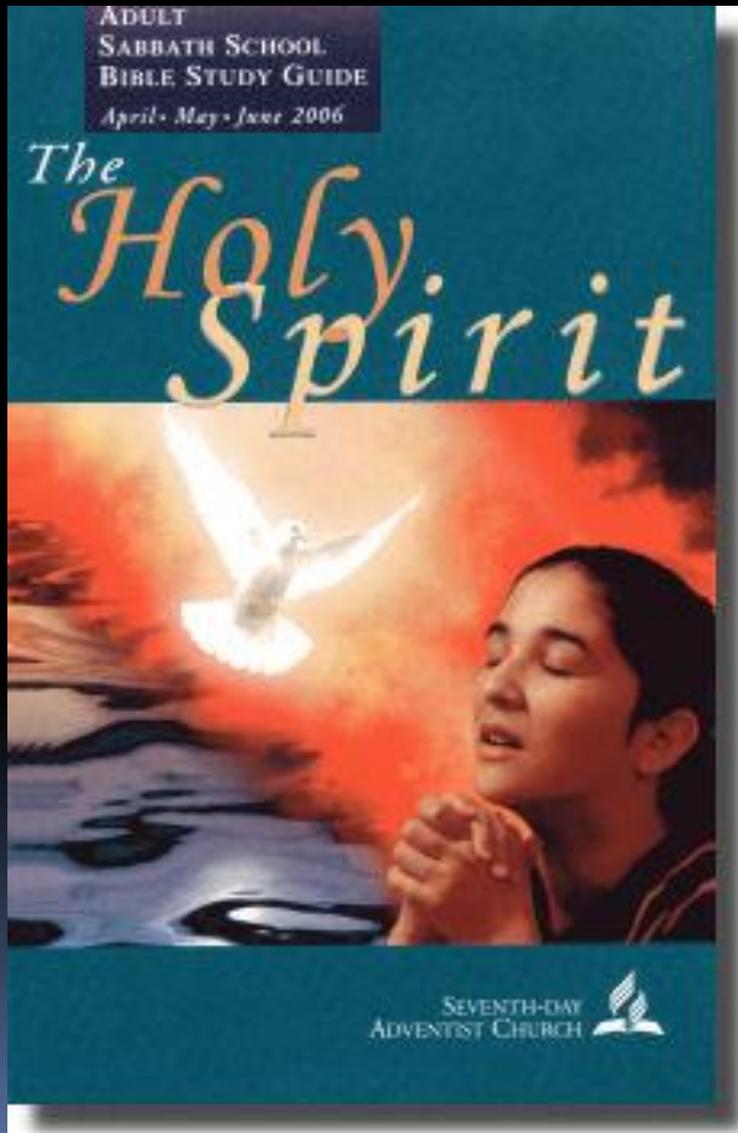
(1) Adventist belief in **the Trinity**,  
agrees with

**orthodox Christian understanding.”**

# TRINITY ILLUSTRATED IN SDA BIBLE STUDY HANDBOOK



# From 2006 Sabbath School Quarterly

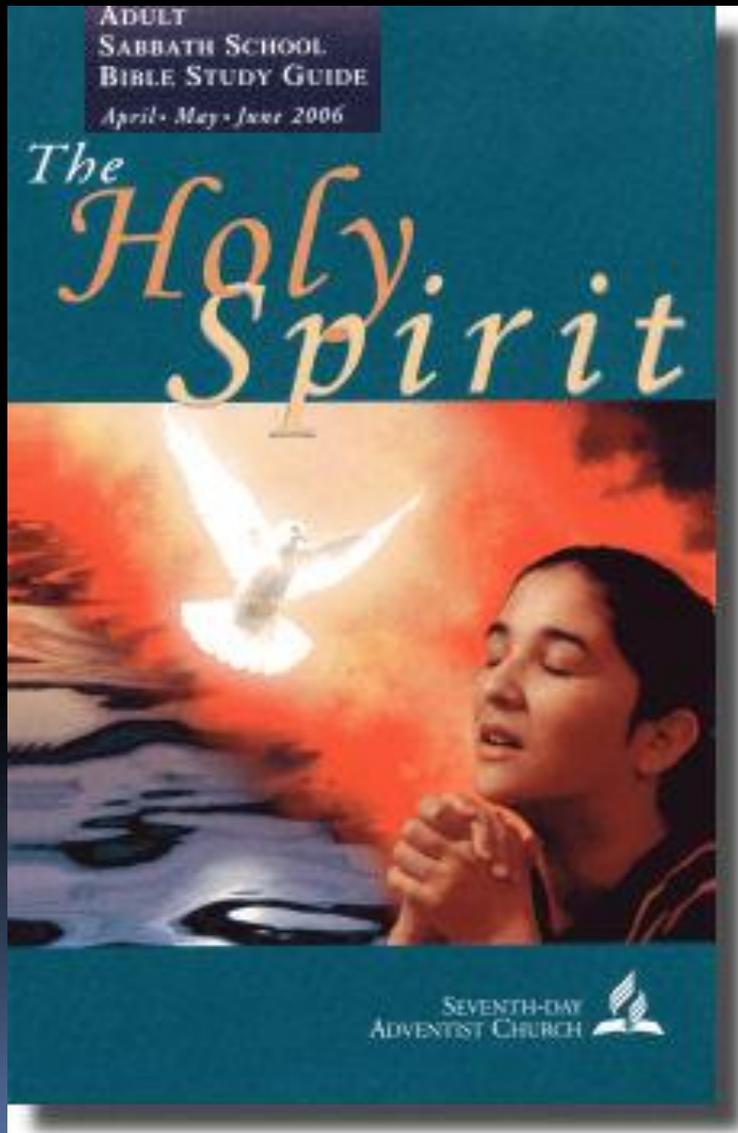


#1—The Triune God.

“ ‘There is one God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, a unity of three co-eternal Persons.’

“In other words, Adventists—along with millions of other Christians—believe in the triune nature of God; that is, there is one God who exists as three Persons.”

# From 2006 Sabbath School Quarterly



#1—The Triune God.

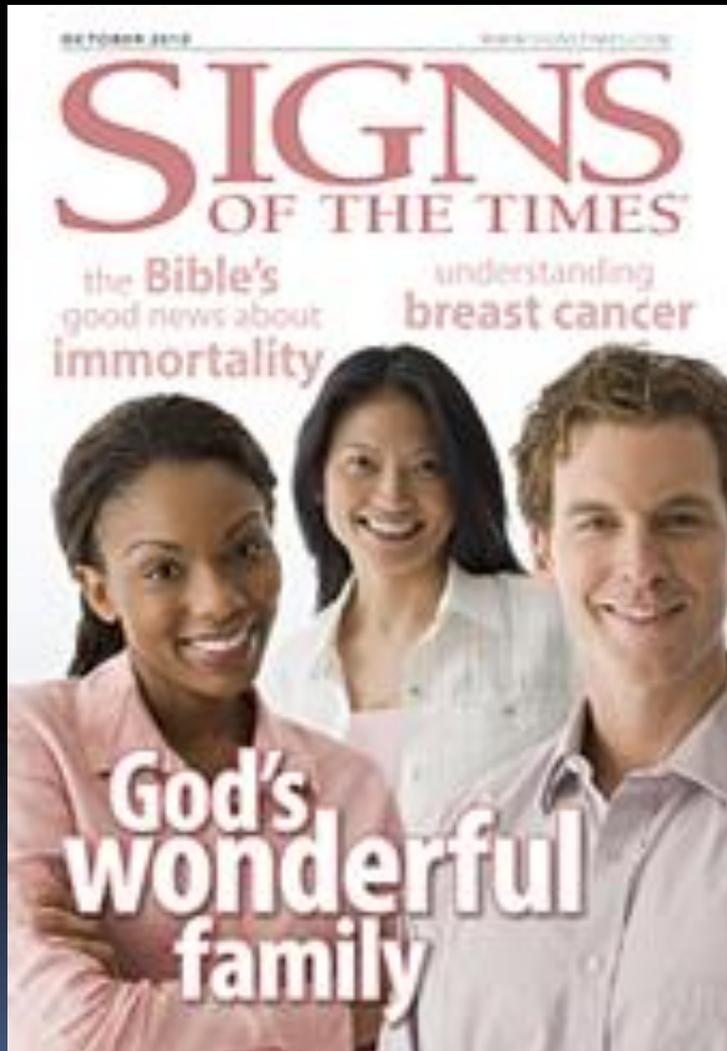
“What analogies—  
such as a ...  
**three-pronged fork**—  
can help someone  
understand the idea of  
how one God can be  
composed of three  
equal Persons?”



**From 2008:** Catholic Answers, article  
“Seventh-Day Adventism.”

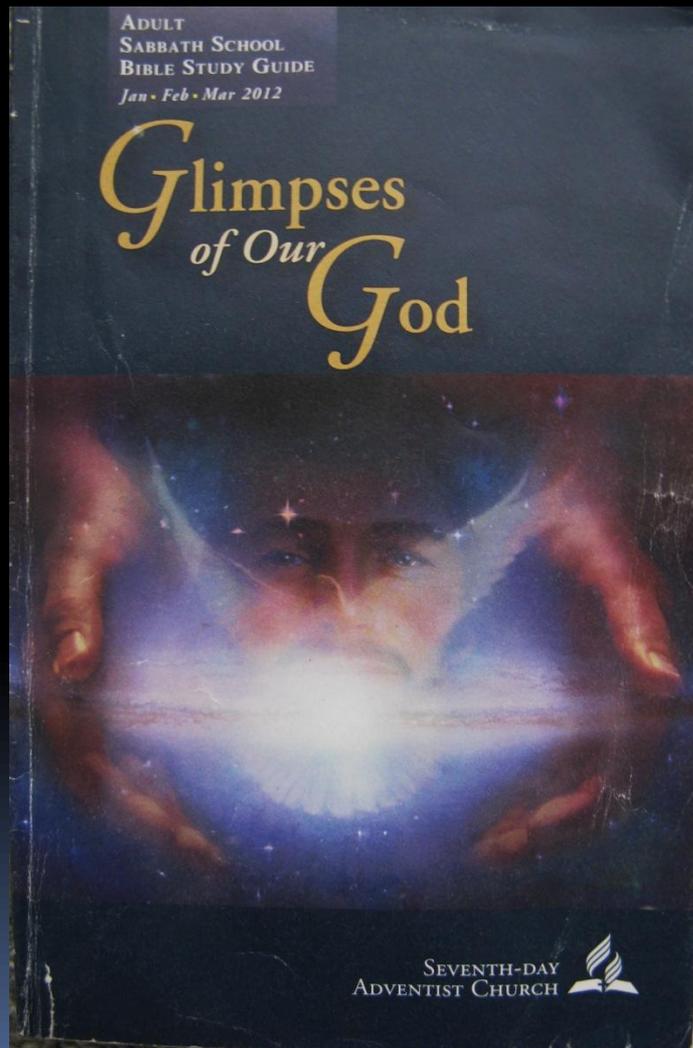
**Catholic church says:  
“Seventh-Day Adventists  
agree with  
many Catholic doctrines,  
including the Trinity.”**

# JUNE, 2010—SIGNS OF THE TIMES



“Although not itself a biblical term, ‘the trinity’ has been found a convenient term for **the one God** self-revealed in Scripture as **Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.**” *Signs of the Times*, June, 2010, p. 52.

# From 2012 Sabbath School Quarterly

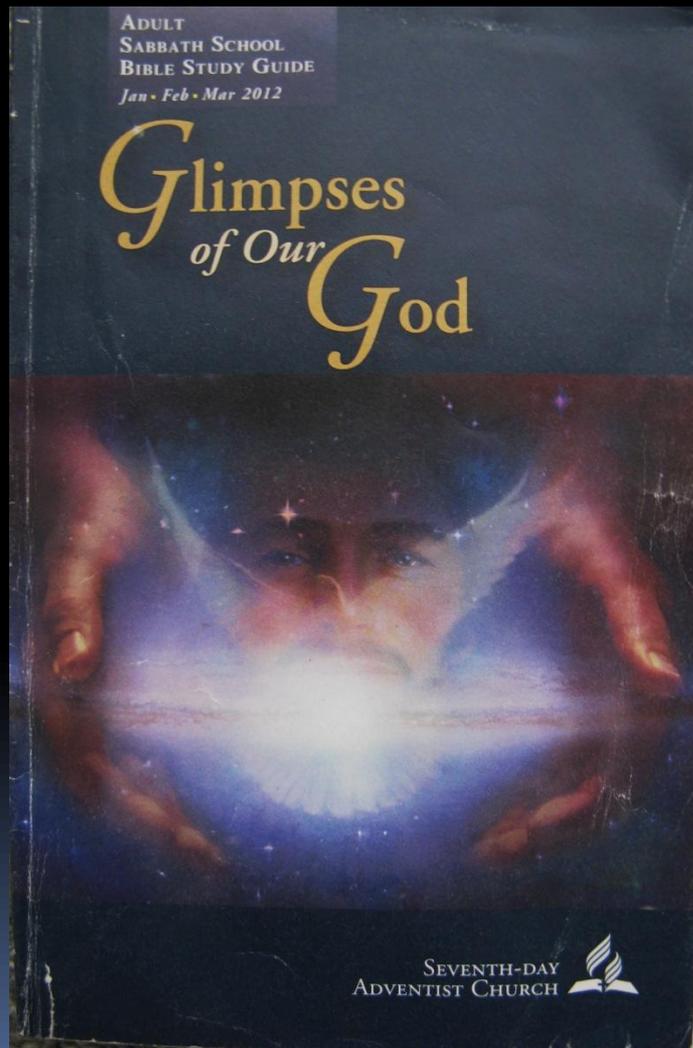


“The Triune God.”

“ ‘There is one God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, a unity of three co-eternal Persons.’

“**The doctrine of the Trinity, that god is One and composed of three ‘Persons,’ is crucial....**”

# From 2012 Sabbath School Quarterly



“Some early Adventists struggled with the doctrine of the Trinity. Today the church has taken a firm stand on the doctrine.

How does this change over time reveal to us the unfolding nature of truth?

## Jeremiah 2:11

Hath a nation changed  
*their* gods, which *are* yet  
no gods? but my people  
have changed their glory  
for *that which* doth not  
profit.

Küng, Hans. *Christianity: Essence, History, and Future*, p. 95:

“Throughout the New Testament, while there is belief in God the Father, in Jesus the Son and in God’s Holy Spirit, there is no doctrine of one God in three persons (modes of being), no doctrine of a ‘triune God,’ a ‘Trinity.’ ”



As an Individual, and as a Church Body

**CHOOSE TODAY**

The GOD of the  
FIRST ANGEL'S MESSAGE  
That We Are Commanded To WORSHIP  
OR  
the god of the  
THIRD ANGEL'S MESSAGE  
That We Are Warned Not To Worship

As an Individual, and as a Church Body

**CHOOSE TODAY**

The **GOD** of the  
**1872 SDA statement of principles**  
That We Are Commanded To **WORSHIP**  
**OR**  
the god of the  
**1980 Statement of Belief**  
That We Are Warned Not To Worship