

WINDS OF DOCTRINE | ENDORSEMENT VS INFALLIBILITY

THE ROLE OF CHURCH ORGANIZATION

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Today, we'll explore two vital topics that are deeply connected: ***Unity in the Body of Christ and Endorsement vs. Infallibility***. **Unity** is the foundation that **strengthens the church**, while understanding **endorsement** helps us **navigate potential divisions caused by misinterpretations of historical figures and materials**.
to the challenges we face in the church today."

UNITY IN THE BODY OF CHRIST—UNDERSTANDING UNITY:

Our focus is to work together to finish the work. Christ promised that He will build up His Church:

When the LORD shall build up Zion, he shall appear in his glory. —
Psalm 102:16

Who is Zion?

And say unto Zion, Thou *art* my people. — Isaiah 51:16

The work of God in this earth can **NEVER BE FINISHED** until the men and women **comprising our church membership rally** to the work and **unite their efforts with those of ministers and church officers**. {9T 116.4}

The United States has a slogan "United We Stand Divided We Fall" How does this relate to God's Remnant Church?

The Bible says the church is one body with many members, called from every nation, kindred, tongue, and people. This is a part of our core beliefs as a Church.

Fundamental belief 14 is all about unity in Christ. It states:

The church is **one body** with **many members**, called from **every nation, kindred, tongue, and people**. In **Christ** we are a **new creation**; distinctions of race, culture, learning, and nationality, and differences between high and low, rich and poor, male and female, **must not be divisive among us**. We are all **equal in Christ**, who by one Spirit has bonded us into one fellowship with Him and with one another; we are to serve and be served **without partiality** or reservation. Through the revelation of Jesus Christ in the **Scriptures** we share the same faith and hope, and reach out in one witness to all. This **unity** has its source in the **oneness** of the triune God, who has adopted us as His children.

Unity reflects the oneness of the triune God. It shows the world that we are truly Christ's disciples. Without unity, our message is diluted, and our witness loses power.

It starts with **recognizing** that we are all **equal** in Christ. We need to intentionally create spaces for open dialogue, humility, and service. It's about fostering relationships that transcend our differences."

Society thrives on division—whether it's **politics**, **economics**, or **social structures**. The church is called to be **counter-cultural**, showing that **true** unity can exist when **Christ is at the center**.

WAR AND STRIFE: THE NEED FOR UNITY

ROMONE:

We are in a Great controversy.

I Revelation 12:9-14

The great controversy reminds us that we are engaged in **spiritual warfare**. The enemy seeks to divide us, weaken our witness, and derail our mission. Unity is our defense and strength.

War strategies that Satan uses to divide

ROMONE:

You were mentioning to me some of the war strategies that could be related to the Great Controversy. Can you share some of those and how can we guard against being baited into unnecessary conflicts within the church?"

BAIT AND BLEED:

Bait and bleed is a military strategy. The aim is to **induce** rival states to engage in a protracted war of attrition **against each other** "so that they bleed each other white" **while the baiter who encouraged the conflict remains on the sidelines and maintains its military strength**.

BLOODLETTING:

Mearsheimer describes a similar strategy which he calls "**bloodletting**", which does not involve incitement or baiting by a third party. When a state's rivals have **already** gone to war independently, the aim is to **encourage the conflict to continue as long as possible to let the rival states weaken or "bleed" each other's military strength while the bloodletting party stays out of the fighting**.

DIVIDE AND CONQUER:

In politics and sociology is gaining and maintaining power by **breaking up** larger concentrations of **power** into **pieces** that **individually** have **less power** than the **one implementing the strategy**.

FRIENDLY FIRE:

is an attack by a military force on friendly or neutral troops while attempting to attack the enemy. During six years of the Vietnam War, there were over **29,000 casualties** due to friendly fire. In operation **Desert Storm**, **45%** of all American casualties were due to **friendly fire**.

Friendly fire happens when we allow **personal** agendas or **pride** get in the way of the **gospel**. We need to approach **disagreements** with **grace** and **humility**, always seeking **reconciliation** and **understanding**.

Example of the disciples. Where they always united?

In these first disciples was presented **marked diversity**. They were to be the world's teachers, and they represented **widely varied types of character**. In order **successfully** to carry **forward** the **work** to which they had been called, these men, **differing** in **natural characteristics** and in habits of life, **needed** to come into **unity of feeling, thought, and action**. This unity it was Christ's object to secure. To this end He sought to bring them into unity with Himself. {AA 20.2}

There also needs to be **unity** on and **focus** on the **last message** of mercy which is none other than the **Three Angel's Messages**

But Satan has created some many distractions against it.

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. On them is shining wonderful light from the word of God. ...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.** {9T 19.1}

PART 2:

ENDORSEMENT VS. INFALLIBILITY

We have identified **Endorsement vs Infallibility** as key umbrella distraction and Some offshoot groups argue that Ellen White's endorsements imply infallibility.

What is endorsement:

Endorsement is a recommendation of something useful or helpful, but it doesn't mean the material is without error.

How is **Endorsement vs Infallibility** a key umbrella distraction?

This lays the foundation to many of the heresies that have come in that has caused division

BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES

- Paul quoted Greek poets in Acts 17 to connect with his audience
- Jude referenced the Book of Enoch. Both drew truthful principles while rejecting the errors in these sources. It's a great reminder that God can use imperfect tools to communicate His truth.
- Jesus also told the story of the rich man and Lazarus in Luke 16. Jesus adapted a common Jewish narrative to emphasize moral truths, not to validate every detail of the story. It's about conveying the message, not endorsing the source as infallible.

Some groups within Adventism argue that Ellen White's endorsements of certain charts, books, or individuals mean they are infallible. However, Ellen White made it clear that Scripture alone is infallible."

God's Word is full of precious promises and helpful counsel. It is **infallible**; for **God** cannot err. – {ML 27.4}

ELLEN WHITE & PIONEERS

How can we respect the historical contributions of early Adventist pioneers while maintaining that Scripture is our ultimate authority?"

Examples.

Ellen White endorsed the 1843 and 1850 prophetic charts. What role did these charts play in the early Adventist movement, and how should we understand her endorsement of them despite their errors?

We honor their dedication and the light they brought, but we always test their teachings against the Bible. That's the standard for all truth."

These charts were tools that God used to guide early Adventists in understanding prophecy. However, they included mistakes, like the incorrect ending of the 2300-day prophecy in 1843. Ellen White's endorsement was about their overall usefulness, not their perfection.

1843 Prophetic Chart:

- Designed by Charles Fitch and Apollos Hale, this chart outlined key time prophecies, particularly related to Daniel and Revelation.

- Ellen White endorsed the chart, stating that God's hand was in its creation (see Early Writings, p. 74).
- Recognized Errors:
 - Included the incorrect interpretation of the 2300-day prophecy ending in 1843 instead of 1844.

I have seen that the 1843 chart I have seen that the 1843 chart **was directed by the hand of the Lord**, and that it should not be altered; that the figures were as He wanted them; that His hand was over and hid a mistake in some of the figures, so that none could see it, until His hand was removed. {EW 74.1}

She also recommended books like *Pilgrim's Progress* and *Daniel and the Revelation by Uriah Smith*, even though they contained theological errors. How should we approach these materials today?

The interest in *Daniel and the Revelation* is to continue as long as probationary time shall last. **God used the author [Uriah Smith] of this book as a channel through which to communicate light to direct minds to the truth.** Shall we not appreciate this light, which points us to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, our King?" (Ellen G White, 1MR 63.1).

We should value their spiritual insights but always measure them against Scripture. Ellen White herself encouraged critical engagement with such resources.

Pilgrim's Progress by John Bunyan:

- Ellen White valued the spiritual allegory of the Christian journey presented in this book (Education, p. 250).
- Recognized Errors:
 - Includes the doctrine of eternal torment, which contradicts the Adventist understanding of the state of the dead.

She also endorsed people like Martin Luther & William Miller. Here is an example

Example:

Statement on Martin Luther:

Angels of heaven were by his side, and rays of light from the throne of God **revealed the treasures of truth to his understanding.** – {GC 122.2}

Yet we know that Luther's writings were **far from perfect and infallible**. He wrote strongly against the book of James and tore it out of his bible.

Statement on William Miller:

Angels of God repeatedly visited that chosen one, to guide his mind and open to his understanding prophecies which had ever been dark to God's people. **The commencement of the chain of truth was given to him**, and he was led on to search for link after link, until he looked with wonder and admiration upon the Word of God. **He saw there a perfect chain of truth.** – {EW 229.1}

Yet we know that Miller did not have all things perfect in his writings. Miller taught that the first beast of revelation 13 was pagan Rome and that the second beast was an image of the Roman beast, papal Rome. And several other things.

What are some practical ways the church can foster unity in diversity while upholding biblical truth?

"**United we stand, divided we fall**" is a phrase used in many different kinds of mottos, most often to inspire **unity** and **collaboration**. Its core concept lies in the **collectivist** notion that if individual members of a certain group with **binding** ideals – such as a union, coalition, confederation or alliance – **work on their own** instead of as a **team, they are each doomed to fail and will all be defeated**. The phrase is also often referred to with only the words "**United we stand**".

PATRICK HENRY

United we stand, divided we fall. Let us not split into factions which must destroy that union upon which our existence hangs. United we stand, divided we fall. Let us not split into factions which must destroy that union upon which our existence hangs.

PATRICK HENRY

United we stand, divided we fall. Let us not split into factions which must destroy that union upon which our existence hangs. Let us **preserve** our **strength** for the French, the English, the Germans, or whoever else shall dare invade our territory, and not exhaust it in civil commotions and **intestine** wars.

AD 70 LESSON

When therefore Titus had marched over that desert...it so happened that the sedition at Jerusalem was revived, and parted into three factions, and that one faction fought against the other.

History Of The Destruction Of Jerusalem | By Flavius Josephus

How do we define unity?'

AGREE ON WHAT?

Amos 3:3 | Luke 10:25-29 | Luke 24:23-27, 44-46

Jesus' Prayer

| John 17:17-21

Unity is not Uniformity

I 1 Corinthians 12:11-26

Tools for Unity

I Ephesian 4:11-15

NOT ALL UNITY IS POSITIVE

I Rev 17:13-14

DOCTRINAL DIFFERENCES

Example of Wesley & Whitefield

In Wesley's time, as in all ages of the church's history, men of different gifts performed their appointed work. They did **not harmonize** upon **every point of doctrine**, but **all** were **moved** by the Spirit of God, and **united** in the **absorbing aim to win souls to Christ**. The **differences** between Whitefield and the Wesleys threatened at one time to create **alienation**; **but as they learned meekness in the school of Christ, mutual forbearance and charity reconciled them**. They had no time to **dispute**, while **error** and **iniquity** were **teeming** everywhere, and sinners were going down to ruin. {GC 257.3}

DOCTRINAL DIFFERENCES

In light of their **doctrinal disagreements**, someone once asked Whitefield if he thought he'd see Wesley in heaven. Here is Whitefield's reply:

"I fear not, for he will be so near the eternal throne and we at such a distance, we shall hardly get sight of him"

Don't settle for error!

I Galatians 4:13-16

It is better to be divided by truth than to be united in error. It is better to speak the truth that hurts and then heals, than falsehood that comforts and then kills. Let me tell you something, friend, it is **not love** and it is **not** friendship if we **fail to declare the whole counsel of God**. It is better to be hated for telling the truth, than to be loved for telling a lie...It's better to stand alone with the truth, than to be wrong with a multitude.

— *Adrian Rogers*

Most people, sometime in their lives, stumble across truth. Most jump up, brush themselves off, and hurry on about their business as if nothing had happened."

— *Winston Churchill*

What to do with Truth!

Psalms 86:11 I 2 Thess 2:10-12

UNITY ONLY

Through Christ

I Eph 2:13-14