

FUNDAMENTAL BELIEFS  
ON THE

*Godhead*

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Elias Brazil de Sousa





# TRINITY OF *Love* - FATHER, SON, AND HOLY SPIRIT

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# TRINITY OF *Love:* UNITED IN LOVE

- Before anything was created, the persons of the Trinity were united in eternal love relationship—the Trinity of love (see John 17:24).
- The Father loves the Son (John 3:35; 5:20; cf. Matt 3:17), the Son loves the Father (John 14:31) and by His work glorifies the Father (John 17:4), and the Spirit shares in this love, glorifying the Son (John 16:14) and thus also glorifying the Father, pouring the love of God out within our hearts (Rom 5:5; cf. Rom 15:30; Gal 5:22).
  - The Son “is the radiance of [the Father’s] glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power” (Heb 1:3) and provides the ultimate demonstration of God’s righteousness and love (Rom 3:25-26; 5:8).
- “For this reason the Father loves Me,” Christ declared, “because I lay down My life so that I may take it again. No one has taken it away from Me, but I lay it down on My own initiative. . . This commandment I received from My Father.” (John 10:17-18; Gal 2:20; Eph 5:2)
- God in Christ sacrificed *Himself* for us (2 Cor 5:19).



# TRINITY OF *Love:* THE PLAN OF REDEMPTION

- The Son was sent by the Father (John 5:36-37; 6:44, 57; 8:16-18; 10:36; 12:49; 1 John 4:14) and carried out His mission in obedience to the Father's will (John 14:31; cf. John 5:19, 30; 6:38; 8:28), continually glorifying the Father (e.g., John 17:4).
- During His earthly ministry, the Son operated in dependence and submission to the Holy Spirit (Matt 1:18-20; 4:1; 12:28; Mark 1:12; Luke 1:35; 4:1, 14, 18; Acts 10:38).
- After Christ's resurrection, the Holy Spirit is sent by both the Father and Son (e.g., John 14:26; 15:26) and operates in a *functionally* submissive role (cf. John 16:13), glorifying both Father and Son (John 16:14).
- While the Son lovingly obeys and glorifies the Father, the Father also glorifies the Son (John 17:1, 4-5) and delegates to the Son within the context of love relationship: the "Father loves the Son and has given all things into His hand" (John 3:35; cf. 5:22-23; 13:3; 16:15).
- The Father later re-elevates the Son to His rightful throne—"the throne of God and the Lamb" (Rev 22:3) and lovingly glorifies the Son. The Father "highly exalted Him" with a "name which is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow" and "every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father" (Phil 2:9-11; cf. Matt 28:18; 1 Cor 15:24-28; Eph 1:20-23; Heb 1:3-4).



# TRINITY OF *Love:* OTHER-GLORIFYING LOVE

- The Father declares of the Son: “Let all the angels of God worship Him” (Heb 1:6) and “Your throne, O God, is forever and ever” (Heb 1:8).
- Christ declares: “If I glorify Myself, My glory is nothing; it is My Father who glorifies Me” (John 8:54).
- Christ prayed to the Father: “Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You” (John 17:1), and “I have glorified You on the earth. . . . And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was” (John 17:4-5)
- Christ prays the redeemed might “behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world” (John 17:24).
- Christ declared, the Holy Spirit “will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you” (John 16:14).
- “God is love and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him” (1 John 4:16).



# DOCTRINE OF *God* IN SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST HISTORY

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Denis Kaiser





# DOCTRINE OF *God* IN SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST HISTORY

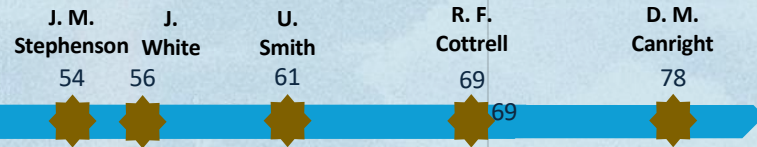
1846 – 1870

1870 – 1890

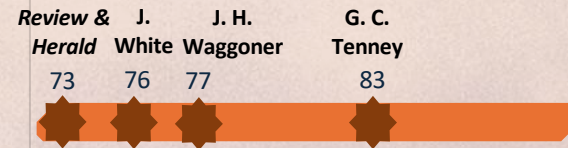
1890 – 1900

1900 – 1915

Anti- & Non-  
trinitarianism



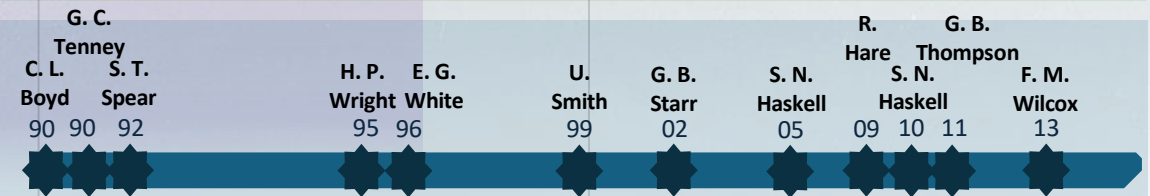
Relaxed  
Attitudes



Subtle  
Trinitarianism



Overt  
Trinitarianism





ELLEN WHITE  
AND THE

# Godhead

Merlin Burt



REACH  
THE WORLD 

I WILL  
GO 



# KEY ASPECTS OF ELLEN WHITE ON

## THE *Trinity*:

- She was first of all Biblical
- Up until the 1890s she was less specific about some aspects of Jesus and the Holy Spirit.
- For the last 25 years of her life she was very clear on a Biblical understanding of the Godhead.



TRUSTWORTHINESS OF ELLEN  
WHITE'S WRITINGS ON THE

*Godhead*

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Tim Poirier





# TRUSTWORTHINESS OF ELLEN WHITE'S WRITINGS ON THE GODHEAD

## Example 1:

The Holy Spirit always leads to the written Word. **The Holy Spirit is a person**; for He beareth witness with our spirits that we are the children of God. . . .

The Holy Spirit has a personality, else He could not bear witness to our spirits and with our spirits that we are the children of God. **He must also be a divine person**, else He could not search out the secrets which lie hidden in the mind of God. *Evangelism*, pp. 616, 617.



# TRUSTWORTHINESS OF ELLEN WHITE'S WRITINGS ON THE GODHEAD

*Copies S.F. xiv, 1906*  
365  
Shall sit and the living shall be judged and every  
man shall be judged by the living God written  
by the living God and given to Moses in the wilderness  
in the Ark and the Ark in the Holy of Holies  
Shrine of Shiloh, then there is a record kept  
of all the deeds of men, and according to the merits  
will every man receive whether they be good or whether  
they be evil, &c.

The Holy Spirit always leads to the written word  
The Holy Spirit is a person for he hears the witness  
within our spirit that we are the children of God  
When this witness is given it bears its own  
evidence with it and at such times we believe  
and are sure that we are the children of God, and  
show much evidence. We can give which ever we  
witness when we can see the words of John  
We have known and believed the love that God  
hath to us God is love; and he that dwelleth in  
love dwelleth in God, and God in him.

The Holy Spirit is a personality else he could not  
hear the witness in our spirits and within spirits  
that we are the children of God. He must also hear  
our witness for he could not search out the secret  
which lay hidden in the mind of God or what was  
in the heart of a man save the spirit  
of man which is in him even so the things of  
God knoweth no man but the Spirit of God.

## Example 1:

Evangelism,  
pp. 616, 617.



# TRUSTWORTHINESS OF ELLEN WHITE'S WRITINGS ON THE GODHEAD

The Holy Spirit always leads to the written Word  
The Holy Spirit is a person for he beareth witness  
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The Holy Spirit always leads to the written Word. The Holy Spirit is a person; for He beareth witness with our spirits that we are the children of God. . . .

One who dwells in God, and God in him  
The Holy Spirit is a personality else he could not  
bear witness to our spirits and with our spirits  
that we are the children of God. He must also be a  
divine person else he could not search out the secrets  
which lie hidden in the mind of God nor what man  
thinks.

The Holy Spirit has a personality, else He could not bear witness to our spirits and with our spirits that we are the children of God. He must also be a divine person, else He could not search out the secrets which lie hidden in the mind of God. *Evangelism*, pp. 616, 617.



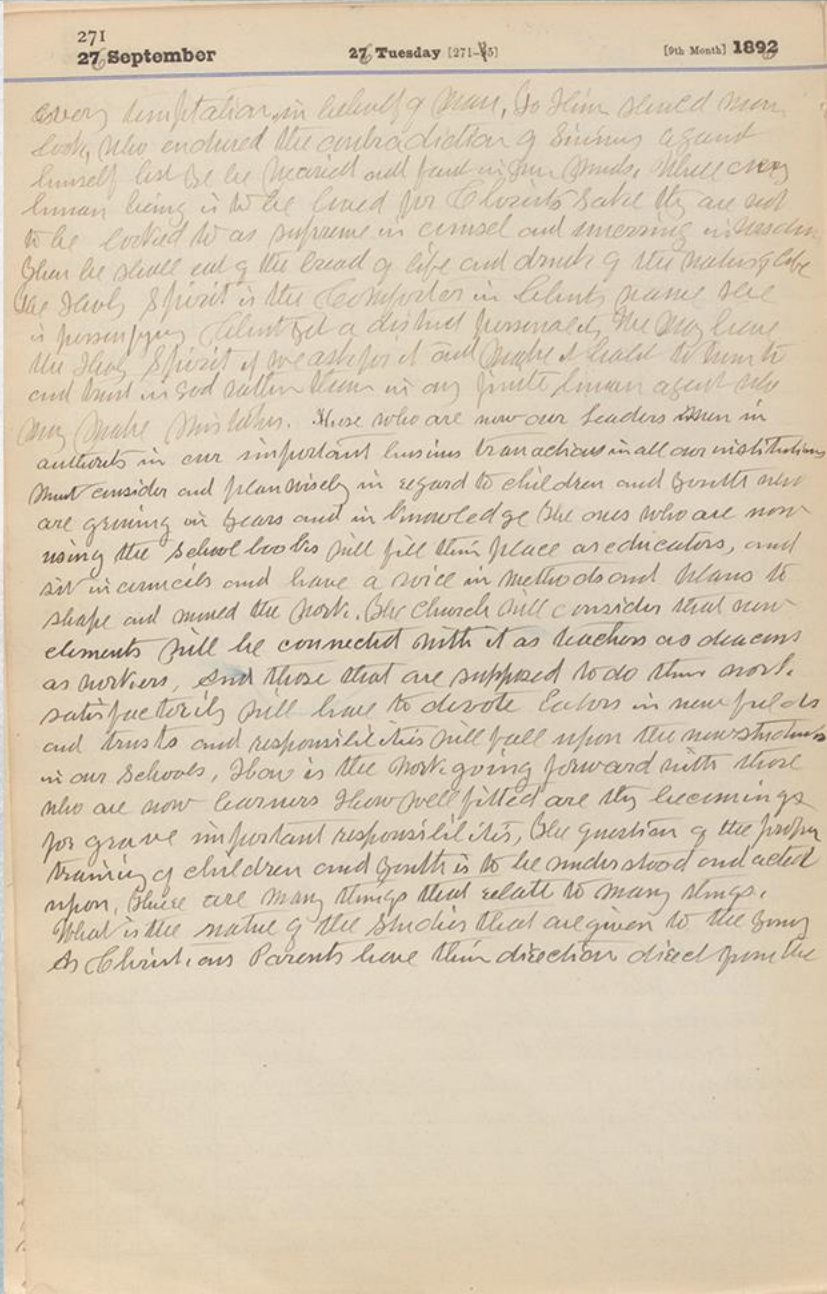
# TRUSTWORTHINESS OF ELLEN WHITE'S WRITINGS ON THE GODHEAD

## Example 2:

The Holy Spirit is the Comforter, in Christ's name. He personifies Christ, yet is a distinct personality. We may have the Holy Spirit if we ask for it and make it [a] habit to turn to and trust in God rather than in any finite human agent who may make mistakes. *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 20, p. 324.



# TRUSTWORTHINESS OF ELLEN WHITE'S WRITINGS ON THE GODHEAD



**Example 2:**  
Manuscript  
Releases, vol.  
20, p. 324.



## TRUSTWORTHINESS OF ELLEN WHITE'S WRITINGS ON THE GODHEAD

While looked to as supreme in counsel and smearing in wisdom,  
When he shall eat of the bread of life and drink of the waters of life  
The Holy Spirit is the Comforter in Christ's name. He  
is personifying Christ yet a distinct personality. We may have  
the Holy Spirit if we ask for it and make it a habit to turn to  
and trust in God rather than in any finite human agent who  
may make mistakes. Those who are now our leaders men in

The Holy Spirit is the Comforter, in Christ's name. He personifies Christ, yet is a distinct personality. We may have the Holy Spirit if we ask for it and make it [a] habit to turn to and trust in God rather than in any finite human agent who may make mistakes. *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 20, p. 324.



# TRUSTWORTHINESS OF ELLEN WHITE'S WRITINGS ON THE GODHEAD

## Example 3:

The work is laid out before every soul that has acknowledged his faith in Jesus Christ by baptism, and has become a receiver of the pledge from the three persons—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. *EGW Comments in SDA Bible Commentary*, vol. 6, p. 1074.



## TRUSTWORTHINESS OF ELLEN WHITE'S WRITINGS ON THE GODHEAD

115  
July [17 & 18] *1919* *17th Month* 1892

17 SUNDAY—5<sup>th</sup> Trin (189-197) *The Colossians*  
[19<sup>th</sup> A.D.] *1919* *17th Month* 1892

18 MONDAY (199-196) *that he was raised*

### Example 3:

*EGW Comments in SDA  
Bible Commentary, vol.  
6, p. 1074.*



## TRUSTWORTHINESS OF ELLEN WHITE'S WRITINGS ON THE GODHEAD

The meaning of multiplication here & the term used is  
said and before every soul that has acknowledged  
his faith in Jesus Christ—  
by baptism and by becoming a recipient of  
the pledge from the three persons the Father and  
the Son and the Holy Ghost Peter 1. 2. 28

The work is laid out before every soul that has acknowledged his faith in Jesus Christ by baptism, and has become a receiver of the pledge from the three persons—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. EGW

Comments in SDA Bible Commentary, vol. 6, p. 1074.



THE ETERNITY OF THE *Son*  
AND THE PERSONHOOD OF THE *Holy Spirit*

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Denis Kaiser

