

Christianity, Cult's and Religions – A comparative Look at the World we live in.

During this study, we'll look at 8 distinctive areas that separate and define each of 20 different religions or cults that exist in the world today. This is not to be considered an exhaustive study nor is it to be considered inclusive of all the world's religions or cults. But it is only an overview of some of the major influences in the world today. There are many more sub-cultures and "sects" of each of these that we will not have the time to discuss. Therefore let me encourage each of you to determine to investigate and learn for yourselves what those influences are and how they may affect your personal Christian belief system and Christian walk with God.

Seventh Day Adventists:

Founder: James and Ellen White

Date: 1863 - Michigan

Location: Silver Spring, Maryland

Followers: Seventh-day Adventists

Key Writings: The bible, Adventist paraphrase "The Clear Word", The Great Controversy (Ellen White), The SDA Bible Commentary, and over 600 books written by Ellen White

Who is God?: God is a unity of three coeternal persons – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – but who are one in motive and purpose but not substance. God the Father is generally understood to possess a physical body. Both trinitarianism and anti-trinitarianism are believed in the church today.

Who is Jesus?: Ellen White says that God the Father elevated Jesus to be his son. This provoked Lucifer's jealousy and a war in heaven. Jesus is our example to prove we can live sinlessly. His sacrifice on the cross did not complete the atonement; since 1844 Jesus has been applying his blood in heaven in an ongoing "investigative judgment" after which he will return. Also identified as Michael the Archangel. Most Adventists founders denied Jesus' deity.

Who is the Holy Spirit?: Ellen White believed that the Holy Spirit was just a force or power from God. But today the Holy Spirit is generally understood to be the third person of the Godhead.

How to be Saved: Salvation is by Grace, through faith, but it is maintained by commandment –keeping and repentance. Seventh-day (Saturday) Sabbath observance is the sign of the seal of God, Sunday worship is the mark of the beast. Satan is the scapegoat to be punished in the lake of fire for the sins of the saved.

What happens after Death?: Humans have no immortal spirit, so at death the body goes into the ground and the breath goes to God. Nothing remains except in God's memory. At judgment, the lake of fire annihilates the wicked.

Other facts, beliefs, and practices.

1. The SDA church considers itself to be God's one, special remnant church.
2. The Old Testament clean/unclean laws are still observed.
3. SDA "health message" includes abstinence from alcohol, tobacco, and caffeine, and advocates veganism.
4. Traditional SDA's believe wearing jewelry is sinful
5. Proselytizing programs include "Revelation Seminars" and health outreach.
6. Original SDA's didn't believe in the Trinity or the personhood of the Holy Spirit, and thought Christ was a created being.
7. There is a more modern group of SDA's that are more mainstream protestant is beliefs.

According to [Seventh-day Adventists](#), the 8 basic pillars are as follow:

- The [investigative judgment](#) [1]
- The [sanctuary service](#) [2]
- The perpetuity of the [Law of God](#) [3]
- The [faith of Jesus](#) [4]
- The [Three Angels' Messages](#) [5]
- The [Sabbath](#) [1]
- The [state of the dead](#) and the exposure of [spiritualism](#). [6]
- The [special gift of prophecy](#). [6]