



But in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. -

Matthew 15:9

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Apology

I owe everyone, including myself, an apology. And that apology is also owed to God for my actions were not wise and may have caused problems for some.

A few years ago I realized that the church I grew up in wasn't acting in ways that were entirely kosher. Their teachings were questionable and their actions in the way they run their organization and their use of coercive means to control their parishioners was to me unsavory. When I was a kid I would have been punished if I had tried to do some of the stuff the church was guilty of doing.

When I recognized that there is a better picture of God than what the church was presenting, I started my Facebook group intending it to be a way that I could make a feeble attempt at showing others the God that I had come to know vs the god that I had been raised to fear. Yes, I had some anger issues when the group got started. There were health issues and I was also at the anger stage while going through the process of grieving. I was grieving the loss of a life-long way of life, a life-long belief system. My world had been turned upside-down.

When I started that group I knew enough to know that the SDA church's set of fundamental beliefs had problems. But I wasn't prepared for the complexity of their organizational functions. I found documentation where they would vote to do things one way then turn around and teach that the item they had voted on was incorrect. Essentially the organization itself doesn't appear to know what it's doing.

I began that study with a trepidatious belief that Ellen White was an inspired prophetess of God. I say trepidatious because years earlier in my own studies I

had come across something she said that didn't match the Bible teaching. When I finished that book I wrote I had reached the point that I didn't know what to think about her. I no longer believed she was inspired by God but I didn't know what to do with that.

Last year I joined a group on Facebook that is supposed to be a place where former SDA's can go to find support from others who have left the church. This turned out to not be all it was promised. What I found there was a lot of hate-mongering aimed at the church and Mrs. White. This wasn't what I was needing, however, I stayed, hoping to find support in my decision to leave the church. But I ended up feeding off their anger. I unknowingly allowed their anger to change my focus from finding and worshipping a loving God to finding more fault with the SDA church and their prophetess.

I lost the focus of what my group and this website was originally supposed to be. With the loss of focus I was having difficulty finding things to write about. How could I write about a loving God when my focus was on finding ways to hate? I can't. I cannot write about Love when I'm focusing on hate. Those two don't go together.

The loss of my XP computer turned out to be a real blessing. I'll miss that computer and I lost a lot of stuff that I didn't have backed up. But I'll carry on with this newer that crashes on me. In making the switch to this computer I was going through some files and found some articles that I had written earlier. My memory is so bad that I didn't remember writing them and wondered if I had posted them on the website. That led me to the website and to do a search in the archives looking for these articles. While doing that search I reread some of the things I had written and realized that I had lost my focus and with that knowledge I knew that I had to leave that former SDA group.

So, I admit that this has happened and you were drug down into the hatred with me if you were reading the stuff I have been posting lately. You have my humble apology. I am sorry. We must be on constant guard lest something step in and come between us and our Creator. I didn't realize that looking for support in leaving the church would cause that separation.

Tonight I listened to a preacher talking about something I had never heard of before. He taught how it worked and I'll admit, I tried it and I cried. Despite my anger God hadn't left me, He was just waiting for me to get over it. I'm the one who changed, not Him. This coming Sabbath I'm planning to present to you what I learned tonight.

But I did come to a conclusion about Mrs. White. I will admit to you that I no longer believe she was inspired by God. One of the things that I don't accept about her claims to have been inspired by God is that she copied other writers then passed it off as her own. That is both theft and lying to cover it up. And when the church condones this by stating that it was a common practice in her day, they are condoning her behavior. They are condoning theft and lying to cover it up.

However, despite my decision to no longer believe her to have been inspired, I have concluded that her writings shouldn't be totally tossed out. Why? She may not have written the stuff, but the people who did originally write it may have been writing under the inspiration of God. Some of the stuff that she copied and passed off as hers is truly inspirational. But no matter how inspirational it may be, the Bible is the guidebook, the authority. Her writings or those things she passed off as her writings should never be placed above the Bible. And there are many places where she contradicted the Bible. When she does that then that teaching of hers or whomever it was, needs to be tossed.

Are you wanting to know what she wrote that was copied or taught something in opposition to the Bible? If so, then study it out for yourself. But do it guardedly and with lots of heartfelt prayer as you are seeking those answers.

And with that I bid you farewell for now.

With much love,

Hannah