



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

Matthew 15:9

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**“You Messed Up, Dude and You're Gonna Burn for That”
(preceded by bashing the Dude over the head with a red leather book)**

Jesus went across to Mount Olives, but he was soon back in the Temple again. Swarms of people came to him. He sat down and taught them.

The religion scholars and Pharisees led in a woman who had been caught in an act of adultery. They stood her in plain sight of everyone and said, “Teacher, this woman was caught red-handed in the act of adultery. Moses, in the Law, gives orders to stone such persons. What do you say?” They were trying to trap him into saying something incriminating so they could bring charges against him.

Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger in the dirt. They kept at him, badgering him. He straightened up and said, “The sinless one among you, go first: Throw the stone.” Bending down again, he wrote some more in the dirt.

Hearing that, they walked away, one after another, beginning with the oldest. The woman was left alone. Jesus stood up and spoke to her. “Woman, where are they? Does no one condemn you?”

“No one, Master.”

“Neither do I,” said Jesus. “Go on your way. From now on, don’t sin.”
– John 8:1-11 The Message Bible

Lately I've been burdened with a case of writer's block. I'm supposed to be writing a glossary for a project that Elkanah and I have going but the brain juices just haven't been functioning lately. Today it occurred to me that there is a

problem in the Adventist church that is often mentioned but nothing is done about it. What can you do about it? What we tend to do is bitch and complain about the thing but our gripes seemingly go unheard. Do people not recognize the problem or is it swept under the rug and ignored?

Take a look at the above passage and notice what Jesus did with that woman who was caught red-handed, or in her case, red-bedded. He treated her with dignity, love, and didn't condemn her. In fact, he even TOLD her that he didn't condemn her. Let's read that line in a different translation.

She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more. – verse 11, KJV

“No one, sir,” she said.

“Then neither do I condemn you,” Jesus declared. “Go now and leave your life of sin.” – verse 11, NIV

“Neither do I condemn you. Go and leave your life of sin.” – paraphrased by Hannah

Jesus didn't tell this woman to stop committing sinful acts. He told her to leave her life of sin. I've said this many times and will continue to say it. Sin is the act of living your life without God. Sins are the bad deeds that result from living your life separate from God. Jesus told her to stop living without God in her life.

He loved her and she recognized that.

Now here is the problem that the SDA church has:

Why! oh, why! will men and women who might be respectable, and good, and reach Heaven at last, sell themselves to the Devil so cheap, wound their bosom friends, disgrace their families, bring a reproach upon the cause, and go to hell at last? God have mercy. Why will not those who are overtaken in crime manifest repentance proportionate to the enormity of their crime, and fly to Christ for mercy, and heal, as far as possible, the wounds they have made? – *Review and Herald*, March 24, 1868, Art. A, par. 5 (EGW speaking against someone who has made the mistake of committing adultery.)

You cannot safely associate with the boys. A tide of temptation is

roused and surges in your breast, having a tendency to uproot principle, female virtue, and true modesty. If you go on in your willful, headstrong course, what will be your fate? ... You are in danger, for you are just upon the point of sacrificing your eternal interests at the altar of passion. Passion is obtaining positive control of your entire being—passion of what quality? Of a base, destructive nature. By yielding to it, you will embitter the lives of your parents, bring sadness and shame to your sisters, sacrifice your own character, and forfeit heaven and a glorious immortal life. Are you ready to do this? ...*Child Guidance* 453 (letter from EGW to a girl who “had a secret vice”)

...Idleness is a sin, and ignorance of common duties is the result of folly, which afterlife will give ample occasion to bitterly regret. –
Adventist Home, 88

If you do not govern your children.... Unless children can be trained and disciplined from their babyhood by a wise and judicious mother who is conscientious and intelligent, and who rules her household in the fear of the Lord, molding and shaping their characters to meet the standard of righteousness, it is a sin to increase your family.... –
Adventist Home, 164

Those who acquire wealth for the purpose of hoarding it leave the curse of wealth to their children. It is a sin, an awful, soul-periling sin for fathers and mothers to do this... – *Adventist Home*, 398

...an evergreen placed in the church for the amusement of the Sabbath school scholars is a sin.... – *Adventist Home*, 482

To assume the responsibilities of parenthood... is a sin – *Child Guidance*, 64

It is a sin to speak impatiently and fretfully or to feel angry—even though we do not speak.... – *Child Guidance*, 95

To indulge a child when young and erring is a sin. A child should be kept under control.

If children are allowed to have their own way, they receive the idea that they must be waited upon, cared for, indulged, and amused. They think that their wishes and their will must be gratified.

Should she [the mother] not let her child have his own way now and then, let him do just as he wishes, permit him to be disobedient? Certainly not, for just so sure as she does, she lets Satan plant his hellish banner in her house. She must fight the battle of that child which he cannot fight himself. That is her work, to rebuke the devil, to seek God earnestly, and never to let Satan take her child right out of her arms and place him in his arms. – *Child Guidance*, 272

The laws that govern our physical organism, God has written upon every nerve, muscle, and fiber of the body. Every careless and willful violation of these laws is a sin against our Creator.... - *Child Guidance*, 363

It is a sin for you to allow your children to murmur and complain about good wholesome food, just because it does not suit their depraved appetites. – *Child Guidance*, 391

It is a sin to forget.... – *Christ's Object Lessons*, 358

When I have been away from home sometimes, I have known that the bread upon the table, as well as most of the other food, would hurt me; but I would be obliged to eat a little in order to sustain life. It is a sin in the sight of Heaven to have such food. – *Christian Temperance and Bible Hygiene*, 157

It is a sin to place poorly prepared food on the table.... – *Counsels on Diet and Food*, 251

Tea and coffee drinking is a sin.... – *Counsels on Diet and Health*, 425

It is a sin to be sick, for all sickness is the result of transgression.... – *Counsels on Health*, 37

Pride and extravagance in dress is a sin to which woman is especially prone. Hence the injunction of the apostle relates directly to her: “In like manner, also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; but (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works.” – *Messages to Young People*, 355

The study of Latin and Greek is of far less consequence to ourselves, to the world, and to God than the thorough study and use of the whole human machinery. It is a sin to study books to the neglect of how to become familiar with the various branches of usefulness in practical life. With some, close application to books is a dissipation. The physical machinery being untaxed leads to a great amount of activity in the brain. This becomes the devil’s workshop. Never can the life that is ignorant of the

house we live in be an all-around life. – Letter 103, 1897, *Mind, Character and Personality*, 195, vol. 1

....It is a sin to indulge, without restraint, in mourning and lamentation. By the grace of Christ, we may be composed and even cheerful under sore trial. – *The Retirement Years*, 160

Letters have come to me, asking in regard to the teaching of some who say that nothing that has life should be killed, not even insects, however annoying or distressing they may be. Is it possible that anyone claims that God has given him this message to give to the people? The Lord has never given any human being such a message. God has told no one that it is a sin to kill the insects which destroy our peace and rest. In all His teaching, Christ gave no message of this character, and His disciples are to teach only what He commanded them. – *Selected Messages*, Volume 1, 170

It is a sin in the sight of Heaven for parents to dress their children as they do. The only excuse that they can make is, it is fashion. They cannot plead modesty to thus expose the limbs of their children with only one covering drawn tight over them. They cannot plead that it is healthful, or really attractive. Because others will continue to follow this health and life-destroying practice, it is no excuse for those who style themselves reformers. Because everybody around you follow a fashion which is injurious to health, it will not make your sin a whit the less, or be any guarantee for the health and life of your children.—*How to Live*, No. 5, pp. 66-74, *Selected Messages*, Volume 2, 471

...Filthiness among God's professed people is displeasing to him. Our God is a jealous God, he will have a clean, pure and holy people: a filthy and unclean person he will not acknowledge as his child. Those who profess to be converted to God and take upon themselves the name of Christians (Christ-like) should be the neatest people in the world. It is a dishonor to God, and a stain upon his cause, to profess to be converted to God and the truth, and yet go with slack, untidy habits uncorrected.... – *Review and Herald*, June 12, 1855, par. 3

Here's the best one yet:

It is a sin to let children grow up.... Christian Temperance and Bible Hygiene 134.3

Now after reading all that from Mrs. White (if you were able to) how are you feeling? Do you feel loved by God or do you feel hopeless? If it will help you to feel any better then I readily admit that I took much of that stuff and removed pieces to make it state something with the sole intent of trying to force you to feel bad so you will change your behavior to more reflect a loving god. There have been many SDA authors, pastors, teachers and others who have done that very thing. It's a common practice.

Yes, much of that stuff was taken out of context. Hopefully you recognized that. But the point of this whole thing is that bashing people over the head with Mrs. White does not make a person feel loved. It robs them of hope. None of us can live up to the standards that were presented above, especially when things have been taken out of context.

Bashing people's head's in with this sort of nonsense is nothing more than abuse. Stop for a moment and try to imagine just how many people have been damaged emotionally because they were held up to these high expectations. Ellen White was and still is used to control people. We have been threatened with eternal damnation if we don't conform to the Adventist lifestyle. It's no wonder so many people have left the church and many of them have become atheists or agnostics.

Sadly, some of the above passages by Mrs. White were left in tact. Those items were loudly shouting a message to me and that message was that

it's a sin to NOT commit child abuse. We'll be eternally damned if we don't abuse our children yet we'll be eternally damned if we do abuse our children. We're screwed, folks. We're stuck between that proverbial rock and a hard place.

But cheer up. Ellen White was the one who had her focus on behaviors and was busy judging others and calling people sinners. She was busy dictating how people should live but Jesus didn't do either of those things. He created us to have a free will. He values our freedom to choose so much that he allowed his killers to exert their free will by hanging him on that cross.

He exhibited only love to the woman who was caught in the act, and he also exhibited love for her accusers by not publicly calling out their sinful acts. His only rebuke to the woman was to invite her to start living a life connected to her Creator.

That's what we should all be doing. Focusing on God and stop worrying about our bad deeds. Worrying about those bad deeds is taking the focus off God and placing it on ourselves.

Keep your chin up and know that you are loved with an everlasting love by someone who doesn't condemn you.

Love to all,

Hannah

P.S. Make sure you saw the dots on the comment that it's a sin to let children grow up. That was definitely taken out of context. Do not go out and start killing children because Mrs. White said so. There was more to the comment. It would be a good idea if you looked all those references up for yourself. You can find them easily at <http://egwwritings.org>