

Dangers of the “One True God” Movement

(or any other movement like it -- advocating fewer than 3 Persons of the Godhead)

1. The “One True God” movement undermines the plain Word of God and casts doubt on the inspiration of the very Bible that was transferred from the Waldensians to the Reformation (*The KJV, Diodati, and Olivetan*) by making the false claim that the text of 1 John 5:7 is a “mistake.” This undermines the authority of the scriptures, therefore, we are told to “be afraid of them.”

“I saw that however strongly men may have advocated the truth; however pious they may appear to be; when they begin to talk unbelief in regard to some scriptures, claiming that they cause them to doubt the inspiration of the Bible, we should **be afraid of them**; for God is at a great distance from them.” — Testimonies Vol. I, p. 383. Gospel Workers 1892 p. 246

“Those accepting **the theories regarding God that are introduced in Living Temple** are in great danger of being led finally to look upon the whole Bible as a fiction; for **these theories make of no effect the plain Word of God.**” Letter 242 - October 1903

The Protestant Reformation KJV and Waldensian-approved Bibles all include 1 John 5:7. 1 John 5:7 (KJV)- For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.

Waldensian pastor and historian Ledger’s very own treasured Bible, the 1649 Italian Diodati — 1 John 5:7 Perciocchè tre son quelli che testimoniano nel cielo: il Padre, e la Parola, e lo Spirito Santo; e questi tre sono una stessa cosa.

The 1535 French Olivetan Bible—a gift from the Waldenesians to the Protestant Reformation.



2. The “One True God” movement undermines the simple “melody” and surface truth of Bible verses like Matt. 28:19, thus they are corrupting “the simplicity that is in Christ”. “*But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.*” 2 Corinthians 11:3. (KJV)

“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:” Matthew 28:19. (KJV)

“Come ye near unto me, hear ye this; I have not spoken in secret from the beginning; from the time that it was, there am I: and now the Lord GOD, and his Spirit, hath sent me.” Isaiah 48:16. (KJV)

“But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.” John 14:26 (KJV)

3. The “One True God” movement also undermines plain and direct statements of the Spirit of Prophecy, and in doing so, they are leading people “in the downward march to perdition”

“The very last deception of Satan will be to make of none effect the testimony of the Spirit of God. ‘Where there is no vision, the people perish’ (Proverbs 29:18). Satan will work ingeniously, in different ways and through different agencies, to unsettle the confidence of God's remnant people in the true testimony.”--1SM 48 (Letter 12 - August 12,1890)

“It is Satan's plan to weaken the faith of God's people in the Testimonies. Next follows skepticism in regard to the vital points of our faith, the pillars of our position, then doubt as to the Holy Scriptures, and then **the downward march to perdition.** When the Testimonies, which were once believed, are doubted and given up, Satan knows the deceived ones will not stop at this; and he redoubles his efforts till he launches them into open rebellion, which becomes incurable and ends in destruction.”
Testimonies for the Church, vol.4, p. 211

Spirit of Prophecy quotes specifically stating there are three persons in the Godhead, and that the Holy Spirit is a person.

“There are **three living persons** of the heavenly **trio.** In the name of these **three** powers,--the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, those who receive Christ by living faith are baptized, and these powers will cooperate with the obedient subjects of heaven in their efforts to live the new life in Christ. “ Bible Training School - March 1, 1906.

“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.”
Manuscript 57 - August 12, 1900

“When you gave yourself to Christ, you made a pledge in the presence of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit—**the three great personal dignitaries** of heaven.” Manuscript 92 - September 5, 1901

“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. ‘For what man knoweth the things 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.’”--Manuscript 20, 1906.

“The prince of the power of evil can only be held in check by the power of God in the third **person** of the Godhead, the Holy Spirit.”--Special Testimonies, Series A, No. 10, p. 37. (1897)

“Evil had been accumulating for centuries, and could only be restrained and resisted by the mighty power of **the Holy Spirit, the third person of the Godhead,** who would come with no modified energy, but in the fulness of divine power.” Letter 8 - February 6, 1896

“We need to realize that **the Holy Spirit, who is as much a person as God is a person,** is walking through these grounds.”--Manuscript 66, 1899. (From a talk to the students at the Avondale School.)

“Lift up Christ in His power in **the person of the Holy Spirit.**” Letter 59 - March 29, 1899

4. The “One True God” movement lends itself to pantheism by making the third Person of the Godhead (the Holy Spirit) just an impersonal force or essence instead of a person. When Kellogg promoted the teachings of the “alpha of apostasy,” he was doing the same thing, making God an impersonal force or

essence instead of a personal being! Ellen White was forbidden to even talk with Kellogg on this subject. Making a member of the Godhead an impersonal force is certainly a deception for the elect as was demonstrated in the ruin of both Kellogg and A.T. Jones. We are warned against even investigating these theories.

"In Living Temple the assertion is made that God is in the flower, in the leaf, in the sinner. But God does not live in the sinner.... Our ministers must be very careful not to enter into controversy in regard to the personality of God. This is a subject that they are not to touch. It is a mystery, and the enemy will surely lead astray those who enter into it. We know that Christ came in person to reveal God to the world. God is a person and Christ is a person. Christ is spoken of in the Word as 'the brightness of His Father's glory, and the express image of His person.'"

"I was forbidden to talk with Dr. Kellogg on this subject, because it is not a subject to be talked about. And I was instructed that certain sentiments in Living Temple were the Alpha of a long list of deceptive theories." Sermons and Talks, vol.1 p.343

"I am instructed to speak plainly. 'Meet it,' is the word spoken to me. 'Meet it firmly, and without delay.' But it is not to be met by our taking our working forces from the field to investigate doctrines and points of difference. We have no such investigation to make. In the book Living Temple there is presented the alpha of deadly heresies. **The omega** will follow, and will be received by those who are not willing to heed the warning God has given." Selected Messages, vol.1 p.200

"The new theories in regard to God and Christ, as brought out in The Living Temple, are not in harmony with the teaching of Christ. The Lord Jesus came to this world to represent the Father. **He did not represent God as an essence pervading nature, but as a personal Being.**" Letter 212 - September 23, 1903

"Now the publication of Living Temple has brought about a crisis. If **the ideas presented in this book were received**, they would lead to **the uprooting of the whole construction of the faith** that makes Seventh-day Adventists a chosen, **denominated people.**" Letter 253a - November 18, 1903

5. With this "One True God" movement comes their default teaching that the denominated church is Babylon. We are told of those who teach this, that we are to *"be afraid of them,"* and we are told not to *"receive them or bid them Godspeed"*.

"When men arise, claiming to have a message from God, but instead of warring against principalities and powers, and the rulers of the darkness of this world, they form a hollow square, and turn the weapons of warfare against the church militant, **be afraid of them.** They do not bear the divine credentials. God has not given them any such burden of labor. They would tear down that which God would restore by the Laodicean message. He wounds only that He may heal, not cause to perish. The Lord lays upon no man a message that will discourage and dishearten the church. He reproveth, He rebukes, He chastens; but it is only that He may restore and approve at last." Review and Herald, February 18, 1890.

"When anyone arises, either among us or outside of us, who is burdened with a message which declares that the people of God are numbered with Babylon, and claims that the loud cry is a call to come out of her, you may know that **he is not bearing the message of truth. Receive him not, nor bid**

him Godspeed; for God has not spoken by him, neither has He given a message to him, but he has run before he was sent." Review and Herald, August 29, 1893

"The message to pronounce the church Babylon and call the people of God out of her **does not come from any heavenly messenger, or any human agent inspired by the Spirit of God.**" Letter 16 - June 11, 1893

"To claim that the Seventh-day Adventist Church is Babylon, **is to make the same claim as does Satan**, who is an accuser of the brethren, who accuses them before God night and day." RH, August 29, 1893

"When you come to the point where you decide to serve God, you are denominational." Manuscript 169 - July 14, 1902

"A company was presented before me under the name of Seventh-day Adventists, who were advising that the banner or sign which makes us a distinctive people should not be held out so strikingly, for they claimed it was not the best policy in securing success to our institutions. **This distinctive banner is to be borne through the world to the close of probation.**" *Manuscript 15 - April 27, 1896*

6. The "One True God" movement often also leads to the demotion of the Son of God (Jesus Christ) to merely a created being. This is a doctrine of Babylon and of the Antichrist.

"The book, Living Temple, is an illustration of this work, ... Again and again we shall be called to meet the influence of men who are studying sciences of satanic origin, through which **Satan is working to make a nonentity of God and of Christ.**" Testimonies, Vol. 9, pp. 67-68. (1909.) {CW 92.3}

"It is our individual duty to walk humbly with God. We are not to seek any strange, new message. We are not to think that the chosen ones of God who are trying to walk in the light, compose Babylon. The fallen denominational churches are Babylon. Babylon has been fostering poisonous doctrines, the wine of error. This wine of error is made up of false doctrines, such as the natural immortality of the soul, the eternal torment of the wicked, **the denial of the pre-existence of Christ prior to His birth in Bethlehem**, and advocating and exalting the first day of the week above God's holy, sanctified day. These and kindred errors are presented to the world by the various churches. . . ." (TM 61) Review and Herald, September 12, 1893.

John 8:58 "Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am."

"'Before Abraham was, I am.' **Christ is the pre-existent, self-existent Son of God**... Through Solomon Christ declared: 'The Lord possessed Me in the beginning of His way, before His works of old. I was set up from everlasting,..'. In speaking of His pre-existence, Christ carries the mind back through dateless ages. He assures us that **there never was a time** when He was not in close fellowship with the eternal God." Signs of the Times - August 29, 1900

John 1:1-3,14 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **The same was in the beginning with God.** All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made... And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

"**In Christ is life, original, unborrowed, underived.** 'He that hath the Son hath life.' 1 John 5:12. The divinity of Christ is the believer's assurance of eternal life." 1898 Desire of Ages p.530

1 John 2:22,23 Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son. Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father: [but] he that acknowledgeth the Son hath the Father also.

7. Bad fruits I have seen from this “One True God” movement.

Matthew 7:15-20 **“Beware** of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.**Ye shall know them by their fruits.** Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. **A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit,** neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. **Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.”**

There are many evil fruits I have seen come from the “One True God Movement”.

Case A -- Due to a group of this movement’s people disrupting services in a manner sufficient to cause alarm of possible harm, a congregation I attended years ago, had to evacuate the children and call the police to remove the people. One of the patrons of this mode of thought actually laid down in the parking lot and threw a temper tantrum. Where I come from, in an adult, this is called demon possession.

Case B — Due to his appeal to miracles, a once good, KJV-believing man we once associated with and had great respect for, assumed these false “One True God” doctrines. Despite several counseling him against it, it was a downward path to perdition from there. He ended up rejecting the 2300 days prophecy and rejecting Martin Luther as a great Reformer. He began using Roman Catholic Bibles to substantiate his points, and finally rejected the Spirit of Prophecy altogether. Last we spoke to him he had decided that the Christians were the real problem in the world.

Case C — Another individual I know who accepted the teachings of the “One True God” movement ended up abandoning his spouse and children and running off with another person. This is also precisely one of the bad fruits that Sister White warned about.

“The enemy of our souls is earnestly at work to introduce among the Lord's people pleasing speculation, and incorrect views regarding the personality of God

“I have seen the results of these fanciful views of God [in Kellogg's Living Temple] in **apostasy, spiritualism, freeloivism.** The free-love tendencies of these teachings were so concealed that it was difficult to present them in their real character. Until the Lord presented it to me, I knew not what to call it, but I was instructed to call it **unholy spiritual love.** I am warned that we are not to talk of God as He is spoken of in Living Temple. The sentiments there expressed are **a dishonor to His greatness and His majesty...**”

“There is a strain of spiritualism coming in among our people, and it will undermine the faith of those who give place to it, leading them to give heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils. Letter 230 - October 2, 1903 {Portions quoted in 8MR 304}

In almost every case, I have seen it bring confusion and fanaticism (as explained above). Often it also brings desolation to study groups, etc.. Indeed, those espousing this doctrine often cease to even think and reason like normal, rational people. They become obsessed with their false “doctrine” and constantly attempt to bring it into every conversation. In many cases, both modernly and historically, it

has brought fornication/adultery and estrangement of families—sadly, sometimes this is even excused under a “spiritual” guise. This is the opposite of being sanctified through truth.

1 Thessalonians 4:3 For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication:

John 17:17 Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

Conclusion — My study of the topic has brought me to the conclusion that **this “One True God” movement is indeed the most dangerous fanaticism that I have yet encountered.** We must remember that it is the Holy Spirit that guides into truth, shows us things to come, and seals us.

John 16:13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

Ephesians 4:30 And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

Matthew. 12:31 Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men.

Therefore, it is foolhardy and presumptuous to disregard all these inspired warnings that God has seen fit to give us.

Proverbs 22:3 A prudent man foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself: but the simple pass on, and are punished.

Because the teachings of this movement are indeed a “doctrine of devils” and so closely parallel spiritualism,

I do not believe that prudent Christians will read or listen to the literature of, or voluntarily associate with those who espouse this error unless otherwise specifically directed to do so by God.

It is my prayer that those that read this paper will heed the warning.

“Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.,” 2 Corinthians. 6:14-18.

