

Adventism's Latest Offshoot Part 6: What's There, What's Not

Seventh-day Adventist Baptismal Commitment¹	Mission Catalyst Commitment²
1. I believe there is one God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, a unity of three co-eternal Persons.	2. God is eternal, all-powerful, all knowing and Creator of all things. That God is manifested in God the Father, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
2. I accept the death of Jesus Christ on Calvary as the atoning sacrifice for my sins and believe that through Faith in His shed blood I am saved from sin and its penalty.	3. Jesus is our Savior. That His death was a complete atonement for our sins and that salvation is offered to us as a free gift to be received by faith alone.
3. I accept Jesus Christ as my Lord and personal Saviour and believe that God, in Christ, has forgiven my sins and given me a new heart, and I renounce the sinful ways of the world.	
4. I accept by faith the righteousness of Christ, my Intercessor in the heavenly sanctuary, and accept His promise of transforming grace and power to live a loving, Christ-centred life in my home and before the world.	
5. I believe that the Bible is God's inspired Word, the only rule of faith and practice for the Christian. I covenant to spend time regularly in prayer and Bible study.	1. The Bible is the source of knowledge about God and salvation. It is our ultimate rule of faith and practice.
6. I accept the Ten Commandments as a transcript of the character of God and a revelation of His will. It is my purpose by the power of the indwelling Christ to keep this law, including the fourth commandment, which requires the observance of the seventh day of the week as the Sabbath of the Lord and the memorial of Creation.	4. We seek to express our appreciation to God for his saving grace by walking in fellowship with Him and seeking to reflect His character. This character transformation is accomplished, in part, by our willing obedience to His law of love, divided into two great commandments, love to God and love to others. God's ten commands found in Exodus 20 specifically define these two great commandments. The ten includes the seventh-day Sabbath as holy time to be used for God's purposes and to bring joy to the believers. The Holy Spirit enables this transformation and obedience. 7. Marriage is ordained by God to be a permanent union between a man and a woman and that any sexual activity outside of the marriage union is impurity.
7. I look forward to the soon coming of Jesus and the blessed hope when "this mortal shall . . . put on immortality." As I prepare to meet the Lord, I will witness to His loving salvation by using my talents in personal soul-winning endeavour to help others to be ready for His glorious appearing.	5. Our great hope is the soon return of Christ in glory.
8. I accept the biblical teaching of spiritual gifts and believe that the gift of prophecy is one of the identifying marks of the remnant church.	

<p>9. I believe in church organization. It is my purpose to worship God and to support the church through my tithes and offerings and by my personal effort and influence.</p>	<p>9. God's will for every person goes beyond their own salvation. He designed the church to be a loving, non-judgmental community of Christ followers who worship together, minister to other believers, and seek to save the lost. In John 17, Jesus prayed for a community of oneness as a condition of evangelistic effectiveness: "I pray that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me" (verse 21).</p>
<p>10. I believe that my body is the temple of the Holy Spirit; and I will honour God by caring for it, avoiding the use of that which is harmful; abstaining from all unclean foods; from the use, manufacture, or sale of alcoholic beverages; the use, manufacture, or sale of tobacco in any of its forms for human consumption; and from the misuse of or trafficking in narcotics or other drugs.</p>	<p>8. We are to care for our bodies and minds with the awareness that they are God's dwelling through His Spirit, and that we are His witnesses—ambassadors of heaven.</p>
<p>11. I know and understand the fundamental Bible principles as taught by the Seventh-day Adventist Church. I purpose, by the grace of God, to fulfil His will by ordering my life in harmony with these principles.</p>	
<p>12. I accept the New Testament teaching of baptism by immersion and desire to be so baptized as a public expression of faith in Christ and His forgiveness of my sins.</p>	<p>10. Water baptism by immersion signifies the new life in Christ of all those who choose to follow him.</p>
<p>13. I accept and believe that the Seventh-day Adventist Church is the remnant church of Bible prophecy and that people of every nation, race, and language are invited and accepted into its fellowship. I desire to be a member of this local congregation of the world church.</p>	
	<p>6. The dead are in an unconscious sleep awaiting one of two resurrections referred to by Jesus in John 5. These resurrections are at both ends of the millennium: the saved at the beginning when Jesus comes to put an end to sin's consequences, and the lost at the final end when judgment is meted out by a short, consuming fire. Between the two resurrections the earth is desolate. After all is finished, God restores this earth to its pristine beauty and it becomes the promised land of the saved forever.</p>

1. Seventh-day Adventist Church Manual Revised 2000 16th Edition, Chapter 6 Church Membership, Baptismal Commitment, pp. 32, 33.

2. Mission Catalyst Commitment to Mission, online at http://www.missioncatalyst.org/mission_catalyst_resources/Commitment_to_Mission.doc, accessed August 28, 2004, 7:45 p.m. PDT.