

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

COUNSELS OFTEN REPEATED

REGARDING THE RELATIONSHIP OF BROTHERS

IN A

UNITED, ORGANIZED CHRISTIAN CHURCH.

A Selection from the Manuscripts and Letters

of

Ellen G. White

For Leading Men in the Advent Movement

GROUP "O"

(In Two Parts)

PART ONE

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FOREWORD

As the church of God approaches the climax of its long struggle with sin and degeneracy; as it nears the end of the great controversy between the servants of Christ and the servants of the arch-enemy, there is an ever increasing intensity on the part of unseen agencies, both of light and of darkness.

The advance of the church into the heart of heathenism enrages the leaders of the hosts of darkness, and challenges them to put forth ever increasing efforts to withstand the advance of the armies of Prince Emmanuel.

In order to weaken the church of Christ and delay its onward advance, the hosts of the evil one seek more and more earnestly to create among church members disagreements and disorganized, independent action; and to cause undue self-confidence on the part of conference and church officials.

At such a time and such a crisis as the present, it is encouraging to know that God has foreseen our difficulties, and that He has given us messages of encouragement, of warning, and of instruction suited to the necessities of the hour.

During the last year the workers at the "Elmhaven" Office have been engaged in a restudy of the letters and manuscripts left on file by Mrs. Ellen G. White and have indexed them more fully. In so doing, they have found many precious assurances of God's guiding hand in the closing work and of His love and care for His remnant church. They have also found much precious instruction which heretofore has been sent to only a few individual workers, but which they believe should now be placed in the hands of apostolic men, who can use it judiciously.

Repeated and pointed messages of instruction regarding the relationships that should exist between themselves and their fellow-workers were given during the years to men in positions of responsibility. While general principles that should govern these relationships have been published, yet there are in some of the letters addressed to leading men many specific counsels and cautions that, for obvious reasons, it was not deemed wise to prepare for general circulation. Some of these are included in the following compilation, and we believe they will be cherished by those who have succeeded in office the men to whom they were addressed.

The unity and confidence that must be found in the rank and file of the church membership, also the solicitude, the tenderness, and the largeness of heart that should be manifested by officers and leaders, are clearly set forth in the following extracts from the testimonies found in letters to conference and church officers and to members of our churches.

Other choice instruction has been included that may be helpful in counseling with individuals here and there who are tempted in a spirit of un sanctified independence to enter into questionable enterprises without seeking the counsel and cooperation of their brethren.

In a few cases, for the purpose of strengthening the presentation, paragraphs have been used from the published books, but the greater part of the matter here presented, is selected from letters, manuscripts, and periodical articles not available to our workers.

For convenience in the consideration of the time and circumstances when certain instruction was given, the earlier instruction has been presented in the first division, and similar instruction given mostly after the reorganization of 1901, has been compiled for part two. The source, indicating the letter or manuscript from which the passages are taken is given in each case at the close of the quotation. In most cases, the year of writing is indicated by the last unit in the source reference.

THE SPIRIT IN THE ATMOSPHERE

The world is filled with strife for supremacy. The spirit of pulling away from fellow-laborers, the spirit of disorganization, is in the very air we breathe. By some, all efforts to establish order are regarded as dangerous, as a restriction of personal liberty.

9T 257

Spiritual despotism is in the very atmosphere, which is impregnated with the subtlety of Satan's oppression. This despotism becomes more and more pronounced as we near the close of this earth's history. -- MS-25-1899

A SPECIAL CHARGE

I was charged not to neglect or pass by those who were being wronged. I was especially charged to protest against any arbitrary or overbearing action toward the ministers of the gospel by those having official authority. Disagreeable though the duty may be, I am to reprove the oppressor, and plead for justice. I am to present the necessity of maintaining justice and equity in all our institutions. -- MS-63-1906

PRESS TOGETHER! UNIFY!

The Lord would have us as believers combine our strength. . . .
Unify, unify. It is Satan who seeks to divide. Christ works to unify. . . .
Press together. Let every difference be adjusted. Press together, Press together. -- Let.-141-1905.

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SECTION I

THE CHURCH AND ITS FOUNDATION

THE CHURCH THE BELOVED OF GOD

God is leading out a people. He has a chosen people, a church, on the earth whom He has made the depositories of His law. He has committed to them sacred trust and eternal truth to be given to the world. He would reprove, and correct them. The message to the Laodiceans is applicable to Seventh-day Adventists who have had great light, and have not walked in the light. It is those who have made great profession; but have not kept in step with their Leader, that will be spued out of His mouth unless they repent. 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.

The true Witness says, "I counsel thee to buy of Me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten; be zealous therefore, and repent. Behold, I stand at the door, and knock; if any man hear My voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with Me. To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with Me in My throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with My Father in His throne." Rev. 3:18-21.

Jesus is coming in, to give the individual members of the church the richest blessings, if they will open the door to Him. He does not once call them Babylon, nor ask them to come out, but He says, "As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten" (with messages of reproof and warning). These reproofs I am not ignorant of. I have given warnings because the Spirit of the Lord has constrained me to do so, and have uttered reproofs because the Lord has given me words of reproof. I have not shunned to declare the whole counsel of God which has been given me for the church. I will say in the fear and love of God, I know the Lord has thoughts of love and mercy to restore and heal them of all their backslidings. He has a work for this church to do. They are not to be pronounced Babylon; but to be as the salt of the earth, the light of the world. They are to be the living messengers to proclaim a living message in these last days. . . .

Again, I say the Lord hath not spoken by any messenger who calls the only church in the world that keeps the commandments of God, Babylon. True, there is chaff with the wheat; but first gather the chaff and bind it into bundles to burn it, but gather the wheat into the garner. I know that the Lord loves His church. It is not to be disorganized, or broken up into independent atoms. There is not the least consistency in this; there is not the least evidence that such a thing will be. Those who shall heed this false message, and try to leaven others will be deceived, and prepared to receive advanced delusions, and they will come to naught. There is, in some of the members of the church, pride, self-sufficiency, stubborn unbelief, and a refusing to yield their ideas although evidence may be piled upon evidence which makes this message to the Laodicean church applicable. But that will not blot out the church that it will not exist. Let both tares and wheat grow together until the harvest. Then it is the angels that do the work of separation. . . .

Let the believers heed the voice the angel said to the church, Press together. In unity is your strength. Love as brethren, be pitiful,

be courteous, God hath a church, and Christ hath declared, "The gates of hell shall not prevail against it." Matt. 16:18. -- Let. -16-1895.

THE AUTHORITY OF THE CHURCH

The world's Redeemer has invested great power with His church. He states the rules to be applied in cases of trial with its members. After He has given explicit directions as to the course to be pursued, He says, "Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in Heaven; and whatsoever (in church discipline) ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." Thus even the heavenly authority ratifies the discipline of the church in regard to its members, when the Bible rule has been followed.

The word of God does not give license for one man to set up his judgment in opposition to the judgment of the church, neither is he allowed to urge his opinions against the opinions of the church. If there were no church discipline and government, the church would go to fragments; it could not hold together as a body. There have ever been individuals of independent minds, who have claimed that they were right, that God had especially taught, impressed, and led them. Each has a theory of his own, views peculiar to himself, and each claims that his views are in accordance with the word of God. Each one has a different theory and faith, yet each claims special light from God. These draw away from the body, and each one is a separate church of himself. All these cannot be right, yet they all claim to be led of the Lord. The word of inspiration is not yea and nay, but yea and amen in Christ Jesus. - 3T 428-9

THE UNITY OF THE CHURCH

God is leading out a people to stand in perfect unity upon the platform of eternal truth. Christ gave Himself to the world "that He might purify unto Himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works." This refining process is designed to purge the church from all unrighteousness and the spirit of discord and contention, that they may build up instead of tearing down, and concentrate their energies on the great work before them. God designs that His people should all come into the unity of faith. . . .

Many do not realize the sacredness of church relationship, and are loth to submit to restraint and discipline. Their course of action shows that they exalt their own judgment above that of the united church; and they are not careful to guard themselves, lest they encourage a spirit of opposition to its voice.

Those who hold responsible positions in the church may have faults in common with other people, and may err in their decisions; but notwithstanding this, the church of Christ on earth has given to them an authority that cannot be lightly esteemed. Christ, after His resurrection, delegated power unto His church, saying, "Whosoever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whosoever sins ye retain, they are retained."

Unbelief suggests that individual independence increases our importance, that it is weak to yield our own ideas of what is right and proper to the verdict of the church. But to yield to such feelings and views is unsafe, and will bring us to anarchy and confusion. Christ saw that unity and Christian fellowship were necessary to the cause of God; therefore He enjoined it upon His disciples. And the history of Christianity from that time until now proves conclusively that in union only is there strength. Let individual judgment submit to the authority of the church. 4T 17-19.

GOD HAS AN ORGANIZED BODY

Beware of those who arise that have a great burden to denounce the church. The chosen ones who are standing and breasting the storm of opposition from the world, and are uplifting the down-trodden commandments of God, to exalt them as holy and honorable, are indeed the light of the world. How dare mortal man pass his judgment upon them, and call the church a harlot, Babylon, a den of thieves, a cage of every unclean and hateful bird! . . .

It seems almost impossible that any one who had a genuine experience in the faith, should suggest such erroneous applications of Scripture, as applicable to God's commandment-keeping people. Supposing this spurious message is the one every one must hear for this time, "Come out of her, my people." Where shall we go to, where shall we find the purity, goodness and holiness where we shall be secure? Where is the fold where no wolves will enter?

I tell you, my brethren, the Lord has an organized body through whom He will work. There may be more than a score of Judas's among them, there may be a rash Peter who will under circumstances of trial deny his Lord. There may be persons represented by John whom Jesus loved, but he may have a zeal that would destroy men's lives by calling down from heaven fire upon them to revenge an insult to Christ and the truth. But the great Teacher seeks to give lessons of instruction to correct these existing evils. He is doing the same today with His church. He is pointing out their dangers. He is presenting before them the Laodicean message. . . .

In the place of turning the weapons of warfare within our own ranks, let them be turned against the enemies of God and the truth. Echo the prayer of Christ with your whole heart: "Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are." . . .

The Bible sets before us a model church. They are to be in unity with each other and with God. When believers are united to Christ the living vine, the result is that they are one with Christ, full of sympathy and

tenderness and love.

Opportunities in the Church

When any are drawing apart from the organized body of God's commandment-keeping people, they begin to weigh the church in their human scales and begin to pronounce judgment against them. Then you may know that God is not leading them. They are on the wrong track. . . .

There are opportunities and privileges to help in the church those who are ready to die, and inspire the church with zeal but not to tear the church to pieces. There are plenty of opportunities in the church to walk in Christ's lines. If the heart is full of zeal to press on to a deeper sanctification and holiness, work in that line in all humbleness and devotedness. The church needs freshness and the inspiration of men who breathe in the very atmosphere of heaven, to vitalize the church, notwithstanding the tares are among the wheat. - MS-21-1893

ORGANIZATION TILL THE END

As we near the final crisis, instead of feeling that there is less need of order and harmony of action, we should be more systematic than heretofore. All our work should be conducted according to well-defined plans.

I am receiving light from the Lord that there should be wise generalship at this time more than at any former period of our history. - Let-27a-1892

SECTION IITHE VALUE OF CONCERTED ACTIONIN UNION THERE IS STRENGTH

The greatest work is before us. The peril which threatens our usefulness, and which will prove our ruin if not seen and overcome, is selfishness, placing a higher estimate upon our plans, our opinions, and our labors, and moving independently of our brethren. "Counsel together," have been the words repeated by the angels again and again.

Satan may move through one man's mind to warp things out of their proper channel. He may succeed with two who view things in a similar light, but with several minds enlisted there is greater safety against his wiles. Every plan will be more liable to be viewed from all sides, every advance will be more carefully studied, so that no enterprise will be so likely to be entered upon which will bring confusion and perplexity and defeat to the work in which we are engaged. In union there is strength; in division there is weakness and defeat.--MS-3-1880

COUNSEL TOGETHER, YET SEEK HIGHER COUNSEL

Of yourselves you have not wisdom to bear responsibilities. At every step of the way you must seek counsel of God and of your brethren who have had experience, and who are true to the interests of His cause. It is your privilege to do this, and you should feel it such. Some of you do not feel right when anything you do is called in question. But this is wrong. All the workers in _____ need counsel from those who are governed by the truth.

One man's mind, one man's judgment, is not to be a controlling power. . . . "Counsel together, counsel together," has been repeated to me by the heavenly angels for the past forty-five years. At the same time you must constantly feel the need of higher counsel. Do not fail to seek wisdom from God. Unless you do go to God for wisdom, and understand for yourselves the way of the Lord, you will not be able to understand things clearly. You must have the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit to give you clear views of Jesus and His love. - Let.-54-1891

SELF RESTRAINT NECESSARY

An army could do nothing successfully if its different parts did not work in concert. Should each soldier act without reference to the others, the army would soon become disorganized. Instead of gathering strength for concentrated action, it would be wasted in desultory, meaningless efforts. A limited number united under one head, all obeying orders, will accomplish more than ten times the number if they are drawing apart, disconnected, and expending their strength on many things at the same time. Whatever good qualities a man may have, he cannot be a good soldier if he acts independent of brotherly counsel. Occasionally good may be done, but often the result is of little value, and frequently the end shows more mischief than good. They make a show of doing something, attract attention, and flash out brightly, then they are gone. All must pull in one direction in order to render efficient service to the cause. . . .

God requires of his soldiers concerted action; and in order to have this in the church, self-restraint is essential. They must learn to forego their own wishes and preferences for the good of others. - Let. 116-1886.

UNION WITH BRETHREN WHO TRY US

All who believe the great truths for this time, if sanctified through the truth, will wear the yoke of Christ. They will lift the burdens of responsibility. A spirit to act independently and alone must not be cherished. If they do this, in the place of the Lord's people being in perfect harmony, of one mind, one purpose, and consecrated to one great object, they will waste their capabilities, and their efforts will be fruitless.

Some may say that they love the Lord, but that they cannot love their brother as they should. The brother may have ways that are very trying; he may do things that are unwise; but if his brethren who have had longer experience and a more even, well-balanced judgment shall refuse to connect with the one who grieves and tries their souls, they reveal that they are not followers of Christ. They reveal that they do not follow the example of Him who clothed His divinity with humanity, that by laying aside His glory and His kingly honor, He might reach humanity. - MS-56-1898

UNIFY, WITH DIVERSE DISPOSITIONS

You have not all the same stamp of character, and each will be inclined to think that the work must be moulded according to his own ideas and views. Unconsciously to yourselves, this spirit will be cherished, and you will seek to introduce methods of your own. The workers should first obtain the grace of Christ, so they will be enabled to sink self out of sight; then there will be unity, even among a diversity of dispositions. . . .

Each worker is to use his God-given ability to the utmost for the upbuilding of Christ's kingdom on the earth. We each have an individuality in manner and bearing, and this is as it should be; but this need not prevent our working together in perfect harmony. . . .

Be sure to pray and counsel together before laying your plans, and then, in the Spirit of Christ, push the work unitedly. If one of your number decides that he cannot cooperate with his brethren, and has no desire to work because of differences of opinion, the course to be pursued is without a question. Humble yourselves before God and resort to prayer, for you cannot and must not attempt to work at variance.

From any one who persists in stubbornness and self-will, God will remove His Spirit, and another will wear the crown that was for him. God accepts only those who will learn of Christ, those who study His word, learning lessons of meekness and lowliness of heart, lessons of obedience, willingness to do his work in God's way, not their finite way. . . .

Love of self, pride and self-sufficiency lie at the foundation of the greatest trials and discords that have ever existed in the religious world. Again and again the angel has said to me, "Press together, press together, be of one mind, of one judgment." Christ is the Leader, and you are brethren; follow Him. Walk in the light as He is in the light. Those who walk in the footsteps of Christ shall not walk in darkness, but those who draw apart in unsanctified independence cannot have God's presence and blessing in the work. . . .

Workers can easily place themselves where divine love and power and wisdom cannot reach them, where they cannot have help in counsel, in difficulties and trials, because they would not understand and rightly appropriate heaven's rich treasure. They would glorify themselves, and think their own ways perfect, and become established in self-righteousness. --

INDEPENDENT EXPERIMENTS

In the work of the laborers there should be a counseling together. No one is to strike out on his own independent judgment, and work according to his own mind, unless he has a treasury of his own from which to draw. Our heavenly Father careth for His children, and His grace is sufficient in every time of need. But if we consider ourselves sufficient to manage the work of God, and depend for success on our own individual wisdom to plan and execute, we may expect defeats and losses; for they will surely come.

I have been shown that the management of the work must not be trusted to inexperienced hands. Those who have not had breadth of experience are not the ones to take large responsibilities, although they may think themselves qualified to do so. Their brethren may see defects where they themselves see only perfection. Too much is at stake now to allow any great risks to be run in investing means from the Lord's treasury. If any one wishes to try experiments, let him sustain himself from his own funds, so that if losses occur he alone will be the loser. -- R. & H. Dec. 8, 1885.

SECTION III

INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY TO BE ENCOURAGED

EARLY COUNSEL TO J. N. ANDREWS

One man's mind and one man's judgment should not be woven through the entire work. You have been engrossed in study and books, and have not duly considered [that] the one great and important part of your work was to allow and teach others to work with you. Lay upon them the burdens and care of very many things you have done yourself which have been extra draughts upon your precious strength that have used up your vitality, so that you had not the strength to devote to duties far more important. --
Let.-2-1883

PRESERVING A MORAL INDEPENDENCE

Let every man stand in God, not to be bought, not to be sold, but to reveal a Christian fortitude. Serve no man through fear of what that man can do that is disagreeable. Christians you can not be if you depend on another man's conscience. Christ died to give moral independence, freedom to exercise their God-given ability. His servants are to be circumscribed by no man or counsel of men unless they have decided evidence that the man or counsel of men are worked by the Holy Spirit.

God has given us all that we possess. It all belongs to Him, and we are not to sit at the footstool of any man to obey his orders; for God has made us free moral agents. He requires us to preserve our moral independence and not be bound about by any man. Our consciences are to be controlled by

no power on earth. The Holy Spirit will work upon minds if we will hearken to its faintest whispers. It is the voice of your Advocate in the heavenly courts. . . . -- Let.,-4-1896

"FORBID HIM NOT"

Some of our leading men are inclined to indulge the spirit manifested by the apostle John when he said, "Master, we saw one casting out devils in thy name; and we forbade him, because he followeth not with us." Organisation and discipline are essential, but there is now very great danger of a departure from the simplicity of the gospel of Christ. What we need is less dependence upon mere form and ceremony, and far more of the power of true godliness. If their life and character are exemplary, let all work who will, in any capacity. Although they may not conform exactly to your methods, not a word should be spoken to condemn or discourage them.

When the Pharisees desired Jesus to silence the children, who sung His praise, the Saviour said, "If these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out." Prophecy must be fulfilled. So in these days; the work must be done. There are many departments of labor; let every one act a part as best he can. The man with one talent is not to bury that in the earth. God has given to every man his work, according to his ability. Those to whom larger trusts and capabilities have been committed, should not endeavor to silence others who are less able or experienced. Men with one talent may reach a class that those with two or five talents cannot approach.

Great and small alike are chosen vessels to bear the water of life to thirsting souls. Let not those who preach the word lay their hands upon the humblest worker, and say, "You must labor in this channel, or not work at all." Hands off, brethren. Let every one work in his own sphere.

with his ^{OWN} armor on, doing whatever he can do in his humble way. Strengthen his hands in the work. This is no time for Pharisaism to control. Let God work through whom He will. The message must go. -- 5T 461-2

INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY

When a laborer is set in a certain portion of the Lord's vineyard his work is given him as a faithful laborer together with God to work that vineyard. He is not to wait to be told at every point by human minds what he must do, but plan his work to labor wherever he is needed. God has given you brain power to use. The wants of the believers and the necessities of unbelievers are to be carefully studied and your labors are to meet their necessities. You are to inquire of God and not of any living man what you shall do. You are a servant of the living God, and not a servant of any man. You cannot do the work of God intelligently and be the shadow of another man's thoughts and directions. You are under God.

When a minister is appointed to a certain work, he is not to consider that he must ask the president of the Conference how many days he shall labor in a certain locality, but he must seek wisdom from One who has appointed him his work, One who promised to give wisdom and unerring judgment, who giveth liberally and upbraideth not. He must carefully consider every part of the vineyard apportioned to him, and discern by the grace given what he shall do, and what he shall not do. Circumstances will arise, which, if carefully studied, with humility and faith, seeking wisdom of God, will make you a wise and successful laborer. . . .

Bear in mind that no living man can tell the precise work, or bound the work of a man who is in God's service. No one can prescribe the days, the weeks that one should remain in a certain locality before pushing on to another place. Circumstances must shape the labors of the minister of God, and if he seeks God, he will understand that his work embraces every part

of the Lord's vineyard, both that which is nigh and that which is afar off. The laborer is not to confine his work to a specified measurement. He must have no circumscribed limits, but extend his labors wherever necessity demands. God is his co-laborer; he should seek wisdom and counsel of Him at every step, and not depend upon human counsel.

The work has been greatly hindered in many fields because the laborers ask counsel from those who are not working in the field, and who see not and feel not the demand, and therefore cannot understand the situation as well as the one who is on the ground. . . .

Let no man become another man's shadow. The promise is, "Ask of God," and if you present the divine credentials, He will hear your petition. Asking counsel from men too largely robs one of that experience he can and ever should obtain for himself from God. If any man lack wisdom, let him ask of some other man? No; "let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him." James 1:5.

I point you to Jesus. Stand forth in moral power in God. You are doing service, not for man, but for God, who is to bless you. As we consult one with another and compare ideas, all our propositions are to be fully considered, frankly discussed, and acted upon; but one man is only a part of the great whole, and he is not to be mind and judgment for the whole body of believers. Our great weakness is in placing men where God should be, to be looked up to and confided in. What are these men? Only bruised reeds unless they put their confidence and trust just where it is your privilege to put your trust and dependence. Why is the caution given, "Trust not in man, neither make flesh your arm?" For the very reason that men have failed in a time when it was necessary for them to be entirely shut in with God, walking with fear and trembling before Him, true as the compass to the pole. -- Let. -- 8- 1895.

INDIVIDUAL JUDGMENT TO BE ENCOURAGED

I have been shown that there is one practice which those in responsible places should avoid; for it is detrimental to the work of God. Men in position should not lord it over God's heritage, and command everything around them. Too many have marked out a prescribed line which they wish others to follow in the work. Workers have tried to do this with blind faith, without exercising their own judgment upon the matter which they had in hand. If those who were placed as directors were not present, they have followed their implicit directions just the same. But in the name of Christ, I would entreat you to stop this work. Give men a chance to exercise their individual judgment. Men who follow the leading of another, and are willing that another should think for them, are unfit to be intrusted with responsibility. Our leading men are remiss in this matter. God has not given to special ones all the brain power there is in the world.

Men in responsible positions should credit others with some sense, with some ability of judgment and foresight, and look upon them as capable of doing the work committed to their hands. Our leading brethren have made a great mistake in marking out all the directions that the workers should follow, and this has resulted in deficiency, in a lack of a caretaking spirit in the worker, because they have relied upon others to do all their planning, and have themselves taken no responsibility

Leading men should place responsibilities upon others, and allow them to plan and devise and execute, so that they may obtain an experience. Give them a word of counsel when necessary, but do not take away the work because you think the brethren are making mistakes. May God pity the cause when one man's mind and one man's plan is followed without question. God would not be honored should such a state of things, exist. All our workers

must have room to exercise their own judgment and discretion. God has given men talents which He means that they should use. He has given them minds, and He means that they should become thinkers, and do their own thinking, and planning, rather than depend upon others to think for them. . . .

Effects of Constantly Following Others

There are men who today might be men of breadth of thought, might be wise men, men to be depended upon, who are not such, because they have been educated to follow another man's plan. They have allowed others to tell them precisely what to do, and they have become dwarfed in intellect. Their minds are narrow, and they can not comprehend the needs of the work. They are simply machines to be moved by another man's thought. Now do not think that these men who do follow out your ideas are the only ones that can be trusted. You have sometimes thought that because they do your will to the letter, they were the only ones in whom you could place dependence. If anyone exercised his own judgment, and differed with you, you have disconnected from him as one that could not be trusted.

Take your hands off the work, and do not hold it fast in your grasp. You are not the only man whom God will use. Give the Lord room to use the talents He has entrusted to men, in order that the cause may grow. Give the Lord a chance to use men's minds. We are losing much by our narrow ideas and plans. Do not stand in the way of the advancement of the work, but let the Lord work by whom He will. Educate, encourage young men to think and act, to devise and plan, in order that we may have a multitude of counselors. October 28, 1885. --- T.M. 301-5

EMERGENCIES IN THE MISSION FIELDS

In foreign fields especially, the work cannot be accomplished, except by well-considered plans. While you should endeavor to labor in harmony with the instructions of those at the head of the work, many unforeseen circumstances will arise for which they could make no provision. There must be something ventured, some risks run, by those on the field of battle. There will be crises in which prompt action is necessary. The workers should not in every movement feel that they should wait to receive directions from headquarters, but after counseling together, with earnest prayer, they should do the best they can under the circumstances.

Wherever in the work of reform we can unite with others, in the countries to which we go, it is advisable to do this; but there are some things we shall have to carry forward by ourselves. While we should adapt ourselves to others wherever this is practicable and consistent, there are many things in which the laborers must work in their own way. Hence the greater necessity for union among themselves. -- G.W. (Ed. 1892)
pp. 305,6

DIVINE GUIDANCE ASSURED

It is as much the privilege of every individual member of the church to know from the word God's will in regard to his course of action as it is for the president of the Conference or for any other men in office of trust.

The Lord would be sought unto by all who would be instructed and enlightened and worked by the Holy Spirit. God is ready to commune with His people. . .

Every individual must seek by earnest prayer to know the word of God for himself, and then to do it. Only in day by day putting his trust in God, and not in the arm of flesh, will any soul obtain the experience essential to answer the prayer of Christ, "And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent," John 17:3. . . .

Live as in the presence of God. "Come unto Me" is the invitation of Christ. By this He does not mean that you shall go to a far country to inquire of the president of the Conference what your duty is. He would have you rejoice and praise Him every day for the privilege granted to you in the words of Christ: "Come unto Me all ye that labor, and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Matt. 11:28. . . .

You need not go to the next town or to the ends of the earth to learn what course you shall pursue. Trust in God as your present Helper, who will overrule all things as One who knows best. "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him." James 1:5. . . .

The Lord would have every one come to Him as their Refuge for counsel and for comfort, and for hope, in all their anxieties. To Him you may tell all your griefs. You will never be told, "I cannot help you. Such an one in authority has placed your case before me in such a light that I can do nothing for you." To Him all your griefs are worthy of consideration. You may have His help under every difficulty. You may, I may, the weakest one in all the ranks of believers may trust in a loving, pitiful, faithful High Priest, who is touched with the feelings of our infirmities. . . .

When every soul is dependent upon Jesus Christ our Elder Brother for mercy and forgiveness of sins, why should one member of the human family

exalt himself above another? Why should he feel at liberty to take upon himself prerogatives that his position does not give him? Why should he order about and seek to control his fellow-men and tell what this one should do, and that one should do. These very ones have been required of God to come directly to Him and ask for the wisdom they need, and the promise is "What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them." Mark 11:24. -- MS-15-1897

Ditto



W. M. ...

SECTION IVTHE CORRECT ATTITUDE OF WORKERS TOWARD ONE ANOTHERTO COUNSEL AS EQUALS

As brethren located where you must be more or less connected, you must draw closer together in your councils, in your association, in spirit, and in all your works. One man among you is not to be made the counselor for all.

Each one is to stand in his lot and in his place, doing his work. Every individual among you must before God do a work for these last days that is great and sacred and grand. Every one must bear his weight of responsibility. The Lord is preparing each one to do his appointed work, and each one is to be respected and honored as a brother chosen of God, and precious in His sight. One man is not to be selected to whom all plans and methods shall be confided, while the others are left out. If this is done, errors will be made; wrong moves will be taken. Harm, rather than good will be done. No one of you needs to be afraid of the other, lest the other shall have the highest place. Without partiality and without hypocrisy each is to be treated.

The same line of work is not to be given to each worker; and for this reason you need to counsel together in that freedom and confidence that should exist among the Lord's workmen. All need to have less confidence in self, and far greater confidence in the One who is mighty in counsel who knoweth the end from the beginning.

When you respect each other, you will respect Jesus Christ. You are to show no preferences; for the Lord does not show preferences to

his chosen ones. He says, "I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth; but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you." This is the confidence that the Lord would have you cherish in each other. Unless you do this more than you have done in your past experience, you will not walk and work under the dictates of the Spirit of God. God would have you united in pleasant cords of companionship. As the Lord's workmen, you are to open your plans one to another. These plans must be carefully and prayerfully considered; for the Lord will leave those who do not do this to stumble in their own supposed wisdom and superior greatness. . . .

One person must not suppose that his wisdom is beyond making any mistake. God would have the greatest cherish that humility that will lead him to be the servant of all, if duty thus orders it.

But while you are to love as brethren, and think soul to soul, heart to heart, life to life, you are individually to lean your whole weight on God. He will be your support. He is not pleased when you depend on each other for light and wisdom and direction. The Lord must be our wisdom. Individually we must know that He is our sanctification and our redemption. To Him we may look; in Him we may trust. He will be to us a present help in every time of need.

Whatever your duties in the various lines of work may be, remember that God is the general over all. You must not withdraw from Him to make flesh your arm. You have been too much inclined to measure yourselves among yourselves, and compare yourselves one with another, estimating the importance of your work. Will you remember that your comparisons may fall wide of the mark? It is not position or rank by which the Lord estimates. He looks to see how much of the Spirit of the Master you cherish and how much of the likeness of Christ your work reveals. -- Let.-49-1897

CONSIDERATION OF OTHER'S OPINIONS

Those who are placed in responsible positions should feel it their duty to recognize talent. They should learn how to use men, and how to advise them. If mistakes are made, they should not withdraw themselves, thinking it easier to do the work themselves than to educate others. Those who are learning should be patiently instructed, precept upon precept, line upon line, here a little and there a little. Every effort should be made, by precept and example, to teach them right methods.

Many of those who have responsibilities laid upon them, who are chosen to be presidents of conferences, are not selected because of their perfection of character or because of their superior knowledge, but because the Lord signified that if they would be humble enough to learn, and not think they were already to graduate, He would teach them His way. There is much for men in responsible positions to learn. When men feel that their ideas are without a flaw, it is time for them to change their position from president to that of a learner. When they think that their ideas, their judgment, should be accepted without question, they show that they are unfit for their position. God sees not as man sees. Whatever position a man may be called to fill, his judgment is not to be regarded as unerring. His entrusted responsibility makes it far more needful than it otherwise would be for him to be free from all egotism and willing to receive counsel.

The idea that one man's mind and judgment can mould and direct important interests, and that he can be regarded as a voice for the people, is a great evil, and has, and still continues to endanger the one who is placed in a position of responsibility, and those also who cooperate with him. God has not given to any one man all the wisdom, and wisdom will not die with him. Those placed in positions of trust should modestly regard the opinions of others as worthy of respect and likely to be as correct as their own. They should remember that God has made other men just as valuable

as they are, and that God is willing to teach and guide these men.

Those placed in positions of trust should have connected with them as helpers men whose minds do not run in exactly the same lines as their own. To every man has been given talents, according to his several ability. One mind may have a larger scope than another. When men are linked together, each supplies the other's deficiency, and thus they are ^acomplete whole. But one man cannot bear the responsibilities which necessarily fall upon him if he is placed in sacred office. God would have His people linked together, doing His work in perfect harmony. -- MS-55-1697

INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS SACRED

For years appeals have been made to men in responsible positions urging upon them the necessity of being kind, tender hearted, to deal in a Christlike manner with those with whom they come in contact. . . .

No one has a right to control another's mind, and judge for another, prescribing what is his duty. There are certain rights that belong to every individual in doing God's service. No man has any more liberty to take these rights from us than to take life itself. God has given us freedom to think, and it is our privilege to follow our impressions of duty. We are only human beings, and one human being has no jurisdiction over the conscience of another human being. . . . You belong to the Lord by creation and redemption. Man has no right to take away that which he cannot give. Our bodies, our souls, and our intellect belong to God. His stamp is upon us.

I cannot vindicate the course that many feel is the right course,-- to exercise authority and to dictate as they may choose to their fellow men. I have seen this course pursued until my heart is sick and sore over the results. Each one of us has an individuality, and identity that cannot be surrendered to any other human being. We are individually the workmanship of God. . . .

God deals in infinite tenderness with His heritage. He is not a tyrant, and no man, whatever may be his position or calling, has a right to be harsh and dictatorial. No one is approved of God in being severe, in bruising the souls of his fellowmen. -- Let.-92-1895

AN UNJUST DEMAND

The Lord's vineyard demands men and means, and when you have built up an interest with little help and sympathy, pass not over to the General Conference the buildings erected, but make them secure in some way without doing this that they may fulfil the very object for which they have been brought into existence. Brother _____ wrote me in regard to a work he had been doing and wanted my advice. He had accomplished the work on his own responsibility, I think, and the Conference wanted the deed of the building. It was not theirs at all, and they had no right to it.

In every place where there is any evidence that God is working to advance his own work and his own glory, let men be careful not to repress and discourage; for this is Satan's way of working. There are plenty in the enemy's ranks that will do this kind of work. Let God's people stand shoulder to shoulder, heart to heart, voice with voice heard in words of encouragement and faith.

Satan's position toward the work to be accomplished in enlightening the world is to burden, depress, and block the way, and shall brethren engage with him in his work, to depress and discourage those who give evidence that God is using them? If this is done, it is advancing the work of Satan. We must fight the powers of invisible foes, and the warfare is a keen and relentless antagonism. -- Let.-136a-1898

INJUSTICE TO ONE WHO HAS MOVED UNWISELY

I have been deeply moved. In the night season, as we were in a meeting where several were assembled, we were setting forth the present situation, and how few there were to do the work so important and essential to be done. One of commanding appearance, who had been listening to the description of the condition of things, arose and said, "Will you please look carefully, and see if you are accepting the men that are waiting to do service for the Master? Have you not mistaken your calling, and what it comprehends, in the position you occupy toward one who has moved to another field of labor? What if this move was not according to your ideas of order, or according to your human wisdom? Have you, in your experience, been faultless? Have you not made mismoves and blunders? He has his strong traits of character, and you have yours. All these imperfections God sees. He sees that some have made independent moves, even without the counsel of God."

"All ye are brethren." To no one has the Lord given permission to rule over a brother. All need their hearts refined, and cleansed from weakness, from natural and hereditary traits of character. All are amenable to God. If a brother errs in his ministerial work, remember that you have all erred, and shown great want of faith in the Lord. Yet God has not discarded you, and given you no place to work. Had he done this, His action would have been just as sensible as your action in this case.

Be careful what power you take into your finite hands. Be careful how you denounce those whom you should only pity, and comfort, and help. The Lord does not see the works of men with the same vision that men see them. He has many kinds of men to deal with, and He knows just how to deal with all. But let every man, whatever his position, remember that he is not to rule any man's conscience, or sit on the judgment-seat against any man. The Lord does not pronounce as just the judgment you have

formed. . . .

Speak gently to ministers who are seeking, fully as earnestly as your own self, to do their duty under difficulties. They are but men, with all the clamoring of Satan to discourage them. "Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees." Be careful to "make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but rather let it be healed. Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord; looking diligently lest any man fall of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled. Heb. 12:12-15.

The Lord has accepted men, and borne with them, when their brethren have treated them indifferently. They have allowed their masterly spirit to come in to rule, and in thus doing they have counterworked the work of God.

You have managed this case, from first to last, in an evidently faithless manner. Take your hands off your brother. He is God's property. He is in God's service. You have no right to handicap him as you have done. You should deal with him just as you would choose to be dealt with under like circumstances. By going to another field to work, without consulting his brethren or opening his mind to them, he moved unwisely. But his brethren do not understand just how the Lord will bring about the accomplishment of the work He would have done. This very moving to another part of the field may be wholly in the Lord's order. Let men be delicate, and exercise their caution when it will tell for God's glory in the end.

But this brother was not so much to be censured in his actions; for your own course of action revealed movements that did not encourage confidence in your faith or in your judgment. He was willing to submit to the judgment of others, altogether too much so. The Lord is not pleased when men go to men, and yield up their own will and judgment to follow

their counsel, when the one giving it has not more wisdom and faith than themselves. It is all a mistake. Erratic movements will be made according to present appearances, and not according to the mind and will of God. All must stand in God. If there was not another person on the globe but ourselves, we should be Christians, for our own individual present and eternal good. Life can be pure only when it is under God's control. No man is to rule his fellow-man. . . .

Learn lessons of love from the life of Jesus. Let men be careful how they speak to their fellow-men. There is to be no egotism, no lording it over God's heritage. A bitter sneer should not rise in any mind or heart. No tinge of scorn should be heard in the voice. Speak a word of your own; take an indifferent attitude, show suspicion, prejudice, jealousy, and by mismanagement the work will be done for a soul.

Ministers are but men; and God has said that one man's mind and judgment are not to control another man's mind. Let the graces of our Elder Brother be revealed. With heart and spirit, and all the power that piety and art can bestow, do true, faithful work. Show thyself an example by working earnestly for the Master, drawing all men to Christ. . . .

Cry unto God the Lord, Pardon our infirmities, and their infirmities; but give not up one hour of service. Keep all at work in their own line; and handicap none of God's servants because they did not come to you for counsel, and do according to your bidding. You have bidden and directed too much. God's ministers should look to Him for their directions. Your plans were not God's plans. Had your brother come to you for instruction, you would have discouraged or misdirected him. No man whom God has chosen to do His work is to be under the control of any other man's mind. Men may converse as equal men, but when it comes to laying down rules and commands, leave that for the Lord to do. This is not the line in which you are called to work.

The Lord has been working to bring certain things around for His own name's glory. Had your brother done just as you think he should have done, he would have become discouraged by the way you would have handled his case. God would have you work with your fellow-men with this idea in view, - that they are human like yourself, subject to temptations; and you are to meet them on equal ground. Treat them respectfully, as men who are chosen of God. They may not always have been wise or perfect in their judgment; but humanity must meet humanity just where it is, remembering that all are of value with God. Your brethren are as precious in God's sight as your individual selves. Under stress of circumstances, because you did not exercise faith and reveal trust in God, you have made grave blunders. If men err in the same lines in which you have erred, if they move hastily by looking at appearances, do not do with them as you have done in the case of the one who has been laboring for the Master. You cannot bind him to your heart or influence him for good by the course of action you have pursued.

Come into union and agreement without delay. Act your part nobly; for you have erred. You have dealt with him as no minister should deal with a fellow-laborer. The Lord will not sanction any such example for your fellow-workers to follow. . . .

Never say, "It is time to make an example of this brother," even though he may have erred. Wait till you can say, "It is time to make an example of me by the withdrawal of your confidence and favor, because I have not moved wisely." But there are so many who, though willing to make out a recipe that others may take the bitter medicine, would not be pleased to take it themselves. With many it makes every difference whether it is I or my brother. Well did the apostle say, "Ye have many teachers, but few fathers." It is spiritual fathers that we need in our gospel work. . . .

I wish that occasionally the curtain could be rolled back, that all could see the manner of the Lord's working, and the wonderful activity in

the courts above. The Lord often works in a manner which is not in accordance with the ideas of the men who are in responsible positions. The speculations and calculations of human minds are not always the wisdom of God. Some move altogether too slow, and their caution is as a defective spoke in the wheel, keeping it from rolling. Again, others may devise and plan how this one and that one shall work, when the Lord has other work for these men to do and other places where He wants them to fill in as His agents. Let.-50-1897

A CHRISTLIKE ATTITUDE TOWARD INJUSTICE

Every worker should realize his personal responsibility. Say: "I am a Christian; I must obey the holy precepts of the law of God. I am a Christian; I can not but do the works of Christ. I am not authorized to let one word of guile escape my lips. Never did Christ speak harsh, unbecoming words. Whatever men in position of trust may do that seems altogether unjust and unreasonable, it is no excuse for me to retaliate, and add a greater sin to the one already committed. That righteous One who measures character, weighing it in the golden scales of the sanctuary, will judge me by the fruit I bear.

The Lord has said, "This is thankworthy, if a man for conscience toward God endure grief, suffering wrongfully. For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God. For even hereunto were ye called; because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example that ye should follow His steps; Who did no sin, neither was guile found in His mouth; Who, when He was reviled, reviled not again; when He suffered, He threatened not; but committed Himself to Him that judgeth righteously." I Peter 2:19-23.

Say to yourself, "I must watch, I must pray, not merely for my own soul's interest; there are souls connected with me whose welfare should constrain me to strict guardianship of myself. If I am careless of my words, if I show disrespect for those in authority, the heaven will spread. . . . The sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, is the only sword which I can safely use. I must honor all my brother-workers, uttering only kind, peaceful words." -- MS-13-1891

NEED FOR SELF-CONTROL UNDER PROVOCATION

We should not be discouraged if things of a trying nature arise. Do not let your passion rise. Control yourself. When things occur which seem unexplainable, which do not appear to be in harmony with the great Counsel Book, do not allow your own peace to be spoiled. Remember that there is a Witness, a heavenly Messenger, by your side, who is your shield, your fortress. Into it you can run, and be safe. But a word of retaliation will destroy your peace, and your confidence in God. Who then is injured? -- Yourself. Who is grieved and wounded? -- The Holy Spirit of God.

On every occasion be armed and equipped with "It is written." God is your armor, on the right hand, and on the left. A flood of hasty words may seek for expression, but say, No; no. I will not place my feet on Satan's ground. I will not sacrifice my peace and honor as a child of God. I will keep in the only safe path, close beside Jesus, who has done so much for me. . . .

Be not surprised if great changes are made. Do not wonder if the men who felt themselves capable of handling the consciences of their fellow-men, and of controlling the minds and talents God has given them should go back, and walk no more with those who believe the truth; The truth makes too great a demand upon them. When they see that they must

die to self, and practice the principles of self-denial, they are displeased because they cannot gratify their ambitious desire to rule other men. Their true characters will appear. Some will make total shipwreck of the faith. "They went out from us, but they were not of us," said John, and so it will be again.

Hold fast to the truth, the precious, sanctifying truth. You are then in the best of company, and the very highest intelligences are beholding your course of action. You are a spectacle to the world, to angels, and to men. Under provocation, your work is to hold the faith and a good conscience, "which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck." . . .

God only can read the motives which prompt to action. Then why should man seek to fill this situation? Why should he say to one, "Sit thou at my right hand," and to another, whom he does not favor, or who does not sanction his plans and ideas, "Sit thou at my footstool?" This is the work of men who are not worked by the Holy Spirit, who have taken to themselves the privilege of excusing their own sins, and condemning others. To all such God says, "Take heed how you put forth your finger, and speak words of vanity against those whom the Spirit of God has not destroyed, but restored and pardoned. -- Let.-17-1897

SMITING THE HAND OF JUSTICE

No action is transacted toward one of your fellow-men in which God is not concerned. He is the eternal, universal guardian of justice. You cannot get away from His presence, if you would. He takes part against all who would commit one act of wrong against their fellow-men, high or low, rich or poor. His own hand is spread out as a buckler over the rights of brother toward brother. No man can wound or bruise the soul or rights of his brother without smiting against the hand of justice which holds the sword. -- Let-5-1896.

SECTION V

THE EVILS OF OVERBEARING CONTROL

EQUITY IN JUDGMENT

Those who are called of God, should be in touch with God, in order that they may have fine, keen, clear perceptions of what constitutes equity in judgment. Men in responsible positions should remember that the ten commandments are to be practiced in every line of work lest the cause of truth shall bear the imperfections of the mold of man and God be dishonored, and stumbling blocks be laid before the precious souls over which they will stumble to their ruin. The followers of Christ must watch, pray and work, having the eye single to the glory of God, knowing that they are working in the sight of the universe of heaven.

Men have made the cause of God an excuse for allowing oppression and suffering to come to souls. The cause of God must be represented by men whose hearts are as tender, pure, true and compassionate as is the heart of Christ. Those who handle the sacred work in Christ's stead must have a pure heart and clean hands. They must adopt Christ's maxims, for if they fail to do so, they will be deceived, betray Christ and dishonor the truth of God. -- Let.-22-1894.

COMPASSION FOR FELLOW-SINNERS

It is of great importance what attitude we assume toward those who are laborers together with God. I am so sorry to write that the Lord withholds many blessings which He longs to bestow upon those who have

a knowledge of the truth. He cannot pour out His blessing upon the human agents because of their attitude toward their fellow-laborers and their fellow-men. Those who claim to be members of Christ's body will allow their own fancies, their likes and dislikes, to shape their conduct toward even God's own delegated servants.

The presidents of conferences have hurt and bruised the souls of God's workers because they felt inclined to do it. What power was prompting to action? -- the power from beneath. After Christ has made the infinite sacrifice to redeem us from the oppressive power of Satan, shall we fail to pity and help those who are fallen and sinful like ourselves? Shall one man usurp an authority over his brethren and hurt their souls because he imagines that he has authority and can do this work? The Lord "suffered no man to do them wrong, yea, he reproved kings for their sakes; saying, Touch not Mine anointed, and to My prophets no harm." Psalm 105:15. . . .

The following words were written not to meet the case of a few who are great sinners, but to meet the case of men who have been entrusted with special responsibilities, -- men who are not to be lords over God's heritage, but to be ensamples to the flock. "For thou desirest not sacrifice; else would I give it; thou delightest not in burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and a contrite heart. O God, thou wilt not despise." Psalm 51:16-17.

"For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy, I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones," Isaiah 57:15. "Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams; or with ten thousands of rivers of oil? shall I give my first born for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? He hath showed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to

love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God," Micah 6:7. -- MS-45-1894

RECOGNITION OF A BROTHER'S GIFT

The positions and offices of those in God's work are appointed by Christ. All our talents are His gifts. Let us not disappoint the Lord by an improper use of the talents entrusted to us. Let us not fail to recognize the position and capabilities God gives to another. Be not envious or suspicious as your brother uses his gifts to do something for the honor of God. In no case should we demerit the gift and work God has given another. -- MS-158-1898

EVERY WORK BROUGHT INTO JUDGMENT

Let every one who professes the name of Christ consider the fact that he must meet every act of injustice, give an account for every harsh word, at the judgment seat of Christ. It will not be pleasant to review the words that have been spoken that have wounded and bruised souls, to review the decisions that have worked against souls for whom Christ died. Every action will come into judgment, and the spirit that prompted it will be made manifest. The fruit of every selfish, arbitrary exaction will be made plain, and men will see the results of their doings even as God sees them. They will see that they have turned precious souls out of the right path by dealing with them in an unchristlike manner. We are living in the great day of atonement, and it is now time that every one should repent before God, confess his sins, and by living faith, rest upon the merit of a crucified and living Saviour.

My brethren and sisters, will you bear in mind that in dealing with God's heritage you are not to act out your natural characteristics? The people of God are Christ's purchased possession, and what a price He has

paid for them? Shall any of us be found aiding the enemy of God and man in discouraging and destroying souls? What will be the retribution brought upon us if we do this class of work? Every one of us should weed out of our conversation everything that is harsh and severe. We should not indulge in condemning others, and we will not do so if we are one with Christ. We are to represent Christ in our dealings with our fellow-men.

May 7, 1895. -- T.M. 224-5

PUBLIC EXPOSURE OF A WORKER'S MISTAKES

We are to direct the weapons of our warfare against our foes, but never to turn them toward those who are under marching orders from the King of kings, who are fighting manfully the battles of the Lord of lords. Let no one aim at a soldier whom God recognizes, whom God has sent forth to bear a special message to the world and to do a special work. The soldiers of Christ may not always reveal perfection in their step, but their mistakes should call out from their fellow-comrades not words that will weaken, but words that will strengthen, and will help them to recover their lost ground. They should not turn the glory of God into dishonor, and give an advantage to the bitterest foes of their King.

Let not fellow-soldiers be severe, unreasonable judges of their comrades, and make the most of every defect. Let them not manifest satanic attributes in becoming accusers of the brethren. We shall find ourselves misrepresented and falsified by the world, while we are maintaining the truth and vindicating God's down-trodden law; but let no one dishonor the cause of God by making public some mistake that the soldiers of Christ may make, when that mistake is seen and corrected by (the) ones who have taken some false position. . . .

God will charge those who unwisely expose the mistakes of their brethren with sin of far greater magnitude than he will charge the one who makes a misstep. Criticism and condemnation of the brethren are counted as criticism and condemnation of Christ. -- Let.-48-1894

SUPERIORS WHO ARE INFERIOR

God has not given men power over the church or over individuals. He has not given them power to treat the subjects of His kingdom as their perverse tempers shall dictate. Christ will not sustain any man, whatever may be his office, who exalts himself as superior, when by his actions he makes himself in the sight of God, inferior. O, it is the saddest sight in the world to see men and women who have not enough of the grace of God to control themselves, seeking to control others. The work of God must be done in gentleness and true courtesy. O, how much out of place are pride, selfishness, covetousness, and dishonesty.

The Lord will punish those who lift themselves up in haughtiness and self-sufficiency, who refuse to show love and compassion for their brethren, or to encourage them in any way. These self-sufficient ones are the cause of the dearth in the church of the prosperity and success given by the Holy Spirit. -- ES-16-1900

OVERBEARING CONTROL REPROVED

Men, fallible men, are not to think it is their prerogative to control, to mark out, or to prescribe the labors of their fellow-men. When God works upon the human instrumentality, let men be very careful how they intermeddle; for in its process, the work of God is divine. The

work of God has often been hindered by men considering that they had power to say "Go here" or "go there," "do this" or "do that", without consulting the individual himself, or respecting his convictions as a laborer together with God. God has promised His presence to every believer; and let those who are in positions of authority, presidents of conferences and board councils and everyone who has to do with the human mind, respect the individuality of mind and conscience. These workers are in co-partnership with Jesus Christ, and you may interpose yourself so as to interfere with God's plans; for the human agent is under His special authority and dictation. . . .

The Lord requires the men who have a directing influence in His work to be wholly consecrated to Him. He wants them to have hearts of flesh and not of steel. . . .

Christ is our example, and every soul placed in a position of trust, needs the subduing influence of the Spirit of God upon his heart day by day. Christ wept with those that wept. In all their afflictions, He was afflicted, and was touched with the feelings of their infirmities. He was a tender and faithful High Priest. He considered the cases of the tempted and tried ones as verily His own, and He ministered unto them. These weak ones of the flock are to be carefully nourished with the manna Christ has supplied. They are to be educated not to look to men and trust in men, whatever may be their calling.

God would have all such confederacies broken to atoms and remodelled upon Christlike principles. The foundation stone must be mercy. Human minds are not to be trammelled and harnessed up and driven by human hands. The Lord Jesus must hold the reins in His own hands, pierced in bring peace and comfort and hope to every soul who will believe on Him. He gives to the purchase of His blood the guardianship of His grace; they shall move in His light, clad in the robes of His righteousness. To every man is given his work, and while souls are brought

into church capacity, work is assigned them of God. They are to move as minds that are under the controlling influence of God.

Men are educated to look to men, to be dependent on men. One man, by virtue of his position, exercises authority over them as if they were to be led by lines, this way and that as dumb animals. God has not directed in this way. God is our Chief, God is our Instructor, and to Him we must look. We must ask the Holy Spirit's guidance, and expect to be led and controlled by it. The church organization is to be respected, but it is not to be made in any way a galling yoke. Men are not to assume the prerogative of God, and think to rule and coerce and oppress the souls of God's purchased possessions. All heaven is indignant at what man, with complacency, will do to his fellowmen, claiming at the same time to be ^a representative of Jesus Christ. . . .

Men in official position must realize that their position gives them no license to be unkind and discourteous, no license to be oppressive, and to let their tongues, which should be sanctified, speak words which will open a door of temptation, and help the great adversary in his work of discouraging souls. God has given us a work to do in saving souls from the companionship of Satan. -- MS-43-1895.

SECTION VI

DICTATORIAL RELATIONSHIP TO BE AVOIDED

HOW THE WHEELS OF PROGRESS ARE CLOGGED

If it were possible, the enemy would clog the wheels of progress and prevent the truths of the gospel from being circulated everywhere. With this object he leads men to feel that it is their privilege to control the consciences of their fellow-men according to their own perverted ideas. They dismiss the Holy Spirit from their councils, and then, under the power and name of the General Conference, they invent regulations through which they compel men to be ruled by their own ideas and not by the Holy Spirit. . . .

There is need of an education in regard to the rights and duties of men in authority who have lorded it over God's heritage. When a man is placed in a position of trust, who knows not what kind of spirit he should exercise in dealing with human minds, he needs to learn the very first principles as to his authority over his fellow-men. Right principles must be brought into the heart, and wrought into the warp and woof of character.

Men are wanted who feel their need of wisdom from above, men who are converted at heart, who understand that they are but sinful mortals, and must learn their lessons in the school of Christ before they are prepared to mould other minds. When men have learned to depend on God, when they have faith that works by love, and purifies their own souls, then they will not lay on other men's shoulders burdens that are grievous to be borne. -- Let.-83-1896.

DANGER OF PRESCRIBING LIMITATIONS

The field of labor is vast; agencies of every kind will be set in action to oppose the work of God, and by indifference and unfaithfulness now we shall range ourselves on the enemy's side. No wall of selfishness is to be erected to prescribe certain limits to any person's work in seeking to get light in any way before the people. One single act in this line is a link in a chain which will extend to others. Let there be no selfish practice in God's work. Let there be no narrow ideas; for they may shut out opportunities and privileges whereby souls may be reached. Limits may be prescribed which will dishonor God, and encourage selfishness. And the spirit of selfishness is strange fire which should not be mingled with God's sacred service.

The work is one in every place the world over, and any selfish ideas and plans that may be allowed to creep in even in arrangements for the management of the work of God is a far greater evil than in common worldly matters. There are to (be) no selfish confines in dealing with God's work. If prosperity attends the work, it will be because there is not a thread of selfishness interwoven with it. . . .

God gives to every man his work, and he is to do his best in every place, working for the recovery of the world. He is to sow the seed beside all waters. Not a hand should be raised, not a barrier be placed to prescribe or limit the work. . . .

Our means of doing good is never to be limited to any man's ideas or devising. We are impowered of God at every step to work in Christ's lines. Lay hold of the work in any place, and this will set in motion the heavenly agencies to prepare the way for the sowers and the reapers. ---

THE RESULTS OF DOMINATIONADVENTIST
HERITAGE CENTER
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The holy principles that God has given are represented by the sacred fire; but common fire has been used in place of the sacred. Plans, contrary to truth and righteousness, are introduced in a subtle manner on the plea that this must be done, and that must be done, because it is for the advancement of the cause of God. But it is the devising of men that leads to oppression, injustice and wickedness. The cause of God is to be free from every taint of injustice. It can gain no advantage by robbing the members of the family of God of their individuality or of their rights. All such practices are abhorrent to God. . . .

The right handed power that has been developed, as though positions had made men gods, makes me afraid, and ought to cause fear. It is a curse wherever, and by whomsoever it is exercised. This lording it over God's heritage will create such a disgust of man's jurisdiction that a state of insubordination will result. The people are learning that men in high positions of responsibility cannot be trusted to mould and fashion other men's minds and characters. The result will be a loss of confidence even in the management of faithful men. . . .

The spirit of domination is extending to the presidents of our conferences. If a man is sanguine of his own powers and seeks to exercise dominion over his brethren, feeling that he is invested with authority to make his will the ruling power, the best and only safe course is to remove him, lest great harm be done, and he lose his own soul, and imperil the souls of others. "All ye are brethren." This disposition to lord it over God's heritage will cause a reaction unless these men change their course. Those in authority should manifest the spirit of Christ. They should deal as he would deal with every case that requires attention. They should go weighted with the Holy Spirit. A man's position does not make him one jot or tittle greater in the sight of God; it is character alone that God values. — Let.-55-1895.

NOT THE SLIGHTEST DEGREE OPPRESSIVE

A Christian is a Christlike man, and for the very reason that he carries heavy responsibilities, he feels it degrading to himself to be in the slightest degree oppressive. If those who are in command have not self-control, they place themselves below the servant. God expects the steward whom He honors to represent the Master. If he cannot represent the patience, the kindness, the long-suffering love, the honesty and self-denial of Christ; if he forgets that he is a servant, and lifts himself up, it would be well for the people to discharge him.

God expects every man to be faithful in his stewardship. Self is not to be glorified. The man who is faithful to his trust will not stop to consider if he is going to be honored by any course of action, but will ask, Will God be honored? His soul will be filled with a holy desire to see God magnified. When something tries his patience, he will pray, "My soul, wait thou only upon God; for my expectation is from Him." Psalm 62:5.
MS-115-1899

MARKING A PRECISE LINE FOR OTHERS

I have borne much sorrow and heartache as I have seen men occupying positions of trust who seem to have no ability to reason from cause to effect. Representations are made to me in the night season, and I cannot rest. . . .

What can be done to make these men with such strong traits of character realize that they need to be re-converted. Unless this experience comes to them, they will never become members of the royal family, children of the Heavenly King. They are wrapping themselves up in a garment of self-confidence.

The kind of planning that would make one man a center and pattern neither he nor any other man can carry out. This is not the way in which the

Lord works. He works through different individual minds to accomplish His purposes, and in the simplest ways, that they may reflect the great outshining of His love. When one man thinks that his mind is to outline the large moves in the work of God, that his abilities are to accomplish the greatest work, he limits the power of God to fulfil His purposes in the earth.

God needs men and women who will work in the simplicity of Christ to bring the knowledge of truth before those who need its converting power. But when a precise line is laid down which the workers must follow in their efforts to proclaim the message, a limit is set to the usefulness of a great number of workers. I am charged to speak saying, God seeth not as man seeth. Those who occupy responsible positions need far less of the exercise of human wisdom and more of the sanctification of the Spirit revealed in the lowliness and gentleness of Christ. They need the Holy Spirit to come into their hearts and minds, to control their wills and to sanctify their tongues. -- Let. 404-1907

REPRESSING INDIVIDUAL ACTION

Covetousness and selfishness are blinding men, so that they unwittingly make decrees that deprive men of their rights, and pass judgment on matters that cut them off from their privileges. In so doing they are as verily using oppression as are the powers of the world in restricting religious liberty. Though their power is limited, yet they are actuated by the same spirit which rules the children of disobedience. They make decisions that repress individual action, and God frowns upon their decrees, methods, and laws, that bind those whom God would have free to use the power He has given them as a precious endowment. . . .

Let those at the heart of the work see that they are clear from the practice of oppression. Let there be no lording it over God's

heritage. Let no man, or body of men, imagine that they have the prerogative of lording it over God's people. . . .

Every time you have made it necessary for men to come to your terms, and have so bound them that they could not do otherwise than to concede to your wishes, you have exercised a power which God has not permitted one man to exercise over another. "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." (John 3:16). Has Christ given Himself for the rescue of man in order that man may be placed under human bondage? There must be a decided change in the policy of action that has been followed. . . .

God has singled out many that He would employ in His work; but there is no chance for them to come in as yet. The sentiments of men who are in positions of trust must change and the counsel of God be heeded, or they will not have the honor of being His instruments, nor will they receive the reward that is promised to His faithful stewards. -- Let.-16-1896.

BREAK EVERY YOKE

The Saviour was presented to me as standing before the congregation and addressing those who had stood to discourage and hinder others. The words were spoken. Break every yoke. You are years behind where you should be in the carrying out of the plan of redemption. Let each seek his orders from the One in whom dwelleth truth and righteousness. Let all come into right relation to God, making thorough work of repentance. Let us press our case to the throne of grace.

Let all seek for spiritual eyesight, that they may see where they have abused the mercies of God by reining up men to meet their finite ideas of duty, instead of allowing them to follow the directions of the Spirit of God. They cannot see the harm that has been done to the cause

of God by so long following human judgment, because their spiritual eyesight is blinded. I pray that thorough conversions may now be experienced. --- Let.-202-1908

EQUAL RESPONSIBILITY IN PLANS

By God's own appointment you must reap the sure result of your own course of action. The selfishness and injustice toward brethren, in thought, word, and deed, will return upon yourself. You may endeavor to justify your course, to yourself and to others, but God rejects that vindication. The only reason for what you have done is that found in a perverse heart and a perverse will. You may say, "I did not originate this or that plan;" but just so far as you sanctioned it, you were responsible, and the evil will react upon yourself. In your dealing with your brethren you have acted like a blind man, and have oppressed souls. --- Let.-63-1896

THE SILENT INFLUENCE OF CHRISTIAN CHARACTER

We should never stir up strife by domineering words and action. Put away everything like hard dealing, and seek for a closer walk with God. . . .

I know from the light that God has been pleased to give me that those who have long held responsible positions are inclined to feel that they have a right to exercise more authority than their positions justify them to. God will sanction no tyranny, no sharp dictation; for this naturally repels souls and they are unfavorably affected by the manifestation of this disagreeable spirit which stirs up the worst passion of the human heart. If men in responsible office do not show partiality but exercise the patience and kindness of Jesus, they will find this course more effect-

ive than the preaching of sermons, the exercise of power, or the presentation of strong argument. The silent influence of Christian character will fall upon men as the sunbeams of heaven. -- Let.,-22-1889

THE POWER OF KINDNESS

We may never know until the judgment the influence of a kind, considerate course of action to the inconsistent, the unreasonable, and unworthy.

If after a course of provocation and injustice on their part, you treat them as you would an innocent person, you even take pains to show them special acts of kindnesses, then you have acted the part of a Christian, and they become surprised and ashamed and see their course of action and meanness more clearly than if you plainly stated their aggravated acts to rebuke them. If you had laid their wrong course of action before them, they would have braced themselves in stubbornness and defiance; but to be treated in tenderness and consideration, they feel more deeply their own course of action and contrast it with yours. Then you have the staff in your own hands. You occupy vantage ground, and when you show a solicitude for their souls, they know that you are no hypocrite, but that you mean every word you say.

I have been shown that a few words spoken in a hasty manner, under provocation, and which seemed but a little thing -- just what they deserved, -- often cut the cords of influence that should have bound the soul to your soul. The very idea of their being in darkness, under the temptation of Satan and blinded by his bewitching power, should make you feel deep sympathy for them -- the same that you would feel for a diseased patient who suffers, but, on account of his disease, is not aware of his danger. -- Let.,20-1892.

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

COUNSELS OFTEN REPEATED

REGARDING THE RELATIONSHIP OF BRETHREN

IN A

UNITED ORGANIZED CHRISTIAN CHURCH

A Selection from the Manuscripts and Letters

of

Ellen G. White

For Leading Men in the Advent Movement

GROUP "O"

(In Two Parts)

PART TWO

1899-1913

ADVENTIST
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"Elmhaven" Office
St. Helena, California
August 1933.

FOREWORD

In Part One of this collection of manuscripts, there have been presented counsels given by Sister White to leading men in our work, setting forth the evils of a perverted system of organization and control which had developed in several branches of our denominational work, whereby there was centered in a few men large responsibilities affecting a world wide work. These messages had much influence in preparing the way for the important reorganization that was effected at the General Conference of 1901. Sister White, after nine years of labor in Australia, attended this Conference. The day before the session opened she addressed a select group of leading men, not only pointing out the mistakes of the past, but offering constructive suggestions for reform. We are confident that the present day leaders will welcome the privilege of reading some of the salient points of this memorable talk, which has never been published. They may be found in Section VIII of this collection of messages.

A selection of passages from subsequent communications are grouped in Section IX, showing clearly that Sister White heartily supported the new administration in their efforts to broaden and develop the work in harmony with the counsels that had been received, and constantly encouraged them in the trying experiences connected with controversies in Battle Creek, and in the building up of the work in the new center. She plainly stated that former reproofs were not to be used in a way to discredit Conference leaders.

A study of Sections X to XIII shows that cautions continued to be given regarding the ever present dangers of unsanctified independence on the one hand and of arbitrary dictation on the other.

The increasing activity in new lines of work, and new enter-

prises seen today is an encouraging verification of Mrs. White's predictions regarding the closing up of the gospel work for the world. Important principles relating to the new relationships thereby resulting are found in Section XV.

The collection closes with several choice extracts, assuring a glorious final triumph of a united, organized church.

In a few cases counsel of a general nature has been included in Part II, but except for these, all quotations are from documents prepared since 1901.

Also in a few cases footnotes have been given to make clear the time or the circumstances of the writing of passages that may thereby be more clearly understood.

W. C. White and D. E. Robinson

"Elmhaven"
St. Helena, Calif.
August 29, 1933

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SECTION VIITHE CHURCH A CHANNEL OF LIGHTTHE UNITED EFFORT OF BELIEVERS

God has made His church on the earth a channel of light, and through it He communicates His purposes and His will. He does not give to one of His servants an experience independent of and contrary to the experience of the church itself. Neither does He give one man a knowledge of His will for the entire church, while the church -- Christ's body -- is left in darkness. In His providence, He places His servants in close connection with His church, in order that they may have less confidence in themselves, and greater confidence in others whom He is leading out to advance His work.

There have ever been in the church those who are constantly inclined toward individual independence. They seem unable to realize that independence of spirit is liable to lead the human agent to have too much confidence in himself, and to trust in his own judgment rather than to respect the counsel and highly esteem the judgment of his brethren, especially of those in the offices that God has appointed for the leadership of His people. God had invested His church with special authority and power, which no one can be justified in disregarding and despising; for he who does this despises the voice of God.

Those who are inclined to regard their individual judgment as supreme, are in grave peril. It is Satan's studied effort to separate such ones from those who are channels of light, through whom God has wrought to build up and extend His work in the earth. To neglect or despise those whom

God has appointed to bear the responsibilities of leadership in connection with the advancement of the truth, is to reject the means that He has ordained for the help, encouragement, and strength of His people. For any worker in the Lord's cause to pass these by, and to think that his light must come through no other channel than directly from God, is to place himself in a position where he is liable to be deceived by the enemy, and overthrown. The Lord in His wisdom has arranged that by means of the close relationship that should be maintained by all believers, Christian shall be united to Christian, and church to church. Thus the human instrumentality will be enabled to cooperate with the divine. Every agency will be subordinate to the Holy Spirit, and all the believers will be united in an organized and well-directed effort to give to the world the glad tidings of the grace of God. -- Ge.W. 443-4.

POWER DELEGATED TO THE CHURCH

There has been altogether too much reliance placed upon independent, uninspired judgment. Self-sufficiency and self-esteem lie at the foundation of the greatest trials and discords that have ever existed among the people of God. The angel of God has said to me again and again, "Press together!, Press together! Be of one mind, of one judgment, that God may be your Leader. Follow His footsteps, and you will walk safely. The clean heart and the right spirit are the gifts of His Son, purchased with infinite cost."

God is teaching, leading, and guiding His people, that they may teach, lead and guide others. There will be, among the remnant of these last days, as there were with ancient Israel, those who wish to move independently, who are not willing to submit to the teachings of the Spirit of God, and who will not listen to advice or counsel. Let such ever bear in

mind that God has a church upon the earth, to which He has delegated power. Men will want to follow their own independent judgment, despising counsel and reproof; but just as surely as they do this, they will depart from the faith, and disaster and the ruin of souls will follow. Those who rally now to support and build up the truth of God, are ranging themselves on one side, standing united in heart, mind, and voice, in defense of the truth; while those who do not labor in harmony of purpose and action, who choose their own unsanctified human judgment as perfection of action, are ranging themselves on the side of Satan, and are defending His cause.

Satan will become their Leader, and they will join him in his constant endeavors to tear down that which God is building up. None of these discordant elements will be able eventually to thwart the purposes of God in the preparation of a people to stand in the great day, and in the final completion of the plan of salvation. . . .

It is a delusion of the enemy for any one to feel that he can disconnect from agencies which God has appointed, and work on an independent line of his own, in his own supposed wisdom, and yet be successful. Although he may flatter himself that he is doing God's work, he will not prosper in the end. We are one body, and every member is to be united to the body, each person working in his respective capacity. Men must be likeminded with God, - pure, holy, sincere; not one is to be shut up to himself, to live for himself. -- Und. L. 14a

THOROUGH ORGANIZATION ESSENTIAL

O, how Satan would rejoice if he could succeed in his efforts to get in among this people, and disorganize the work at a time when thorough organization is essential, and will be the greatest power to keep out spurious uprisings, and to refute claims not endorsed by the word of God! We want to hold the lines evenly, that there shall be no breaking down of the system

of organization and order that has been built up by wise, careful labor. License must not be given to disorderly elements that desire to control the work at this time.

Some have advanced the thought that as we near the close of time, every child of God will act independently of any religious organization. But I have been instructed by the Lord that in this work there is no such thing as every man's being independent. The stars of heaven are all under law, each influencing the other to do the will of God, yielding their common obedience to the law that controls their action. And in order that the Lord's work may advance, healthfully and solidly, His people must draw together. Jan. 16, 1907. -- G.W. p. 489

THE JUDGMENT OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE

I have been shown that no man's judgment should be surrendered to the judgment of any one man. But when the judgment of the General Conference, which is the highest authority that God has upon the earth, is exercised, private independence and private judgment must not be maintained, but be surrendered. Your error was in persistently maintaining your private judgment of your duty against the voice of the highest authority the Lord has upon the earth. -- ST 492

THE DAWN OF A GLORIOUS DAY

The church of Christ is God's agency for the proclamation of truth; she is empowered by Him to do a special work; and if she is loyal to God, obedient to His commandments, there will dwell within her the excellency of divine power. If she will be true to her allegiance, there is no power that can stand against her. The forces of the enemy will be no more able

to overwhelm her than is the chaff to resist the whirlwind.

There is before the church the dawn of a bright, glorious day, if she will put on the robe of Christ's righteousness, withdrawing from all allegiance to the world.

God calls upon His faithful ones, who believe in Him, to talk courage to those who are unbelieving and hopeless. Turn to the Lord, ye prisoners of hope. Seek strength from God, the living God. Show an unwavering, humble faith in His power and His willingness to save. When in faith we take hold of His strength, He will change, wonderfully change, the most hopeless, discouraging outlook. He will do this for the glory of His name. -- P.K. 259-60

GOD WILL GUIDE TO THE END

I have words of encouragement for you, my brethren. We are to move forward in faith and hope, expecting large things from God. The enemy will seek in every way to hinder the efforts that are being made to advance the truth, but in the strength of the Lord you may gain success. Let no discouraging words be spoken, but only such words as will tend to strengthen and sustain your fellow-workers. . . .

When in the night season I am unable to sleep, I lift my heart in prayer to God, and He strengthens me, and gives me the assurance that He is with His ministering servants in the home field and in distant lands. I am encouraged and blessed as I realize that the God of Israel is still guiding His people, and that he will continue to be with them, even to the end. . . .

The Lord desires to see the work of proclaiming the third angel's message carried forward with increasing efficiency. As He has worked in all ages to give victories to His people, so in this age He longs to carry to a triumphant fulfilment His purposes for His church. He bids His believing saints to advance unitedly, going from strength to greater strength, from faith to increased assurance and confidence in the truth and righteousness of His cause. -- G.C.B. 1913, p. 164-5.

SECTION VIII

THE CALL FOR RE-ORGANIZATION IN 1901

[The three following articles are taken from a talk given by Mrs. White before a select group of leaders at the General Conference of 1901. - D.E.R.]

PAST MISTAKES POINTED OUT

Never should the mind of one man or the minds of a few men be regarded as sufficient in wisdom and power to control the work and say what plans shall be followed. The burden of the work in this broad field should not rest upon two or three men. We are not reaching the high standard which, with the great and important truth we are handling, God expects us to reach.

Over and over again men have said, "The voice of the Conference is the voice of God; therefore everything must be referred to the Conference. The Conference must permit or restrict in the various lines of work." As the matter has been presented to me, there is a narrow compass, and within this narrow compass, all the entrances to which are locked, are those who would like to exercise kingly power. But the work carried on all over the field demands an entirely different course of action. There is need of the laying of a foundation different from the foundation which has been laid in the past. We have heard much about everything moving ⁱⁿ the regular lines. When we see that the "regular lines" are purified and refined, that they bear the mold of the God of heaven, then it will be time to endorse these lines. . . .

* Note: A study of the use of this expression "regular lines", will show clearly that Mrs. White had no intention of belittling the organized work, or of tearing down church order or discipline. Rather she was seeking so to "purify and refine" the principles of organization that they might be endorsed. - D.E.R.

God means what He says. He calls for a change. The same things are being repeated, the same ideas followed, the same committees appointed. In a small section a king reigns, and all others are secondary, when there are other men who are better able to do the work, because they have not been working on narrow plans. . . .

The Lord desires His Holy Spirit to come into this meeting. He declares that every vestige of sharpness in dealing must be removed; for He hates it. No sharpness is to be exercised toward His servants, who are working for Him, bringing the tithe into the treasury that His cause may be sustained. . . . Those in responsible places are to act in such a way that the people will have firm confidence in them. These men should not be afraid to open to the light of day everything in the management of the work

There are to be no kings in our work, no man who will put out his hand and say to God's workmen, "You cannot go there. We will not support you if you go there." "We"? What have they to do with the supporting? Is the means of support theirs? The money comes from the people, and God has instructed me to tell those who are working in destitute fields to go to the people and tell them their necessity. They are to draw from the people means to build up the work in the field where they are* --

MS-45-1901

CHANGES CALLED FOR

When we see that the "regular lines" are purified and refined, that they bear the mold of the God of heaven, then it will be time to endorse these lines. But when we see that message after message given by God

* It should not be forgotten that since this was written, changes have been made in the methods of appropriating mission funds, and that all fields and institutions are represented on the disbursing committees.--
D.E.R.

has been received and accepted, yet no change has been made, we know that new power must be brought into the regular lines. The management of the regular lines must be entirely changed, newly organized. There must be a Committee, not composed of half a dozen men, but of representatives from all lines of our work, from our publishing houses, from our educational institutions, and from our Sanitariums, which have life in them, which are constantly working, constantly broadening. . . .

God desires that His work shall be a rising, broadening, enlarging power. But the management of the work is becoming confused in itself. Not that any one wishes to be wrong or to do wrong; but the principles are wrong. These principles are so foreign to God's principles that God cannot bless those who work upon them. What must be done is to bring in other minds. Those who have been at work in the same channels for years have been discouraged and confused.

From the light God has given me, everything connected with this Conference is to be regarded as most sacred. Why? Because at this time the work is to be placed upon a proper basis. Wrong principles have been followed. For the last fifteen years wrong decisions have been made; and now God calls for a change. He wants in His work men of faith and capability, men who realize that there is a ladder for them to climb round by round, and that those who climb this ladder will finally step off it into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. . . .

God calls for a decided change. Do not wait until the Conference is over, and then gather up the forces to see what can be done. Let us see what can be done now. Find out what power and intelligence there is that can be brought into the Conference. Let all unite in taking hold of the work intelligently. This is what is needed.

Every institution should have a voice in the working of the cause in which they have an interest. God wants us to come to the place where we shall be united in the work, where the whole burden will not be

laid on two or three men. Unless a change is made, Brother Irwin will soon be where he cannot work at all. He needs support. He has been in the work of wrestling so long that he must have a change, or else he will break down. . . .

When the cause was younger, my husband used to counsel with men who had sound judgment. The work was much smaller than it is now, but he did not feel able to manage it alone. He chose counselors from among those bearing responsibility in all parts of the world. And after counseling together, these men would go back to their work feeling a still greater responsibility to carry the work forward in right lines, to uplift, to purify, to solidify, so that the cause of God might move forward in strength. . . .

There is a work to be done, not by standing aloof from one another, but by working on God's principles. The Lord wants you to stand in this strength. He wants you to open the windows of the soul heavenward and close them earthward. He wants to reveal His salvation. He wants the medical missionary work and the gospel to be inseparably bound together. His work is to be a united whole. God wants the talents He has given Dr. Kellogg. He wants the talents that are in our institutions to be connected with the management of His work. Committees are to be formed which will have an interest in every part of the work. Then the work will be managed on a higher grade than it has yet been managed. -- MS-43-1901

THE PLACE OF THE MEDICAL MISSIONARY WORK
IN THE NEW ORDER

I thank God for the medical missionary work. God will call for every soul who is educated to work in this line in connection with the gospel ministry. He has places for them. Let not one stone be placed in the way of those who are striving to teach our youth how to do this work. . . .

The medical missionary work is to be regarded as the pioneer work. It is to be the means of breaking down prejudice. As the right arm, it is to open doors for the gospel message. . . .

Christ's ministers must stand in an altogether different position. They must be evangelists, they must be medical missionaries. They must take hold of the work intelligently. But it is of no use for them to think that they can do this while they drop the work which God has said should be connected with the gospel. If they drop out the medical missionary work, they need not think they can carry forward their work successfully, for they have only half the necessary facilities. — MS-43-1901

CIRCUMSCRIBED CHANNELS*

Pharissism in the Christian world today is not extinct. The Lord desires to break up the course of precision which has become so firmly established, which has hindered instead of advancing His work. He desires His people to remember that there is a large space over which the light of present truth is to be shed. Divine wisdom must have abundant room in which to work. It is to advance without asking permission or support from those who have taken to themselves a kingly power.

In the past one set of men have tried to keep in their own hands the control of all the means coming from the churches, and have used this means in a most disproportionate manner, erecting expensive buildings where such large buildings were unnecessary and uncalled for, and leaving needy places without help or encouragement. They have taken upon themselves the grave responsibility of retarding the work where the work should have been advanced.

It has been left to a few supposed kingly minds to say what fields should be worked and what fields should be left unworked. A few men have kept the truth in circumscribed channels, because to open new fields would

* This letter was written only a few weeks after the General Conference of 1901, and refers to conditions prior to that. — D.E.R.

call for money. Only in those places in which they were interested have they been willing to invest means. And at the same time, in a few places, five times as much money as was necessary has been invested in buildings. The same amount of money used in establishing plants in places where the truth had never been introduced would have brought many souls to a saving knowledge of Christ.

For years the same routine, the same "regular way" of working has been followed, and God's work has been greatly hindered. The narrow plans that have been followed by those who did not have clear, sanctified judgment has resulted in a showing that is not approved by God.

Something Done - Let Not The Work Stop

God calls for a revival and a reformation. The "regular lines" have not done the work which God desires to see accomplished. Let revival and reformation make constant changes. Something has been done in this line, but let not the work stop here. No! Let every yoke be broken. Let men awaken to the realization that they have an individual responsibility.

The present showing is sufficient to prove to all who have the true missionary spirit that the regular lines may prove a failure and a snare. God helping His people, the circle of kings who dared to take such great responsibilities shall never again exercise their unsanctified power in the so-called "regular lines." Too much power has been invested in unrevived, unreformed human agencies. Let not selfishness and covetousness be allowed to outline the work which must be done to fulfil the grand noble commission which Christ has given to every disciple. He, our Lord and Master, has given us an example, in His life of self-sacrifice, of the way in which we must work to advance the kingdom of God. . . .

Shall the "regular lines" which say that every mind shall be controlled by two or three minds at Battle Creek, continue to bear sway?

"This sentence throws clear light on Mrs. White's use of the expression "regular lines." The use of passages from this letter with an implied application to organization today is clearly unwarranted. - D.E.R.

The Macedonian cry is coming from every quarter. Shall men go to the "regular lines" to see whether they will be permitted to labor, or shall they go out and work as best they can, depending on their own abilities and on the help of the Lord, beginning in a humble way and creating an interest in the truth in places in which nothing has been done to give the warning message?

A Call for Self-Supporting Volunteers

The Lord has encouraged those who have started out on their own responsibility to work for Him, their hearts filled with love for souls ready to perish. A true missionary spirit will be imparted to those who seek earnestly to know God and Jesus Christ, whom He hath sent. The Lord lives and reigns. Young men, go forth into the places to which you are directed by the Spirit of the Lord. Work with your hands, that you may be self-supporting, and as you have opportunity proclaim the message of warning. - Let-60-1901

SECTION IX

MESSAGES OF CONFIDENCE AND COMMENDATION

A RECOGNITION OF REFORMS EFFECTED*

Your course would have been the course to be pursued if no change had been made in the General Conference. But a change has been made, and many more changes will be made and greater developments will be seen. No issues are to be forced. . . .

It hurts me to think that you are using words which I wrote prior to the Conference. Since the Conference great changes have been made. Do not urge that mother has said thus and so. I know that reforms are to be made, but when I am not present to hear the words that are spoken, I cannot advise you to select a few words from a letter I have written, and use these words to forbid a course which the brethren wish to pursue. . . .

A terribly unjust course has been pursued in the past. A want of principle has been revealed. But in pity to His people God has brought about changes. . . . When the Lord takes hold of the work as He did at our last Conference, your mother can stand back and not be brought so prominently into matters. And Oh, how pleased I am when this can be so. . . .

The Lord Himself interposed to set things in order. He has given His Holy Spirit. I am confident that He will set in order the matters that seem to be moving wrong. -- Let-54-1901

A MESSAGE OF COMMENDATION

In a vision of the night a short time ago, I was in council-meetings. At these meetings words were spoken that savored of the human

* Certain names are used in this section, not for the purpose of upholding or condemning these individuals, but because of the office they filled.-D.E.B

more than of the divine. The medical work in Great Britain was under consideration. Plans were proposed which, unless modified, would bind about the work and fail of relieving the situation. The General Conference was asked to pledge itself to raise a sum no less than twenty thousand dollars, or to become responsible for that amount, to establish a sanitarium in Great Britain. Because Elder Daniells refused to consent to place this additional obligation upon the General Conference, he was severely reflected upon by some. But, under the existing circumstances, he felt that he was forbidden by the Lord to lay this burden upon the Conference. I honor Elder Daniell's judgment on this question. . . .

When men in positions of responsibility are in such a hurry to establish some new institution that is untimely, the showing made is not only against the interests of the Lord's cause, but against the interests of the men who in human wisdom have tried to advance too rapidly. God is not glorified by those who attempt to go faster than He leads. Perplexity, embarrassment, and distress is the result. The Lord does not desire His representatives to repeat these mistakes; for the past record of such movements does not glorify Him. -- MS-144-1902

LEADERS IN TIMES OF PERIL

In this perilous time the Lord has given us men of His choice to stand as the leaders of His people. If these men will keep humble and prayerful, ever making Christ their confidant, listening to and obeying His words, the Lord will lead and strengthen them. God has chosen Elder Daniells to bear responsibilities, and has promised to make him capable by His grace of doing the work entrusted to him. The responsibilities of the position he occupies are great, and the tax upon his strength and courage is severe; and the Lord calls upon us to hold up his hands, as he strives with all the powers of mind and body to advance the work. The Lord desires every church to offer prayer for him as he bears these heavy responsibilities. Our

brethren and sisters should not stand ready to criticise and condemn those who are bearing heavy burdens. Let us refuse to listen to the words of censure spoken regarding the men upon whom rest such weighty responsibilities...

I know that Elder Daniells is the right man in the right place. He has stood nobly for the truth, and has striven earnestly to deal in a right way with the controversies arising regarding the relation of the medical work to the evangelical work.

If the men whom the Lord has chosen to stand in positions of responsibility will heed the testimonies that God has given and is giving, if they will keep close to His word, if they will separate from those who are binding up with worldly influences, they will be safe men for the times upon which we have entered. -- Written in 1904. Special Testimonies, Series B, No. 2, p. 41

CRITICIZING THE ADMINISTRATION

I have cautions to give you. Do not speak words that will disparage Brethren Prescott and Daniells. Let your words be well-chosen. Nothing will hurt your influence more than for you to speak as if the present administration were to blame for diverting means into the wrong channel. This will react on you, and will be displeasing to God. Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt. The light given me is that by accusing those bearing responsibilities, you will in the end hedge up your own way. Be a man of sound judgment. Make no breach between you and your brethren. . . .

Do not seek to disparage the General Conference, or to judge any man. Do not speak words that will leave a wrong impression on the minds of any regarding your brethren who have been appointed to do a special work for this time. We must keep a clean record.

The light given me by the Lord is that we are all to stand shoulder to shoulder, united as brethren under the influence and control of the Holy Spirit. . . .

Let nothing lead you to do one wrong act. Do not speak one word that might arouse suspicions regarding the men bearing responsibilities in the General Conference. Do not sow seeds of mistrust.

I have a most pointed message to bear regarding the necessity of coming into unity, and refusing to join the enemy in accusing and criticizing. Be true to yourself, true to your brethren, and true to God. There must be no judging of one another. We are each to walk as in the sight of a holy God. -- Let.-77-1905

COUNSEL, CO-OPERATION, AND COURAGE

In the afternoon, Brethren Prescott and Daniells and Brother I.H. Evans called to see me. . . . We talked long and earnestly in regard to the way in which the work should be advanced, and how some matters in Battle Creek should be managed. As the sun was setting, we had ^a praying season, in which all joined. We believe that the Lord our counselor will ^{give} us light as to how we should move. -- L-241-1904

A PROTEST AGAINST UNJUST JUDGMENT

Brethren Daniells and Prescott placed themselves in line to do the very work the Lord assigned them in moving the publishing work from Battle Creek to Washington, D.C. The Lord has greatly blessed them in every step they have taken in accordance with the light He has given them. His signature has been upon their work, and He will be with them still if they will continue to look steadfastly to Him as their Teacher and their example. If they turn aside, as did Solomon, to work contrary to God's designs, then the Lord can not cooperate with them. . . .

I will not be silent and see the men misjudged whom the Lord has been leading to do a certain work in Washington. -- MS-58-1904.

THE LORD HAS LED

I have been given message after message for those who were standing at the head of the work here, for Elder Daniells and Elder Prescott, and for all connected with them in the work. The blessing of the Lord came upon me as I would write to them, saying, Be of good courage in the Lord. He is leading and guiding. He will bless you as you move forward. He will be your helper.

Suppose that our brethren had not come to Washington when they did. Suppose that they had dallied for six months or a year. What would have been the result? — The bill concerning Sunday legislation would have been slipped right in, and I do not know how long or how severe a battle we should have had to fight. But in the mercy of God our brethren were able to forestall this movement, although, in order to do this, they had to neglect other pressing work. I can assure you that their hands and hearts were full. They prayed, they reached out to God, and they sent out tracts and pamphlets everywhere. And wherever this reading-matter has gone, the light of the Sabbath truth has penetrated. Earnest work was done, and constantly our prayers ascended to God, that He would let His power rest upon every one engaged in the work. — From an address before the General Conference at Takoma Park, May 16, 1901, published in Review and Herald, May 25, 1905, p. 15.

WORDS OF CONFIDENCE

I have received your letters regarding the council held in New York, and the efforts that are being made in behalf of the multitudes in the large cities. . . .

The position you have taken is in the order of the Lord, and now I would encourage you with the words, Go forward as you have begun, using your position of influence as President of the General Conference for the advancement of the work we are called upon to do. In this way you can disappoint the enemy. . . .

You will now be able, not only to take up the work yourself, but also to exercise your influence as president of the General Conference to lead out in the very work that the Lord has appointed to be done. . . .

I can now take hold with you in full confidence for the doing of the work that rests upon us. . . . He will give you sustaining grace, and we will draw with you and give you all the help we can to use your position of influence as president of the Conference, and to work wisely in the education of others to labor in the cities.

Your influence will be under the Lord's wise care, and although you may meet with hard and trying experiences in this great effort, if you exercise the wisdom and the sanctification of Christ, you will have power and grace from above, and the Lord's approval. He will impart unto you wisdom and power, and will also bring to you the joy of success.

Angels of God will be with you, and you can use all the influence that your office as president of the Conference has given you, to encourage others to take up the same work. I will not write a word to discourage you or to weaken your hands, but will say, Go forward in the name of the Lord. His name is a power against the enemy. - Let-68-1910

SECTION XX

A CALL FOR COOPERATION

A HARMONIOUS WHOLE

Let not one man feel that his gift alone is sufficient for the work of God; that he ^{alone} can carry through a series of meetings, and give perfection to the work. His methods may be good, and yet varied gifts are essential; one man's mind is not to mold and fashion the work according to his special ideas. In order for the work to be built up strong and symmetrical, there is need of varied gifts and different agencies, all under the Lord's direction; He will instruct the workers according to their several ability.

Cooperation and unity are essential to a harmonious whole, each laborer doing his God-given work, filling his appropriate position, and supplying the deficiency of another. One worker left to labor alone is in danger of thinking that his talent is sufficient to make a complete whole. Where there is a union of workers, there is opportunity for them to consult together, to pray together, to cooperate in labor. None should feel that they cannot link up with their brethren because they do not work in exactly the same line as they themselves do. Those who entertain such thoughts, show that they need the converting power of God upon their own hearts and characters, that their peculiarities may not become a hindrance to the work for the salvation of their fellow-men.

Among the workers there will be some who are active and energetic; there will be some who are slow. They are so long in arriving at conclusions that if their way is followed, much precious time is lost, and often the delay proves dangerous. The slow worker should be constantly learning

of the diligent, quick worker. "Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord." Every one who enters the service of Christ should constantly feel that he is a laborer, and should improve in his habits and his manner of work. He is to blend with his brethren, not flattering himself that his methods of work are the very best. Let him learn in the school of Christ the lessons of meekness and lowliness. All who do learn of Christ will work in Christ's lines; then we shall surely harmonize. He who is inclined to criticize and depreciate his brethren, will find that the Spirit of God is not with him. He does not obey the injunction to esteem others better than himself; but, like the self-righteous Pharisee, he draws comparisons between his brother's work and his own. Cooperating with God, every laborer will work as Christ worked.

You must be constantly learning, constantly advancing. No one can stand in our place and do our individual work. There is no such thing as making a groove for certain brethren to move in; no minister can embrace the work in his finite arms, and dictate how every other one shall labor. You must receive help through any channel by which God may send it. You who have had more experience must teach those of less experience how to work. Take them by your side, educate them, bear patiently with them. Never close the door of the heart by sharp words and unkind criticism. Let the love of God rule in your own hearts, and be communicated to your associate workers. -- Series A, No. 7, pp. 14-16.

AVOID SELF-CONFIDENCE

You are constantly inclined to individual independence. You do not realize that independence is a poor thing when it leads you to have too much confidence in yourself, and to trust to your own judgment rather than to respect the counsel and highly estimate the judgment of your brethren, especially of those in the offices which God has appointed for the saving of His people. God has invested His church with special author-

ity and power which no one can be justified in disregarding and despising; for in so doing he despises the voice of God. -- ST 417

DANGER OF ELATION THROUGH SUCCESS

The Lord has given abundant evidence of the truthfulness of His promises and threatenings. His people may trust His word. Will they then, in the face of light and evidence, follow a course of their own choosing, independent of God's ordained agencies. Even good men need to be guarded on every hand, lest they shall become so elated over the blessings God has given them that the applause and praise from worldlings, shall be as a stimulus for them to display their great wisdom and acquisitions.

The Lord sees, the Lord knows, He will certainly humble all such aspirations; for He hates pride and selfishness and covetousness. The more prosperous the work may be in itself, the less appropriate is it for men to exalt themselves, as though they were the ones who should be lifted up. Our trust must be in God. He has entrusted men with abilities and capabilities, that they may act a prominent part in His work. Let them take heed how they shall exalt themselves -- Let-95-1900

INDEPENDENT JUDGMENT TO BE SUBSERVIENT

Though we have an individual work and an individual responsibility before God, we are not to follow our own independent judgment, regardless of the opinions and feelings of our brethren; for this course would lead to disorder in the church. It is the duty of ministers to respect the judgment of their brethren; but their relations to one another, as well as the doctrines they teach; should be brought to the test of the law and the testimony; then, if hearts are teachable, there will be no divisions among us. Some are inclined to be disorderly, and are drifting away from the great landmarks of the faith; but God is moving upon His ministers to be one in doctrine and in spirit. -- T.M. 30

NONE TO STRIKE OUT ALONE

I write this to you, my dear brother, in the hope of helping you. You are in an unsettled state of mind, and are tempted to do a strange work, which God has not appointed you to do. None of us are to strike out alone; we are to link up with our brethren, and pull together, and God will give us influence and self-control. We are to draw near to God, that He may draw ^{near} to us. -- Let-40-1903

BE SURE OF THE SPIRIT'S GUIDANCE

The Lord God of heaven is constantly at work for us. His angels are ministering spirits to all who will receive their guardianship. Human impulse will try to make us believe that it is God who is guiding us, when we are following our own way. But if we watch carefully, and counsel with our brethren, we shall understand; for the promise is, "The meek will He guide in judgment; and the meek will He teach His way." We must not allow human ideas and natural inclinations to gain the supremacy. . . .

One thing I urge upon you: the necessity of counseling with your brethren. There are those who will feel that anything you may have to do with boats, is a snare; but my son, if there is a class of people in out-of-the-way places who can be reached only by means of boats, talk the matter over with your brethren. Pray earnestly in regard to it, and the Spirit of God will point out the way. I see no reason why a boat should not be utilized as a means of bringing to those in darkness the light of Him who is "the bright and morning star."

As a people, we have been so often reproved for doing so little, that we should not hinder with discouragement any effort to extend the influence of the truth. Be careful that the enterprise you speak of does not cripple other lines of work. . . .

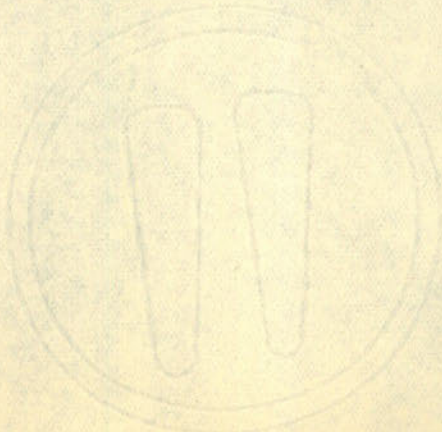
The best way to succeed, in all enterprises for the advancement of the truth, is to go promptly and steadily forward, willingly making the

sacrifices that God's cause demands, and trusting Him whose we are and whom we serve to supply our temporal needs. It is easy for Him who owns the world and who has at His command the resources of heaven, to increase or diminish the possessions of human beings. He will see that those who serve and obey Him have all things needful. The Lord is not unmindful of the wholehearted service offered Him. No work^{done} in faith will be in vain. -- Let-159-1902.

A NEEDFUL DISCIPLINE

Those who find it difficult to associate in harmony with the Lord's workers in this world, and who are anxious to remain apart by themselves, will have to pass through an entire change of character, else they will never see the kingdom of God. We are not all formed in the same mold of character; therefore association is a needful discipline, in order that we may learn to love God with all the affections and with every power of the mind. The whole being is to be transformed after the similitude of the heavenly Father, and of His Son Jesus. Those who are thus transformed, will have the faith that works by love and purifies the soul. This barricades the soul from every assault of the enemy. - Let-52-1906

Ditto



SECTION XI

INDIVIDUAL TALENT AND RESPONSIBILITY

THE CHURCH AS A GARDEN

In all the Lord's arrangements, there is nothing more beautiful than His plan of giving to men and women a diversity of gifts. The church is His garden, adorned with a variety of trees, plants, and flowers. He does not expect the hyssop to assume the proportions of the cedar, nor the olive to reach the height of the stately palm. Many have received but a limited religious and intellectual training, but God has a work for this class to do, if they will labor in humility, trusting in Him --

Let-122-1902

CEDARS OF THE VALE

Though your Christian brother may not occupy a position equal to yours in prominence, yet he fills a place of usefulness according to his ability. God has come very near you, guiding you and holding your hand. This should lead you to show Christian courtesy in all business matters. You are to be a man of God's opportunity, acting in His place. You, a cedar of the mountain, are to remember that God has cedars of the vale.

Let-112-1901

EXACT METHODS NOT TO BE PRESCRIBED

We fully believe in church organization, but this is not to prescribe the exact way in which we shall work; for all minds are not to be reached by the same methods. Nothing is to be allowed to keep the servant of God from his fellow-men. The individual believer is to labor for the individual sinner. Each person has his one lamp to keep burning, and if the

heavenly oil is emptied into these lamps through the golden pipes, if the vessels are emptied of self and prepared to receive the holy oil, its light will be thrown on the sinner's path to some purpose. More light will shine on the pathway of the wanderer through one lamp than through a whole procession of torch-lights got up for a show. - Let-54-1899

SAFEGUARD YOUR BROTHER'S INFLUENCE

Our religious experience is to be in strict conformity to the word, in which are defined the principles of mercy and the love of God. God calls upon His people to unify as the burdens of the work press upon them. They should engage often in earnest, humble prayer, for the Lord's guidance, and then they should follow His guidance to the letter.

There should not be made one careless, indifferent move, or one selfish proposition that would hurt or cut off the influence of one of the Lord's workers. Each is His purchased possession, bought to labor for other souls. - MS-17-1908

GOD WILL GUIDE THE WORK

Mercy and righteousness have their foundation in the word of God, and this word forbids that any arbitrary power be exercised by man over his fellow-men. Those who seek counsel of God in meekness of heart, presenting their petitions in the name of their Mediator, will receive grace and guidance. "The meek will He guide in judgment; and the meek will He teach His way." Psalm 25:9. But the unbelieving and rebellious can have no share in the blessings that the humble receiver will receive.

Not in numbers, not in bodily strength, lies the security of the believer, but in faith in Jesus Christ. We have come to a point in our experience when everything that savors of a domineering power is to be put away from among us. In the name of the Lord I call upon our ministers to prepare the way of the Lord, and to make His paths straight. . . .

God appointed that His people should be bound together in the bonds of sacred union. But a man-ruling power came gradually into our ranks. Men were appointed to be rulers over their fellow-men, - men whose ways were not the ways of the Lord, and whose works were not His works. God has never decreed that man should thus be made amenable to his fellow-man, or that one brother should dictate to another concerning individual duty. He has never bidden any man accept the words and experience of a fellow-worker, and to follow the judgment of a man-ruling power. . . .

I am instructed to say to Seventh-day Adventists the world over, God has called us as a people to be a peculiar treasure unto Himself. He has appointed that His church on earth shall stand perfectly united in the Spirit and counsel of the Lord of hosts to the end of time. Satan has taken advantage of the inclination of the human mind, to cause a dominating power to be exercised, so that those who would cannot follow the leadings of the Lord without being brought to task by men. But God wants us to learn that His Spirit is to be the chief counselor of His people. I am instructed to say in the name of the God of Israel, Everything that savors of a domineering power is to be set aside. The Lord of hosts is to be the ruler of the people He has chosen. Those who believe the truth are to have the privilege of counseling with their brethren in the faith, of praying with them when difficulties and trials and sorrows come. As fellow-workers they are to be a help one to another. But I have been instructed to oppose the spirit that would lead men to exercise authority over their fellow-men in their spiritual experiences. - Let-54-1908

LOOKING TO Jesus

I am bidden to say to every professing child of God, Go not to human agencies to learn your duty. Take your case to the One who has tasted death for every man. "In all things it behooved Him to be made like unto His

brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. For in that He Himself hath suffered being tempted, He is able to succor them that are tempted." Heb. 2:17,18.

The worker who considers himself in a position of such high responsibility that he allows the members of the churches to look to him to voice their decisions and control their actions, is educating men and women to wear a human yoke. They are not learning of the divine teacher. To the one who is being led to have such an experience I would say, Go to Christ; ask Him to give you an experience; learn to emulate His faultless character, and do not look for experience or guidance to any human being, who is as liable to err as yourself.

There are reasons why we should not put our trust in men who are placed in positions of large responsibility. It is often difficult for them to maintain a humble and teachable spirit. They suppose that their position gives them the power to control their fellows, and they flatter themselves, as did Peter, that they will not fall under temptation. - Let-324-1907

EACH SOUL TO BE TAUGHT OF GOD

Personal responsibility, personal activity in seeking the salvation of others, must be the education given to all newly come to the faith. Spiritual despotism is in the very atmosphere, which is impregnated with the subtilty of Satan's oppression. This despotism becomes more and more pronounced as we near the close of this earth's history. Personal faith is to be acted and practiced, personal holiness is to be cultivated, and the meekness and lowliness of Christ is to become a part of our practical life. The work is to be thorough and deep in the heart of every human agent. Those who profess to receive and believe the truth are to be shown the deadly influence of selfishness and its tainting, corrupting power.

The Holy Spirit must work upon the human agent, else another power

will control mind and judgment. Spiritual knowledge of God and Jesus Christ whom He hath sent is the only hope of the soul. Each soul is to be taught of God, line upon line, precept upon precept; he must feel his individual accountability to God to engage in service to His Master, whose he is, and whom he is required to serve in the work of saving souls from death, . . .

The members of the church of God in every place are organized in order that they may do their work intelligently in church capacity. They must realize the fact that if they constitute members of Christ's body, of his flesh and of his blood, they are to receive from the living head capabilities, light and efficiency to bless the world. Missionary responsibilities are to be studied, information is to be obtained and seriously considered. What can the church do in this time of peril and obligation, as the Macedonian cry comes from every quarter, "Come over and help us." -- MS- 25-1899

SECTION XII

CORRECT RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN WORKERS

LINKED BY CORDS OF SYMPATHY

By means of one Agency, Christ Jesus, God has mysteriously linked all men together. To every man He has assigned some special line of service; and we should be quick to comprehend that we are to guard against leaving the work given us in order that we may interfere with other human agencies who are doing a work not precisely the same as our own. To no man has been assigned the work of interfering with the work of one of his fellow-laborers, trying to take it in hand himself; for he would so handle it that he would spoil it. To one, God gives a work different from the work that He gives another.

Let us all remember that we are not dealing with ideal men, but with real men of God's appointment, men precisely like ourselves, men who fall into the same errors that we do, men of like ambitions and infirmities. No man has been made a master, to rule the mind and conscience of a fellow being.

Let us be very careful how we deal with God's blood-bought heritage.

To no man has been appointed the work of being an over-seer of his fellow-men. Every man is to bear his own burden. He may speak words of encouragement, faith, and hope to his fellow-workers; he may help them to bear their special burdens by suggesting to them improved methods of labor; but in no case is he to discourage and enfeeble them, lest the enemy shall obtain an advantage over their minds, - an advantage that in time would react upon himself.

By the cords of tender love and sympathy the Lord has linked all men to Himself. Of us He says, "Ye are laborers together with God. Ye are God's husbandry; ye are God's building." This relationship we should recognize. If we are bound up with Christ, we shall constantly manifest Christlike sympathy and forbearance toward those who are striving with all their God-given ability to bear their burdens, even as we endeavor to bear our appointed burdens.

In our several callings there is to be mutual dependence on one another for assistance. A spirit of authority is not to be exercised, even by the president of a Conference; for position does not change a man into a creature that can not err. Every laborer entrusted with the management of a Conference is to work as Christ worked, wearing His yoke and learning of Him His meekness and lowliness. A Conference president's spirit and demeanor, in word and in deed, reveals whether he realizes his weakness and places his dependence on God, or whether he thinks that his position of influence has given him superior wisdom. If he loves and fears God, if he realizes the value of souls, if he appreciates every jot of the help that the Lord has qualified a brother-worker to render, he will be able to bind heart to heart by the love that Christ revealed during His ministry. He will speak words of comfort to the sick and the sorrowing. If he does not cultivate a masterly manner, but bears in mind always that One is His Master, even Christ, he can counsel the inexperienced, encouraging them to be God's helping hand.

The feeble hands are not to be deterred from doing something for the Master. Those whose knees are weak are not to be caused to stumble. God desires us to encourage those whose hands are weak, to grasp more firmly the hand of Christ, and to work hopefully. Every hand should be outstretched to help the hand that is doing something for the Master. The time may come when the hands that have upheld the feeble hands of another, may, in turn, be upheld by the hands to whom they ministered. God has so ordered matters that no man is absolutely independent of his fellow men. - Let-10-1903

GIVE THE WORKERS FREEDOM

To all our ministers I would say, Encourage your brethren to connect with you in your labors. All the gifts and talents of the church are to be set to work. Let all desire on the part of any to have a controlling power be put away. There has been danger with some of marking out exactly what this or that man should do. Let the Lord do this work, and guide His own servants. "We are laborers together with God; ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building." Give the Lord room to work human minds.

Give the workers abundant freedom to work out the plans of God in harmony with their brethren. This will save much overwork for the few. Let the strong traits of character that would lead to the control of others be subdued by the grace of Christ. "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus." -- R. & H. April 23, 1908.

UNITY AND FREEDOM IN COUNCIL MEETINGS

When ministering brethren come together in council, let deference be shown to the expression of intelligent principles, let intellectual freedom be freely accorded to all. There should be unity and love and freedom in communicating one with another. It should be a pleasure to consult one with another, to compare ideas and to review plans. An atmosphere of goodness, confidence, and love should be diffused; for this is the assurance of the presence of the Holy Spirit. The presence of God should be felt, and the soul should be humbled in acknowledging the condescension of God in planning for every soul for whom Christ has died, and thus hearts would be softened and broken. . . .

Link up with your brethren, if you would have them link up with you, and give you their confidence. Confidence and faith will beget confidence and faith. You should gather into your confidence not only your ministering brethren, but those with whom you are brought in contact, and show them that

you have confidence, and that you believe that they are taught of God as much as you yourself are taught of God. Open your plans before them. One will be free to speak, and another will be free to speak, and they may call your attention to some things that you had not thought of before.

God does not open everything to one mind, but He teaches one, and another, and still another. Men are to stand in God, and without having the fear of criticism before them, they are to speak as God shall give them utterance, and to write as God shall dictate. After they have written their thoughts, let them be free to read their articles to their brethren, and let them receive any kindly word or caution that the brethren may see fit to offer in the spirit of brotherly kindness and love. . . .

The cautions which God has given are to be regarded. Christ has said concerning His disciples, "All ye are brethren." Every one is to give an account of himself to God. . . . Do not lay down any specified rules or prescribe any details as to how God's agents shall do their work. . . . The Teacher said, "While you are so earnest to call to mind the details, the time that is of so great value has been consumed, . . . and the minds of the workers have been called to dwell upon non-essentials which should have been left for workers in the field to plan for themselves, . . . Many things that are too important to be set aside have been lightly dwelt upon, and many things that are of little consequence have been largely dwelt upon, when there is no reason why men should dictate concerning the matters they have laid out in detail."-- Let-53-1894.

REMEMBERING ONE'S OWN MISTAKES

Let no one be sharp and dictatorial in his dealing with God's workers. Let those who are inclined to censure remember that they have made mistakes as grievous as those they condemn in others. Let them bow in contrition before God, asking His pardon for the sharp speeches they

have made and the unguarded spirit they have revealed. Remember that God hears every word you speak, and that as you judge, you will be judged.

Christ is pleading the case of every tempted soul, but while He is doing this, many of His people are grieving Him by taking their stand with Satan to accuse their brethren, pointing to their polluted garments.

Let not the criticised ones become discouraged; for while their brethren are condemning them, Christ is saying of them, "I have graven them upon the palms of My hands." By creation and redemption they are Mine. --

MS-143-1902

ACTING IN CHRIST'S STEAD

I wish to speak to my brethren who occupy positions of trust. As God's husbandry you are invested with the responsibility of acting in His stead, as His helping hand. Those who are placed in positions of trust must have the authority of action, but they are never to use this authority as a power to refuse help to the needy and helpless. It is never to be exercised to discourage or depress one struggling soul. Let those to whom have been given positions of influence ever remember that God desires them to carry out the mind of Christ, who, by creation and redemption, is the owner of all men. -- Let-7-1901

CULTIVATING THE SPIRIT OF COMPANIONSHIP

I have words from the Lord for you. Do not suppose that you can carry the work alone. You can not; and you must not think that you can be supreme authority. Counsel and pray with your brethren. There is work of different kinds to be done, and you are to stand by the ones who carried the work forward before you united with it. The different workers are to supply one another's deficiencies.

The Lord desires you to link up with your fellow-workers. You are not to shut yourself up to yourself. Every day you are to gain a stronger confidence that you are God's appointed agent, not to labor alone, but in union with those who have borne responsibilities. Let all the workers unite in counsel. You are to have no secret chamber, closed to some who have just as intense an interest in the work as you have. . . .

The Lord would have you cultivate the spirit of companionship. If you wrap yourself about with garments of self-sufficiency, refusing to admit others into brotherly relationship, you will fail of gaining the experience that you need; and others also will be losers. Let your fellow-workers see that you regard them as of value. . . .

There is to be no ordering, no domineering, no masterly authority. The love of God, in a healing, life-giving current, is to flow through your life. Your spirit and words and deeds are to show that you realize that you are acting in Christ's place. The power you are to receive from the great Teacher is the power to educate others, not the power to order or dictate. Come to Christ as one who desires to know how to teach and help others.

God will test and try you. When you have the love of Christ in your heart, when His mind is your mind, you will be willing to counsel with those who have had an experience in the work. You will look upon others as being as capable of helping you as you are of helping them,-

Let.-174a-1902

A SPECIAL CHARGE

I was charged not to neglect or pass by those who were being wronged. I was especially charged to protest against any arbitrary or overbearing action toward the ministers of the gospel by those having official authority. Disagreeable though the duty may be, I am to reprove the oppressor, and plead for justice. I am to present the necessity of maintaining justice and equity in all our institutions.

If I see those in positions of trust neglecting aged ministers, I am to present the matter to those whose duty it is to care for them. Ministers who have faithfully done their work are not to be forgotten or neglected when they become feeble in health. Our conferences are not to disregard the needs of those who have borne the burdens of the work. --

MS-63-1906

CAUTION AGAINST CRITICIZING ANOTHER'S DEFECTIVE WORK

If one does a piece of work which is not wholly perfect, shall his brethren pull it to pieces, speaking of it scathingly and contemptuously? The one who has made mistakes may be doing his very best. Did Christ treat the work of His disciples thus? If He should treat erring human beings as their shortcomings deserve, what would become of them? Well may every mortal say, "Let me fall into the hands of the living God, rather than into the hands of men." God is too wise to err and too good to do us harm.--

MS-73-1901

LOVE TOWARD GOD AND MAN

Last night, I was in a sleepless state much of the time. Many representations passed before me. One was a scene in a council meeting where several were present. One man arose and began finding fault with one of his brethren. I looked at the speaker's garments, and saw that they were very undesirable.

Another person rose, and began to state his grievance against a fellow-laborer. His garments were of another pattern, and they, too, were undesirable. Still another, and yet another arose, and uttered words of accusation and condemnation regarding the course of others. Every one had some trouble to speak of, some fault to find with some one else. All were presenting the defects of Christians who are trying to do something in our world; and they declared repeatedly that certain ones were neglecting this or that or the other thing, and so on.

There was no real order, no polite courtesy, in the meeting. In their anxiety to speak, some crowded in while others were still talking. Voices were raised, in an effort to make all hear above the din of confusion.

The dress of the speakers was unbecoming and grotesque. This, I was shown, was a representation of defective character. . . .

In this council meeting that I saw in the visions of the night, Christ Himself was present. An expression of pain came over His countenance as one after another would come forward, with uncouth dress, to expatiate upon the faults of various members of the church.

Finally the heavenly Visitant arose. So intent were those present on criticizing their brethren, that it was with reluctance that they gave him opportunity to speak. He declared that the spirit of criticism, of judging one another, is a source of weakness in the church today. Things are spoken that should never find utterance. Every one who by word of mouth places an obstruction in the way of a fellow Christian, has an account to settle with God.

With earnest solemnity the Speaker declared; "The church is made up of many minds, each of whom has an individuality. I gave my life in order that men and women, by divine grace, might blend in revealing a perfect pattern of My character, while at the same time retaining their individuality. No one has the right to disparage the individuality of any other human mind, by uttering words of criticism and fault-finding and condemnation."

These words He repeated with solemn earnestness; and then He turned and grasped a standard, and held it aloft. From this standard, in burning letters, clear and distinct, gleamed God's law. The speaker declared: "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbor as thyself."

Correct Relationship Between Workers

As the light from the uplifted standard flashed upon these men in council, they shrank from it as if it were a burning flame. Some prostrated themselves; some turned and went away.

As I looked upon the scene, the names of the fault-finders appeared before them, and opposite each name were written out the faults of the erring one. None were free from defects of character. In the light of the uplifted standard, all were guilty.

The churches have had light, great light. Infinite light and power are promised those who go forth in the name of the Master to do His bidding. While all do not labor in the same manner, or say the same things, yet the word of one will balance the words of another. In the midst of diversity there will be a beautiful harmony.

Let every one attend to his own individual case before God. Let every one confess his own sins with humility of mind. Let every one appropriate the rich promises of God's Word, and while working out his own salvation, with fear and trembling, labor for the salvation of others as well. R. & H. Sept. 20, 1906.

PATIENCE UNDER CONDEMNATION

To every man God has given a work to do. This is a solemn thought. Some will be regarded with suspicion by men who cannot discern spiritual things. Criticism will be freely given. But shall this stir up the passion of the human heart? or will the voice of God's workman be heard in song,

"Rock of ages, cleft for me;
Let me hide myself in thee."

The work of the very best of God's laborers will often be commented upon by men who have not a genuine experience in what it means to hide in Christ. Condemnation will be passed upon those who may be trying to do their work faithfully. Then is the time for God's workers, to show their gentleness, to hide in the cleft of the Rock. God's voice

says to them, "Be still and know that I am God"- Let-66-1898

POINTING OUT DUTY IN A COMPULSORY WAY

We are God's property. In Jesus Christ we are to behold a pattern of what we should be. Every soul should be educated to look not to his fellow-men, but unto Christ. He is the author and the finisher of our faith. Let no man think it his place to point out to others in a compulsory manner their duty. This God forbids. All are to be guided in the path of duty, by the plan word of God, - Let-172-1907

SATAN FIERCELY ASSAILS RESPONSIBLE MEN

Observing carefully every direction that the Lord has specified in regard to the Christian armor, you will walk before Him softly, and will work discreetly. You will not carry with you any yokes to bind men to your plans, nor will you attempt to make the Lord's workers amenable to any finite mind. The maxims and precepts of men are not to control His laborers. Let no man be placed in a position where he can lord it over God's heritage; for this imperils alike the soul of him who rules and the souls of those who are under his rule.

No man is so high in power and authority but that Satan will assail him with temptation. And the more responsible the position a man occupies, the fiercer and more determined are the assaults of the enemy. Let God's servants in every place study His word, looking constantly to Jesus, that they may be changed into His image. The inexhaustible fulness and the all-sufficiency of Christ are at our command if we walk before God in humility and contrition. . . .

Among the Lord's servants there is to be no commanding. No yokes are to be placed on the necks of God's blood-bought heritage. Every yoke is to be broken. Men and women are more precious in the sight of God than the human mind can estimate. Christ understands their value; for He sacrificed

Himself for their redemption. We are His property, the purchase of His life-blood. Sign not away your allegiance to any human jurisdiction or power. "Ye are not your own; for ye are bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." I Cor. 6:19,20.

Take unto you the whole armor of God, and never forget the gospel shoes of peace. Go not to any man with a heavy tread or with anger in your voice. Let all God's servants, from those occupying the highest positions, to those in the lowliest service, walk humbly before Him.

MS-140-1902

TO INVENT NEW PLANS

The cause of God today needs men who will first commune with God to learn their duty, and will then go forth to do what He commands irrespective of the bribes or threats of those who would bear rule over them. Men are needed who are guided by the Lord, and whom God qualifies to give to the people a plain "thus saith the Lord." Men are needed who pray to God for wisdom, and who under the guidance of God, can put new life into the old methods of labor, and can invent new plans and new methods of awakening the interest of church members and reaching the men and women of the world. . . .

Misinterpretation of Responsibility

Self-esteem and self-exaltation are prevailing evils, and because of this there is manifest a spirit of criticism, where no such thing should exist. And some who realize the responsibilities resting upon them, and who would go forth with the message of warning, are prevented by the forbiddings of those who feel that it is their prerogative to control the actions of their fellow-workers. Thus Satan is working to close the lips of some to whom God has given His message to the world; and if possible he will continue his working until souls who are convinced of the truth for this time, seeing the inconsistencies of those who profess to believe it, turn away and are lost. . . .

Tremendous responsibilities are ours; and men are called for who will not misinterpret their responsibilities, but will do their appointed work in a spirit of humility and in the fear of God. We should ever be work in a spirit of humility and in the fear of God. We should ever be afraid of a spirit that would lead us to place restrictions on the work of others, lest we hinder the advance of the message of truth. Those who have in the past allowed such a spirit to control them have sadly hurt the work. They need to repent and be converted; for the Holy Spirit cannot work with them while they refuse to acknowledge His counsel and control. He cannot use the men who employ the trust He has imposed upon them as an oppressive power to close the lips that He has opened.-

MS-117-1907

UNJUST CHARGES

In our work there is to be no lording it over those with whom we are connected. No sharp, dictatorial words are to be spoken. These are entirely uncalled for. Do not treat the workers as if you could not trust them. Never treat those with whom you work as unfaithful unless you have unmistakable evidence that they are unfaithful. And even when a worker's unfaithfulness is clearly proved, you are not to deal with him in a manner that will give him excuse for saying, "You were harsh." You are to do nothing that will provoke the erring to anger. Do not bear down on believers or unbelievers in a way that arouses the worst feelings of the heart. Do not make charges that may be cruelly unjust. By such a course, you may drive souls to perdition.- Let-126-1901

MEASURING OUT HARD JUDGMENT

There is too much selfish love among us. If there is a brother who encourages all we do and suggest as right, then we esteem that brother above others. If there is another whom we imagine does not look with favor on our way of doing things, we withdraw from that one and seek to demerit his work. The Holy Spirit is grieved with such a selfish religion as this.

and unless it is realized and put away, a spirit of prejudice and alienation will mar the work of God. God is dishonored when His people do not "love as brethren", when the pattern is not correctly represented.

We are not all required to do exactly alike in the work. Each has his individual work to do. Spiritual life will lead to unity. We are in the world for work, earnest spiritual work. But one man is not given the same sort that is given to another. If a worker does not follow the plan of work that another thinks is right, this should not cause difference and alienation. The manner of accomplishing the work may not be precisely the way in which another would do it, but if the labor is conscientiously performed, God accepts the effort. God asks for the performance of good works, and the results of the efforts made will testify to the virtue of the worker. By their fruits ye shall know them. . . .

In many cases hard judgment has been measured out when encouragement and commendation should have been given; for the results of the work done have shown that the blessing of God was upon it. Wherever this principle has been brought in, God wants a change to be made; for it is contrary to His plan. When man's mind is allowed to become the controlling power, both parties are injured - the one who allows himself to be conscience for another, and the one who permits himself to be controlled by human wisdom.

As workers we need to counsel together over difficult matters. It is right that brother should consult with brother, and it is our privilege after we have done this, to bow together in prayer, and ask for divine wisdom and counsel. But for one human voice to be a controlling power is a sad mistake, and this should not continue. - Let-186-1907

SECTION XIII
COUNSELS TO LEADERS

AVOID ERRORS OF THE PAST

Those who take hold of the work at this time are not to repeat the mistakes that have been made in the past, when men have sought to control and rule their fellow-workers. God forbids that this spirit shall come into His work. Another message than this is to be borne. Those who have felt a burden to place yokes on the necks of their brethren who desired to labor, are called upon to repent and be converted. "Seek ye the Lord while He may be found; call ye upon Him while He is near." Isaiah 55:6. The message of the third angel is to go forth with a loud voice. Wake up the watchmen; leave them not to settle back in their deathlike slumber.--a R. & E. July 23, 1908.

ENCOURAGE NEW LINES

The Lord works through various agencies. If there are those who desire to step into new fields and take up new lines of labor, encourage them to do so. Seventh-day Adventists are doing a great and good work; let no man's hand be raised to hinder his brother. Those who have had experience in the work of God should be encouraged to follow the guidance and counsel of the Lord.

Do not worry lest some means shall go direct to conscientious laborers who are trying to do missionary work in a quiet and effective way. All the means is not to be handled by one agency or organization.

There is much business to be done conscientiously for the cause of God. Help is to be sought from every possible source. There are men who can do the work of securing means for the cause, and when these are acting conscientiously and in harmony with the counsels of their fellow-laborers in the field which they represent, the hand of restraint is not to be laid upon them. Those who are laborers together with Him who gave His life for the salvation of souls, must not be bound about with territorial restraints. -- Let.-32-1908

LIMITING A WORKER'S USEFULNESS

When a precise line is laid down which the workers must follow in their efforts to proclaim the message, a limit is set to the usefulness of a great number of workers. I am charged to speak, saying, God seeth not as man seeth. Those who occupy responsible positions need to place a lower estimate upon the value of human wisdom and to esteem more highly the sanctification of the Spirit revealed in the lowliness and gentleness of Christ. . . .

To all who would mark out a course for their brother to pursue, the Lord says, Stand out of the way. Satan and his emissaries are doing enough of this kind of work. We are altogether too near the close of earth's history to seek to block the wheels of the chariot of truth. God's workers are to come into line, to pray together, to counsel together. And whenever it is impossible for them to gather for counsel, God will instruct through His Spirit those who sincerely desire to serve Him. -- Let.-32-1908

NO MAN'S JUDGMENT FAULTLESS

Every worker needs to guard himself against thinking that he is a complete whole. My brother, you should learn that wherever you are in

Counsels to Leaders

God's service, other minds besides yours should be brought into connection with the work. You will desire to do things that in your judgment should be done. But your will is not always to be followed. On some lines other minds may be more capable of giving wise counsel than is yours; therefore you need to counsel with your brethren. In your board-meetings let the other members fully express their minds. Do not regard your own judgment as fully sufficient to decide matters without any other voice. -- Let.-179-1902.

DANGER OF HASTY VOTES

God has given to each individual judgment, and this gift He wants His workers to use and improve. The president of a conference must not consider that his individual judgment is to be the judgment of all.

In no conference should propositions be rushed through without time being taken by the brethren to carefully weigh all sides of the question. Because the president of a conference suggested certain plans, it has sometimes been considered unnecessary to consult the Lord about them. Thus propositions have been accepted that were not for the spiritual benefit of believers, and which involved far more than was apparent at the first casual consideration. Such movements are not in the order of God. Many, very many matters have been taken up and carried by vote, that have involved far more than was anticipated, and far more than those who voted would have been willing to assent to, had they taken time to consider the question from all sides. -- Let.-340-1907.

TEACH OTHERS TO LOOK TO GOD

God has instructed me to say to Conference presidents and to ministers, Teach every church in the Conference to look to God for an

understanding of present truth and duty. The Lord has not placed upon presidents or ministers the responsibilities of the position that He alone, as head of His church, can occupy. Church and conference organization do not give to man any such responsibility. . . .

The exercise of authority has been carried to such extremes that it is now time to call a halt; for church members are receiving a false education. A mistake has been made that should be corrected before it is too late. Those who dare to accept responsibilities that are contrary to the gospel plan are in a dangerous place. They need to see its course of action in its true light. Their permissions and their forbiddings have fostered wrong ideas regarding the responsibility that individuals should carry, and have led believers to look to man instead of looking to God.

Brethren, the Lord will bless you in an effort to break up this wrong influence. Ministers will become weak and unchristlike if they continue to encourage this kind of work. God is to be the strength and wisdom of His people. Man power is not to rule the church of Christ. --

MS-75-1907

SECTION XIV

HUMBLE WORKERS TO BE ENCOURAGED

NEW PLANS TO BE INTRODUCED

ADVENTIST
HERITAGE CENTER
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ANDREWS UNIVERSITY

Let us strive with earnestness for the victory over sin. Let us be determined not to give place to the enemy by criticising, by picking flaws, by demeriting others, and seeking to be first. Let us study the prayer made in our behalf, and work for its fulfilment. Let us keep our eyes fixed upon the perfect Pattern. The only way to avoid dissension and strife is to behold Him who came to this world to save sinners. It is for this object that His followers are to work. They are to yoke up with the Saviour, learning of Him His meekness and lowliness. He says to us, "Lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world." Matt. 28:20. How then can there be dissension and strife among us? If we live as in Christ's presence, there will be no contention. There will be no hesitancy about introducing new plans of action, as the Holy Spirit may move upon some one to suggest them.

Christ's presence means advance. He imbues men, women, and children with a sense of individual responsibility. We need to feel the sacred, sanctifying influence of the Holy Spirit, that we may hear Christ saying to us, "Follow Me." "He that followeth Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life." (John 8:12). . .

There are many who stand with a stone in their hand, waiting to place it before the wheel. But the Holy Spirit can so convert these hindering ones that they will be prepared to place the stone behind the wheel, so that it will not roll back. Let us each seek to be ready to place the stone in the proper position. -- Let.-65-1900.

RESPECT FOR HUMBLE WORKERS

There are many who will spend and be spent to win souls to Christ. In obedience to the great commission, they will go forth to work for the Master. Under the ministration of angels, ordinary men will be moved by the Spirit of God to warn people in the highways and byways. Humble men, who do not trust in their gifts, but who work in simplicity, trusting always in God, will share in the joy of the Saviour as their persevering prayers bring souls to the cross.

We should say to them, Go forth, brethren, Do your best humbly and sincerely, and God will work with you. They should be strengthened and encouraged, and as fast as possible fitted for labor, that success may crown their efforts. They harmonize with unseen, heavenly instrumentalities. They are workers together with God, and their brethren should bid them God-speed, and pray for them as they labor in Christ's name. No one is authorized to hinder such workers. They should be treated with great respect. No one should speak a disparaging word of them as in the rough places of the earth they sow the gospel seed.

Christ will be with these humble workers. The angels of heaven will cooperate with them in their self-sacrificing efforts. By the power of the Holy Spirit Jesus will move upon hearts. God will work miracles in the conversion of sinners. Men and women will be gathered into church fellowship. Meeting houses will be built, and institutions of learning established.

These workers are trees of the Lord's planting. In a peculiar sense they bear fruit equal to the fruit borne by the apostles. They receive a reward in this life, and a glorious reward awaits them in the future life.

It is time that church members understood that everywhere there is work to be done in the Lord's vineyard. None are to wait for a regular

process before they make any efforts. They should take up the work right where they are. There should be many at work in what are called "irregular lines." If one hundred laborers would step out of the "regular lines", and take up self-sacrificing work, such as Bro. Shireman has done, souls would be won to the Lord. And the workers would understand by experience what it means to be laborers together with God.

Can it be that our brethren think that their criticisms are the productions of the Holy Spirit? It will be found that those who are criticised have more to show for their efforts than those who criticise. The names of the humble workers are stamped on the books of heaven, with the words, "Well, done, good and faithful servant:....enter thou into the joy of thy Lord." Matt. 25:23. But opposite the names of the critics stand the words, "Thou art weighed in the balance and art found wanting." Daniel 5:27. -- Let.-108-1901.

IN THE CLOSING WORK

In this closing work of the gospel there is a vast field to be occupied; and more than ever before, the work is to enlist helpers from the common people. Both the youth and those older in years will be called from the field, from the vineyard, and from the workshop, and sent forth by the Master to give His message. Many of these may have had little opportunity for education; but Christ sees in them qualifications that will enable them to fulfil His purpose. If they put their hearts into the work and continue to be learners, He will fit them to labor for Him.

With such preparation as they can gain, thousands upon thousands of the youth and those older in years should be giving themselves to the work. Already many hearts are responding to the call of the Master Worker, and their numbers will increase. Y.I. March 3, 1908.

MANY WILL BE STIRRED

Many young men and women now engaged in secular labor will feel earnestly stirred to give themselves to the service of God, to become channels of light. Some will feel a burden to enter the canvassing field, and will become able evangelists. Let these be given an opportunity to obtain an education for the work of God. And let all God's workers help and cheer and encourage one another with their prayers and faithful conversation, impressing one another with the dignity and responsibility of the work in which they are engaged. All missionary work is sacred. Said Paul, "Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ." -- 1st. 66-1901

WORKERS FROM ALL CLASSES

The truth is to go forth as a lamp that burneth.

The Lord will call men of high and low degree to do His bidding.

The prophet Daniel was a man of royal birth and noble heritage. Not many mighty, not many noble, are called. Yet we know that the Lord has chosen men from the highest ranks. On them the light of heaven has shone, and they have adorned by their practice the truth of Jehovah. Isaiah and Daniel were of royal birth. David was called from the sheepfold to the throne of Israel; Amos was a herdsman; Zechariah, a captive from Babylon; Elisha, a plowman. So the Lord calls men from all ranks to enter His service. Let.-96-1901

HUNDREDS OF WORKERS

Souls are perishing, and hundreds of workers are now needed. Men will be moved by the Holy Spirit to leave their ordinary employment and enter the barren fields that have never heard the last message of mercy. Many will be endowed with power from on high. They will work wisely, not expending means lavishly, but studying how souls can be brought to the knowledge of the truth by the opening of the Scriptures in house-to-house labor. This work men and women will take hold of for the love of Christ. Let-110-1901

WHEN THE CHURCH IS AWAKENED

When the church is awakened, decided changes will be made. Men and women will be converted, and so filled will they be by the Spirit of God that they will pass from country to country, from city to city, proclaiming

the message of truth. With hearts filled with earnest love for souls, they will open their Bibles and present the Word, "It is written." Wherever they go a people will be raised up to stand in the day of the Lord. The simplicity of these humble workers will be their strength; for angels of God work with those who are humble and obedient. Learned, eloquent men will not see the results from their work that are seen by these humble, zealous, praying men. — MS-3-1900

WORDS OF CONFIDENCE AND ENCOURAGEMENT

One of Mrs. White's last messages sent to the 1913 Gen. Conference.

For a number of months after the close of that meeting,³ I bore a heavy burden, and urged upon the attention of the brethren in responsibility those things which the Lord was instructing me to set before them plainly. Finally some ^{of} those in positions of trust in connection with the general work, after much prayer and careful study of the various messages given, ventured to undertake by faith the work called for, — a work they could not fully understand; and as they went forward in the fear of God, they received rich blessing.

It has brought great rejoicing to my heart to see the marvelous transformations that have been wrought in the lives of some who thus chose to advance by faith in the way of the Lord, rather than to follow a way of their own choosing. Had those brethren in responsibility continued to view matters in a false light, they would have created a condition of things that would sadly have marred the work; but when they heeded the instruction that was sent, and sought the Lord, God brought them into the full light, and enabled them to render acceptable service, and to bring about spiritual reformations.

* The meeting referred to is the General Conference of 1909.

When the Lord sets His hand to prepare the way before His ministers, it is their duty to follow where He directs. He will never forsake, or leave in uncertainty those who follow His leadings with full purpose of heart.

"I rejoice," my brethren, "that I have confidence in you in all things." And while I still feel the deepest anxiety over the attitude that some are taking toward important measures connected with the development of the cause of God in the earth, yet I have strong faith in the workers throughout the field, and believe that as they meet together and humble themselves before the Lord and consecrate themselves anew to His service, they will be enabled to do His will. . . .

I have been deeply impressed by scenes that have recently passed before me in the night season. There seemed to be a great movement - a work of revival - going forward in many places. Our people were moving into line, responding to God's call. My brethren, the Lord is speaking to us. Shall we not heed His voice? Shall we not trim our lamps, and act like men who look for their Lord to come? The time is one that calls for light-bearing, for action.

"I therefore.....beseech you," brethren, "that ye walk humbly of the vocation wherewith ye are called, with all lowliness and meekness, with long-suffering, forbearing one another in love; endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."- G.C.B. May 19, 1913, p. 34.

SECTION XV

GOD'S CHURCH TRIUMPHANT

GOD IS LEADING

From light to light God is leading His people. He liveth in light unapproachable, but surrounded by ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands of holy, happy beings, every one of them waiting to do His bidding. They are not inactive, but in communication with other worlds, in all God's vast dominion. This little world is but an atom of the Lord's dominion. Through various agencies, divine and human, He is seeking to save. He is actually stooping from His throne and observing the movements of every living being, and in His books are recorded every transaction; and through heavenly agencies He is lifting up the oppressed and pointing the way before every soul,--the way to reach the mansions above.

If men would co-operate with God, light from His throne would be penetrating all the highways and byways of life. All things are possible to those who are connected with the bright beams of the Sun of Righteousness. -- 1st.-36a-1890.

NO CALL FOR DESPONDENCY

Elder Olsen, I urge you to be of good courage. Have confidence in God. Carry every burden to Him. He can and will make you efficient, but you must have faith. Do not be depressed; do not mourn in secret because of the unfaithfulness of the watchmen on the walls of Zion. There is no call for despondency and misapprehension. Place yourself where the bright beams of the Sun of Righteousness can shine into all the chambers of your mind and into the soul-temple. Ye are the light of the world, God says.

He will make those who are faithful in the church radiant with the word of God. His Spirit will be communicated to human instrumentalities, giving them light before which moral darkness must flee away.--Let.-43-1890.

THE MESSAGE WILL GO WITH POWER

We are near the close of the controversy between the Prince of light and the prince of darkness, and soon the delusions of the enemy will try our faith, of what sort it is. Satan will work miracles in the sight of the beast and deceive "them that dwell on the earth by means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast."

But though the prince of darkness will work to cover the earth with darkness, and with gross darkness the people, the Lord will manifest His converting power. A work is to be accomplished in the earth similar to that which took place at the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in the days of the early disciples, when they preached Jesus and Him crucified. Many will be converted in a day; for the message will go with power. It can then be said: "Our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost." . . .

The work of the Holy Spirit is immeasurably great. It is from this source that power and efficiency come to the worker for God. . . . As Christ was glorified on the day of Pentecost, so will He again be glorified in the closing work of the gospel, when He shall prepare a people to stand the final test, in the closing conflict of the great controversy. -- R. & H. Nov. 29, 1892

FINAL SUCCESS DEPENDENT ON UNITY

I have laid out the matter as it has been presented to me. The third angel's message, in the place of swelling into a loud cry, is being smothered. Discouragements have come in. But the work is not to stop thus.

It is to increase in the power of the Spirit of God. The time has come when the whole earth is to be lightened with the glory of the angel which came down from heaven. A decided work is to be done in presenting the truth for this time, the truth that will sanctify the soul; for we are in that age of the world's history which Christ declared should be as the days of Noah were.

Two great armies are engaged in warfare. Satan with his great army is in conflict with Christ and God and the heavenly host. Satan has come down with great power, for he knows that his time is short, and he is working with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish. Then let the people who believe present truth understand that there is a work to be done in our world.

If we are laborers together with God, we have many fellow laborers with whom we should unite with heart and mind and strength. Our success depends upon our unity. Our efficiency and the power of our influence depends upon our wise and unreserved co-operation with one another and with God. We are to advance the work in new territories, sustaining pure principles at every step. We are to co-operate with the angel that is flying in the midst of heaven, who also is in harmony with the two former angels in forwarding the solemn event of the second appearing of Christ in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. -- MS-177-1899.

AN ASSURANCE THAT THERE WILL BE UNITY

Evil must be assailed; falsehood and error must be made to appear in their true character; sin must be denounced; and the testimony of every believer in the truth must be as one. All your little differences, which arouse the combative spirit among brethren, are devices of Satan to divert minds from the great and fearful issue before us. The true peace will come

among God's people when through united zeal and earnest prayer the false peace that exists to a large degree is disturbed. Now there is earnest work to do. Now is the time to manifest your soldierly qualities; let the Lord's people present a united front to the foes of God and truth and righteousness. . . .

When the Holy Spirit was poured out upon the early church, "the whole multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul." The Spirit of Christ made them one. This is the fruit of abiding in Christ. . . .

We have need of divine illumination. Every individual is striving to become a center of influence; and until God works for His people, they will not see that subordination to God is the only safety for any soul. His transforming grace upon human hearts will lead to unity that has not yet been realized; for all who are assimilated to Christ will be in harmony with one another. The Holy Spirit will create unity. --

Let.-25b-1892

AT THE ELEVENTH HOUR

Many souls will come from other denominational churches, and at the eleventh hour will obey all the truth, because they have not set themselves in array against heaven's light, but lived up to all the light they had; while those who have had great light, large privileges and opportunities, and have failed to live in the light and walk in the light, will drop out by the way. Their light will shine less and less until their lamps will go out for the want of the oil of grace in their vessels with their lamps. -- Let.-36a-1890.

THOUSANDS WILL ACKNOWLEDGE THE TRUTH

As we near the time when principalities and powers and spiritual wickedness in high places will be brought into warfare against the truth, when the deceiving power of Satan will be so great that if it were possible he will deceive the very elect, we must have our discernment sharpened by divine enlightenment, that we may know the Spirit that is of God, that we may not be ignorant of Satan's devices. Human effort must combine with divine power, that we may be able to accomplish the closing work for this time. Christ used the wind as a symbol of the Spirit of God. As the wind bloweth whither it listeth, and we cannot tell whence it cometh or whither it goeth, so it is with the Spirit of God. We do not know through whom it will be manifested.

But I speak not my own words when I say that God's Spirit will pass by those who have had their day of test and opportunity, but who have not distinguished the voice of God or appreciated the movings of His Spirit. Then thousands in the eleventh hour will see and acknowledge the truth. "Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that the plowman shall overtake the reaper, and the treader of grapes him that soweth seed." These conversions to truth will be made with a rapidity that will surprise the church, and God's name alone will be glorified. -- Let.-43-1890.

HARVEST PROPORTIONAL TO AGENCIES USED

We see the need of more devoted laborers. The prayer should go forth from unfeigned lips, for the God of the harvest to raise up laborers, for an increase of Christian instrumentality. The harvest of the world is to be reaped through the heavenly instrumentality co-operating with human agencies. In proportion as the agency is increased under the superintendency of holy messengers from heaven, will be the extent of the harvest reaped. -- Let.-3-1891

VICTORY FROM APPARENT DEFEAT

Never has there been a time when man has been so responsible to God as he is at the present hour. Never has there been a time when man's position has been so critical as it is now. All things in nature and in the world at large are charged with intense earnestness. Satan, in co-operation with his angels and with evil men, will put forth every effort to gain the victory, and will appear to succeed. But from this conflict, truth and righteousness will come forth triumphant in victory. Those who have believed a lie will be defeated; for the days of apostasy will be ended. -- MS-24-1891.

AN ALL-ABSORBING QUESTION

Those who are under the influence of the Spirit of God will not be fanatical, but calm, steadfast, free from extravagance. But let all who have had the light of truth shining clear and distinct upon their pathway, be careful how they cry peace and safety. Be careful how you make the first move to suppress the message of truth. Be careful what influence you exert at this time.

Those who profess to believe the special truths for this time need to be converted, and sanctified by the truth. As Christians we are made depositaries of sacred truth, and we are not to keep the truth in the outer court, but bring it into the sanctuary of the soul. Then the church will possess divine vitality throughout. The weak shall be as David, and David as the angel of the Lord. One question will be all-absorbing,----Who shall approach nearest the likeness of Christ? Who shall do the most to win souls to righteousness? When this is the ambition of believers, contention is at an end; the prayer of Christ is answered. . . .

Jesus longs to bestow the heavenly endowment in large measure

upon His people. Prayers are ascending to God daily for the fulfilment of the promise, and not one of the prayers put up in faith is lost. Christ ascended on high, leading captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. When after Christ's ascension the Spirit came down as promised, like a rushing, mighty wind, filling the whole place where the disciples were assembled, what was the effect? Thousands were converted in a day. We have taught, we have expected, that an angel is to come down from heaven, that the earth will be lightened with his glory. Then we shall behold an ingathering of souls similar to that witnessed on the day of Pentecost. --Lat.-25b-1892.

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