



5 Tools For Conversing With Adventists



For additional guidance, please refer to these resources in Section II

I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence. 1 Tim. 2:11

Rather than providing a written summary of tools as we have done with previous groups, we have chosen to list talking points which will be helpful when discussing issues with Adventists. These talking points are presented in the *recommended logical order*, but can be addressed in any combination, depending on how the Spirit leads. See [5 Things About Adventism](#) for a broader treatment of Adventism.

THE PRESENTING ISSUE	THE PRESENTING QUESTION
<p>1. The authority of the Bible.</p> <p>This issue alone separates all other religions from Biblical Christianity. Many false systems give lip service to the Bible but erode its authority by claiming that its translations are corrupted, its message has been replaced by a greater message, or its leaders have been given new insights from God. Adventists are convinced that they believe in the Bible on the one hand, and that Ellen White's teachings do not contradict it. Explain to the Adventist that you are not attacking Ellen White, but that you do have a right to expect that an unchanging God would be CONSISTENT in what He teaches.</p>	<p>Q. Do you believe absolutely that the Bible is the unchanging Word of God and that it is without error? If you do, is it your absolute and final authority?</p> <p>Q. Ellen White and the SDA Church claim that her teachings come from God. If it can be shown that her teachings directly contradict the Bible would you be willing to denounce her as a false prophet?</p> <p><i>Note: Simply search for Ellen White's teachings compared with the Bible, or visit: http://www.nonsda.org/egw/bible.html for talking points.</i></p>
<p>2. The interpretation of the Bible.</p> <p>There are only two ways to interpret the Bible. Either we interpret it literally, or we mix and match literal and allegorical interpretation. We do this when we spiritualize specific passages to make the Bible fit our preconceived ideas of what it says. This practice of mixing literal passages with spiritualized (or allegorical) interpretations is at the basis of <i>all</i> false teaching. When we interpret the Bible literally, we take its normal sense, including figures of speech, and metaphors, and try to understand the meaning of every word and sentence. When there seems to be a contradiction, we simply compare the verse under consideration with the rest of what the Bible says about that subject.</p>	<p>Q. Are you willing to take the Bible literally, for what it says or do you need someone other than the Holy Spirit to help you understand it? 1 John 2:27.</p> <p><i>Note: There are many excellent sources for strengthening your view of literal interpretation. Both the Lord Jesus and the Apostles interpreted God's Word literally when they quoted the Bible and we may also take their words literally! For a good starting point in this discussion visit: http://www.gotquestions.org/Bible-literal.html</i></p>

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<p>3. Investigative Judgment.</p> <p>This doctrine, unique to Adventism alone, teaches that Christ “returned” to cleanse the heavenly sanctuary in 1844. Though the believer’s sins are said to be forgiven, they are not “blotted out” until Christ has investigated the work of every believer to determine whether His blood should be applied on their behalf.</p>	<p>Q. Do you believe that salvation is by faith alone in the finished work of Christ alone and that it is not of works? (Most will affirm, but some will sense where this question leads.)</p> <p>Q. If salvation is not by works or by law keeping, why is it necessary to investigate your works before deciding to blot them out?</p> <p><i>Note: If any part of our salvation is of works, it is no more of grace (Romans 11:6). See WB cube (paper on our site.) It is especially important to emphasize Hebrews 9:12. He entered once (lit: once for all) into the holy place and obtained our eternal redemption.</i></p>
<p>4. Soul sleep and Annihilation of the wicked.</p> <p>These twin doctrines are based on the assumption that the soul literally dies with the body and is not immortal. Thus, the term soul sleep really means soul death. In Adventist thinking, God recreates the soul at the resurrection. This belief is critical to the doctrine of investigative judgment, else souls who are now with Christ could yet be judged and destroyed. It then follows that Adventists must reject the doctrine of eternal damnation.</p> <p>While these doctrines are absolutely wrong, one’s salvation is not dependent upon this. Therefore, they should be refuted, but they should be treated as issues <i>secondary</i> to the issue of salvation.</p>	<p>Q. In your view, does the soul simply sleep or does it go out of existence upon death?</p> <p>If the wages of sin is death and the soul goes out of existence, than there is nothing left for a man to pay. He has died. The law cannot condemn his soul and the penalty for sin has already been enacted upon Him.</p> <p><i>Note: For a thorough treatment of soul sleep search for “soul sleep refuted” or visit: http://www.pministries.com/soul_sleep.htm</i></p> <p><i>Because Adventists spiritualize away those passages in our Bible which speak directly about eternal torment, it is important to be able to defend normative literal interpretation when discussing this.</i></p>
<p>5. Sabbath Keeping.</p> <p>Adventists believe the pope changed the day of worship and because the pope represents the spirit of antichrist, all who knowingly agree with his dictum are under Revelation’s Mark of the Beast. Adventists showcase Sabbath keeping as the focal point for recognizing true obedience (thus salvation) . An Adventist would say that willful disobedience of the Sabbath means we are sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, so we are damned.</p>	<p>Q. Do you believe that Christ paid for all of our sins, past present, and future? (Hebrews 10:14).</p> <p>Q. The Bible says the first covenant contained the ordinances (Hebrews 9:1) and to offend in any part is to offend in all (Jas. 2:10.) Are you damned?</p> <p><i>Note: We can know we have eternal life! (1 John 5:11). To sin willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth (Hebrews 10:26) has to do with the discussion of willingly rejecting Christ’s sacrifice for sin (in the anticipation that forgiveness will be provided in the future by some other means). To say we have not sinned is to make God a liar.</i></p>