

A Group of Ellen G. White StatementsDealing With Those Less Favored

How little of the spirit of Christ has been manifested in the treatment given to the colored race in this so-called Christian country. The negro's color, the features that tell of his African descent, are a badge of humiliation to the whole race, because of the prejudice of the white people against them. They are often treated as if it were a disgrace to sit by their side, or even to worship in the same congregation. There is a large class with white blood in their veins, and bearing in their faces only the slightest trace of African descent, whose lives are embittered by the prejudice against them, being stigmatized as unworthy to associate with the whites, even in the worship of God. It is a shame for Christians who profess to be themselves redeemed by the blood of the Lamb, to take a position to make these men feel that the mark of a humiliated race is upon them, -- men standing in God's broad sunlight with mind and soul like other men, with as goodly a frame as has the best developed white man. There are keenly sensitive minds that brood long and intensely over the oppressions suffered and the slights they are made to feel. Many become jealous, soured, embittered, because of these prejudices, which make them feel every day that they are not like other men, not entitled even to worship God except in a prescribed manner. Even commiseration is humiliating, because it calls the sensitive mind to the misfortune that excites pity.

Many who are not subdued and elevated and made strong in the love of the one Saviour, curse their fate, and curse the white man, and almost blaspheme God who made them. This need not be. They cannot help their color.

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Cannot the children of God see that in conceding to the prejudice against the color of race, they are giving their influence to sanction a long course of neglect, of insult, of oppression? Will not the Lord call those to account who have had a part in this work?

Is not it time for us to live so fully in the light of God's countenance, we who receive so many favors from him, that we may know how to treat those less favored, not working from the world's standpoint, but from the Bible standpoint? Is it not right in this line that Christian effort is most needed? Is it not here that our influence should be brought to bear against the prevailing customs and practices of the world? Should not it be the work of the white people to elevate the standard of character among the colored race, to teach them how Christians should live, by exemplifying the spirit of Christ, showing that we are one brotherhood. No matter what the gain or the loss, we must act nobly and courageously in the sight of God and our Saviour. Let us as Christians who accept the principle that all men, white and black, are free and equal, adhere to this principle, and not be cowards in the face of the world, and in the face of the heavenly intelligences. We should treat the colored man just as respectfully as we would treat the white man. And we can now, by precept and example, win others to this course.

But there is an objection to the marriage of the white race with the black. All should consider that they have no right to entail upon their offspring that which will place them at a disadvantage; they have no right to give them as a birthright a condition which would subject them to a life of humiliation. The children of these mixed marriages have a feeling of bitterness toward the parents who have given them this life-long inheritance. For this reason, if there were no other, there should be no inter-

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marriage between the white and the colored race.--E. G. White MS 7,
Feb. 3, 1896. General Manuscript, (No record of how used.)

Not Accountable for Color

These people did not have to do with their color. They are not accountable for the fact that they are not white; and how foolish it is for human beings that are dependent for every breath they draw to feel that we should have nothing to do with the colored people. We have a duty to perform toward them, and in the fear of God we are endeavoring to discharge this duty by providing in every possible way for them to hear the third angel's message, and to fit themselves for proclaiming the truth to their own race. --Manuscript 15, April 26, 1909. Report of Talk to Teachers and Students at Madison.

Accountable For Cruelty

In the South the spirit of slavery is not eradicated; it has only been smothered for a short time. The desire to show their masterly authority over the blacks is still burning in the hearts of many who claim to be Christians, but whose lives declare that they are standing under the black banner of the great Apostate. When the whites commit crimes, they are often allowed to go uncondemned, while for the same transgressions the blacks, ignorant, debased, knowing nothing of the word of God, and scarcely knowing their right hand from their left, are treated worse than the brutes. The demon of passion is let loose, and all the suffering that can be devised is instituted against them. Will not God judge these things. As surely as the whites have brought their inhuman cruelty to bear upon the negroes, so surely will God's vengeance fall upon them.--Letter 99, June 10, 1899. To H. W. Kellogg of Review and Herald.

Counsel to Colored Believers

I am instructed to say to our colored laborers: Be kind in your families. Do not bring into the home circle any of the spirit or the cus-

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toms of slavery. Let no harsh words be heard in your homes. Overcome disorderly habits. Never indulge a harsh, authoritative manner. Never treat your wife as your slave. Remember that you are members of the Lord's family, and that in this world you are to give an example of what the Lord expects the members of His family to be. Your lips are to be sanctified to the Lord's service. You are to be Christlike in word and act. You may have witnessed much tyranny on the part of those who looked upon the Negro as their property, to be treated as they pleased; but because of this you are not yourself in your home to be a tyrant. God is the owner of all human beings.

Those who feel at liberty to torture those over whom they have authority will be dealt with by the Creator as they have dealt with those under them.--Manuscript 105, Oct. 19, 1908. General Manuscript entitled "Words of Counsel to Colored Believers". Copies sent to: A. G. Daniells, J. E. White, G. A. Irwin and C. P. Bollman.

Unity and the Outpouring of the Spirit

In the plan of redemption a place is allotted to every soul, and each one is to take the place assigned him and do the work appointed him. The work of God's people may and will be varied, but one Spirit is the mover in it all. God calls upon the members of his church to receive the Holy Spirit, to come together in unity and brotherly sympathy, to bind their interests together in love. Christian unity is a mighty agency. When God's chosen people are of one mind, barriers of selfishness will disappear as by magic, and many, many more souls will be converted, because of the unity which exists among believers. There is one body and one Spirit. Those who have been building territorial lines of distinction, barriers of color and caste, might better take these down much faster than they put them up. Man is to obey the word of God declared in the seventeenth chapter of John.

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He is to be one with his fellow-man and with Christ, and in Christ one with God. Then of him can be spoken the words, "Ye are complete in Him".

--Manuscript 83, May 17, 1899. General Manuscript entitled "That They All May Be One". Copies sent to: J. E. White and G. I. Butler.

More Difficult in South

It is more difficult to labor for the people in the South than it is to labor for the heathen in a foreign land, because of the prejudice existing against the colored people.--Manuscript 24, 1891. "Diary" Material, entitled "The Work in the Southern Field".

Separate Institutions Serving Colored and White on Same Farm Estate

About nine miles from Nashville, toward Edgefield Junction, Brethren Sutherland and Magan found a farm of four hundred acres for sale, which they thought might be used for school purposes.

As we looked this place over, we became deeply interested in it. The size of the farm, its location, the distance that it is from Nashville, and the moderate sum for which it could be purchased, seemed to point it out as the very place needed for our school work here. The house is old, but it can be used until more suitable buildings can be erected.

Other properties were examined, but we found nothing so well suited to the work. The farm is so large that it not only affords a place for the school for the training of white teachers, but a place also for a colored sanitarium and a training school for colored students. The school for white people and the sanitarium and school for colored people can stand entirely separate, and yet the teachers can counsel together; and the forces of both will thus be strengthened.--Letter 215, 1904. Letter to Miss Marian Davis, Mrs. White's literary assistant written from Nashville, Tennessee June 30, 1904. Largely biographical. Copies sent to: M. A. Davis, O. A. Olson, D. Lacey, C. B. Hughs, G. A. Irwin, Mr. Reichart, W. R. Young.

Wisdom in Race Relations

We should be kind and courteous to all, but especially are we to be pitiful and tender toward the unfortunate, as are the African race. God calls upon Christians, high or low, to represent Christ in their treatment of the colored people. God calls for his workers to consecrate themselves to the cause of justice and reform. But in every work there is a right way and a wrong way. In dealing with the colored race there are some who think it right to treat them as if in all respects on an equality with white people. This cannot be done safely. It is not right to say that no distinction should be made in the association of the two races. Let the colored people be treated as human beings. Let them be uplifted. The youth should be educated to become missionaries among their own people.

This should not, however, exclude the ministration of the white laborers whom God may send to work for the colored race. Special attention should be given to the education of laborers, both white and colored, for the work to be done in the South under judicious managers. But let no person lead you to believe that the work can be carried on as if there were no distinction to be made. White and colored children are not to be associated promiscuously in the Southern States. You cannot more effectually spoil the colored children of the South than by leading them to think that they are to be placed in every respect on a social equality with the white race. Untold evils will be the outcome. Our way would be hedged up, our work be placed in jeopardy. Lives would be sacrificed without gaining the least advantage.

The age in which we live calls for decided reformatory action; but wisdom must be exercised in dealing with the race that has so long been degraded and abused. That which is now undertaken cannot be carried forward as

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it might have been had the white churches at the time of the abolition of slavery, acted as Christ would have done in their place. They should have begun for these degraded multitudes the work of uplifting, seeking to correct the degrading habits taught them by the example of the whites.

As a nation we have been guilty of a great wrong. In the Judgment the charge of neglect will fall with heavy weight upon those who claim to be Christians, but who have left millions of people, men, women, and children, to become more and more depraved. In comparison with the great need there has been very little outlay of means to improve them by teaching them the knowledge of God. After being deprived of their rights, and for generations treated like cattle, they have been deprived of the means of bettering their condition. Virtually they have been left in heathenism, when they might have been helped to educate and elevate themselves. Their color has closed to them almost every possible avenue to improvement. There have been exceptions, but as a people they have received little labor, and have had little inducement to mental or moral improvement. God will soon take this matter in hand. He will judge the nation for their neglect and abuse of his creatures.

--E. G. White Letter 165, Oct. 22, 1899. Letter to F. E. Belden. No record as to use. Belden was General Field Agent for the Review and Herald.

Better Left Alone Until Truth Presented

I am sending you today another manuscript on the color question. I wish to say, however, that I have not finished writing on this subject. I think that the less this subject is agitated, the better it will be. If it is much agitated, difficulties will be aroused that will take much precious time to adjust. We can not lay down a definite line to be followed in dealing with this subject. In different places and under different circumstances, the subject will need to be handled differently. In the South, where the race

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prejudice is so strong, we could do nothing in presenting the truth were we to deal with the color line question as we can deal with it in the North.

This subject should be as little agitated as possible. We are to do as the Spirit of the Lord shall dictate. As we are led and controlled by the Spirit of God, we shall find that this matter will adjust itself. The white workers in the South will have to move in a way that will enable them to gain access to the white people. I wish that it were possible to leave the color line alone until the truth can be presented in the South.

When God's workers allow His Spirit to work upon their minds, much more will be accomplished in the work of soul-saving. The Lord is our Helper. He will guide us in all matters, if we will trust in Him. One thing is certain: We must have faith in God,--faith that He will arrange matters in a way that will enable us to work successfully. I know that no one ever trusted God in vain. He will never disappoint those who put their trust in Him.--
E. G. White Letter 165, August 3, 1903 to A. G. Daniells. Copies sent to:
W. W. Prescott and W. C. White.

Christians Occupied in Little Skirmishes

Among Themselves

There is danger that if the color line question is agitated before the people shall hear from the Bible the reasons of our faith, the minds of many will be closed against the truth. We must do all we possibly can to get the truth before the people. We do not want to close the avenues whereby we may gain access to people of every class.

We have no time to get into contention over the color line. What kind of a line could human beings make? They might lay many plans, which would be laid aside as impracticable to be worked out by the church. I have but one testimony to bear; Receive the Holy Spirit before you submit your plans for dealing with the color line. I can not see how, until then, any plans that you devise can be a success. When you receive the truth as it is in Jesus, you will find that the color line has adjusted itself. There will be a wonderful revival of gospel medical missionary work. The workers will all the time be receiving fresh, new ideas.

The great work before us all, as Christians, is to extend Christ's kingdom as rapidly as possible, in accordance with the divine commission. The gospel is to advance from conquest to conquest, from victory to victory. The greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High, and they shall take the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever and ever.

It is Satan's object to keep Christians occupied in little skirmishes among themselves. He knows that if they do not watch, the day of the Lord will come on them as a thief in the night.--E. G. White MS 77, August 2, 1903.
From General Manuscript entitled "The Color Line". Portions used in 9T, 213-222. Copy sent to J. E. White.

Counsel Regarding a Colored Superintendent
in a White Sabbath School

St. Helena, California,

July 16, 1901

Dear Brethren in Denver,--

You ask in regard to the wisdom of placing a colored brother as superintendent of your Sabbath School. There are reasons why this would not be advisable. For the spiritual good of the brother, this should not be done. And if continued, it would prove a detriment to the Sabbath school. In many minds there is a strong prejudice against the colored people, and as a result of such a move, constant difficulties would arise, which would hinder the growth and advancement of the school. From the light that has been given me for years in the past, I know that all would not show to a colored man the respect which for the good of a Sabbath school should be shown to the superintendent.

Those who are chosen to fill offices in the Sabbath school should be picked men and women. No frivolous young man or young woman should be placed in charge of a class of youth who need the very best instruction that can be given. There is too much at stake in this matter to allow carelessness. In the past too little attention has been given to this matter.

The workers in our Sabbath schools are constantly to seek to reach a higher standard. The very best talent is needed to make the work what it should be. The most thorough instruction must be given, and the most precious influence exerted.

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We are living amid the perils of the last days. The end of all things is at hand. Let power and grace be brought into the Sabbath school. The young men who desire to enter the ministry can find no better opportunity for fitting themselves for service than the work in the Sabbath school. Here they can impart to others the knowledge they have gained.

Sober, substantial principles must be brought into every effort. Nothing can be done successfully unless the workers prepare the way of the Lord by letting the light shine forth. Let the missionary spirit be encouraged. Individual effort is required. Activity is to be shown in every place, that the truth may be advanced.

I hope that the workers in Denver will be wise, and that they will constantly seek to increase in efficiency. Let them study their Bibles; for they need to increase in understanding.

As the matter is laid open before me, I see that there is need of substantial work being done in Denver. In the past many things have worked against the prosperity of the work there, and this unfavorable influence is not yet entirely removed.

There is a large class of colored people in Denver. Let special efforts be made for them, both by the white and the colored members of the church. Let the missionary spirit be awakened. Let earnest work be done for those who know not the truth. Let the white workers learn to labor for the colored people.

Colored men are inclined to think that they are fitted to labor for white people, when they should devote themselves to doing missionary work among the colored people. There is plenty of room for intelligent colored men to labor for their own people. Let those colored men who are fitted for the position of superintendent in a Sabbath school remember that they

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may do a much-needed work by establishing Sunday schools and Sabbath schools among the colored people.

The field is opening in the Southern States, and wise, Christian colored men will be called to the work. But for several reasons, white men must be chosen as leaders.

Could not a school be established in Denver where the colored youth could be taught by teachers whose hearts are filled with love for souls? The most decided efforts should be made to train and educate colored workers to labor as missionaries in the Southern States. Christian colored students should be prepared to give the truth to their own race.

There is much work to be done in the Southern field. Special efforts are to be made in the large cities of the South. White laborers are needed who will enter the Southern field and work so wisely that many, not only of the colored people, but of the white people also, will be converted.

We are glad that arrangements have been made by our brethren in the South, to use the power of the press more decidedly for the benefit of that field. God will go before his workers. He desires those who have light and knowledge to reach a higher standard of purity and holiness, that they may exert a saving influence upon those in the darkness of impenitence and unbelief.--E. G. White Letter 84, July 16, 1901. Copies sent to H. F. Richards, A. G. Daniells, J. E. White.

Intermarriage of White and Colored Races

North and South

My Brother,--

I have received a letter from _____, in reference to the step you propose taking in marrying a white girl. If you take this step, it will create great difficulty for the work in the Southern field and great trouble for the colored people.

From the first of your experience, you have not been truly converted. Instead of receiving the Holy Spirit, you have refused to repent of your sins and work diligently for the salvation of your soul. Will you close up your way by your stubborn persistence in following your own will? You have so high an opinion of yourself that you do not know the meaning of the words, "Learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart, and ye shall find rest unto your souls." You need to learn of Christ his meekness and lowliness.

The Lord has shown me that some, irrespective of consequences, will intermarry with the colored race. God has instructed me to say to such that their lives will always be in danger should they go to the colored districts.

The marriage you propose is not ordered by the Lord, and the result of it would be to close up many openings in the Southern field. Young man, remember that souls are involved in the step which you propose to take. You cannot now estimate the evil which would result from this step. And if you will not receive counsel and advice, there is only one thing for the church to do, to set you aside because you will not respect or heed its counsels.

There are some teachers who have taught that no distinction should be made between the white and colored people. Were their teachings followed, the way for missionary work in the South would be hedged up. Some have flattered and petted the colored people, greatly harming those who with

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proper treatment and proper education, would have made workers in the good cause of educating others.

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." We can perfect holiness only in the fear of the Lord. Those who are worthy of a place in the cause of God will work and walk in all wisdom, giving heed to instruction.

_____ says that you try to make others believe that what has been written with reference to the colored line means only those in the South. But it means those in the North as well as the South.

Were you in a different condition spiritually, you could be a blessing to the Southern field, in presenting the message of truth to the colored people. If you will humble your heart before God and work in harmony with his servants, you can be a channel of light. But if you exalt self, the Lord cannot use you in any line of his great work.

Let this first month in the new century be a month in which you will dedicate yourself to God, saying, Lord, I will yield my will to thine. Do not unite yourself in marriage with a girl who will have cause to regret the step forever after. It is a serious matter for you to teach a child to disobey her mother. This will stand registered against you unless you repent.

It is best for you now to stop and consider. Look at the situation as it is. Ask yourself, "In view of the opportunities and advantages granted me, how much do I owe to my Lord? How can I best glorify him and promote the interests of my people in the colored States? How can I use to the best advantage the knowledge God has been pleased to give me? Should I not open my Bible and teach the truth to my people? Are there not thousands perishing for lack of knowledge, whom I could help if I will submit myself to God, so that he can use me as his instrument? Have I not a work to do for my oppressed, discouraged fellows?"

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Take hold of this matter understandingly. There are those of your own race with whom, if united in marriage, you could do a good work for God. But if you should marry as you now intend, you would cut yourself out of the field and out of the work.

Time is short, and what we do must be done quickly. Resolve to redeem the time. Gather up the fragments, that nothing be lost. Rouse yourself from the paralysis of slumber, and no longer seek your own pleasure. Our Saviour lived not to please himself. Take hold of the work with a new purpose of heart. Say with David, "My voice shalt thou hear in the morning: O Lord, in the morning will I direct my prayer unto thee." If you now draw near to God, he will draw near to you.

O what covetous, selfish, short-sighted creatures human beings are. Distrust your own judgment, and depend on the judgment of God. Distinguish between what is pleasing and what is profitable. Do God's will submissively. The Southern field is suffering for workers. Will you pass by your people on the other side, or will you with a humble heart work to save the perishing? There is a work you can do if you will humble yourself before God. Trusting in him, you will find peace and comfort, but following your own way and your own will, you will find thorns and thistles, and you will lose the reward.--E. G. White Letter 4, 1901. Copies sent to G. A. Royston, J. E. White, E. Hibbard.

Beware Haphazard Advice!

No haphazard advice should come from the lips of any ambassador of Christ. He should fear the Lord and have his words in accordance with the will and ways of God. There is a time for much praying and less talking. This subject [relating to advice to our colored people regarding working on Sunday] is not a matter to which to give an off-hand assent or dissent. It is wonderful, sacred, solemn ground on which we stand and we cannot move recklessly without dishonoring God and ruining souls. All the universe of heaven is astir, looking to us to see what course we will pursue in this matter. While all Sabbathkeepers are anxious and troubled, seeking to penetrate the mysteries of the future, and to learn all they can in regard to the correct position they shall take, be careful that they are advised correctly in regard to Sunday observance. Action cannot be taken in regard to this matter here, and our people of all classes of minds and of varied temperaments should treat it wisely. There will be ever danger of going to extremes. Christ says, "Ye are My friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you." (John 15:14) Then to your knees in prayer, have far less of self and depend wholly on the counsel of God. Then, if all would be under the control of the Spirit of God there would be nothing to fear, for all would adorn the doctrine of Christ our Saviour.

He who has Christ abiding in his heart will so order his conversation as to bring no dishonor or reproach on the sacred truth of God. He will give no occasion to its enemies to blaspheme, will not be filled with self-confidence, but his confidence will be in God. He will not be revealing inconsistencies that are not in harmony with the precious truth of sacred origin. He will not be found going to extremes and furnishing scandal to be circulated

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far and near in the most exaggerated form. He must be a man that holds communion with God; a man that prays and does not pray in vain: "Hold up my goings in thy paths, that my footsteps slip not." (Psalm 17:5).--Letter 37, 1887. Letter to E. J. Waggoner and A. T. Jones. (No record as to use made of this.)