

## Questions anyone?

12. Why are nine of the ten commandments, in one form or another, mentioned over 100 times as part of the moral imperative of the Christian, except the fourth commandment to keep the Sabbath as a special day of worship?
13. Does God save us by the righteous things we have done, such as keeping the Sabbath? Does God instead, save us by His mercy? (Titus 3:5-7). What amount of credit can we claim for being *worthy* of salvation?
14. Can we be saved by keeping the Sabbath? Can we be lost by not keeping the Sabbath?
15. Why was the Church offering collected on the first day of the week, and not on the Sabbath when the Church "was supposed to meet?" (1 Cor. 16:2)
16. Why did the Apostle Paul violate so openly "the requirement for the Church" to gather and worship on the Sabbath by meeting to break bread (Lord's Supper) on the first day of the week instead? Had the Great Apostasy and the Mark of the Beast Church began to influence the early Church that soon after Christ's departure to heaven? (Acts 20:7)
17. Why were both the requirements and details for the Church to meet for worship on the Sabbath unknown among the writings of either the Apostles or the early Church Fathers?
18. If the Old Testament teaches clearly that the Sabbath was a sign between Him and the Jews as a memorial of their deliverance from Egypt and as a day of complete inactivity, why then are Gentiles compelled to keep the Sabbath? And why are Church members allowed to drive to Church on the Sabbath without being stoned to death? (Ex. 31:14-17)
19. If the law was simply a "shadow" of things to come, but the substance is found in Christ, why then return to the shadow and not stay with the reality? (Col 2:16-17)

20. If there "remains a rest" for the people of God, which was not the Sabbath day, and upon entry into God's rest, we "cease from our own works", why not seek to enter the true Sabbath rest? (Heb. 4)
21. If Paul taught in Galatians that Christ set us free from the bondage of the law which was a yoke too heavy to bear, why then seek slavery instead of freedom? (Gal. 5:1)
22. Why not rather seek to bear the yoke of freedom from the law and relationship with the Son of God. Why be under the yoke of the law, when you can be "in-lawed" to God through the Lord Jesus?

### Jesus said:

**"Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."**

**Matt. 12:28-30**



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# Happy Sabbath?





## SDA Distinctive 20

Commitment to and observance of the seventh day Sabbath is SDA distinctive number 20 to which an Adventist gives acknowledgement and pledges observance at his baptism. Keeping of the Sabbath is considered by most Adventists as the most important distinctive separating the true “remnant church” from the church of Roman Catholicism and Protestantism which ultimately bears the mark of the beast and is the apostate church. Distinctive number 20 states: “The beneficent Creator, after the six days of Creation, rested on the seventh day and instituted the Sabbath for all people as a memorial of Creation. The fourth commandment of God’s unchangeable law **requires the observance** of this seventh-day Sabbath as the day of rest, worship, and ministry in harmony with the teaching and practice of Jesus, the Lord of the Sabbath. The Sabbath is a day of delightful communion with God and one another. It is a symbol of our redemption in Christ, a sign of our sanctification, a token of our allegiance, and a foretaste of our eternal future in God’s kingdom. The Sabbath is God’s perpetual sign of His eternal covenant between Him and His people. Joyful observance of this holy time from evening to evening, sunset to sunset to sunset, is a celebration of God’s creative and redemptive acts.” Cf. EG White Great Controversy pp 58-59

### Gregorian or Lunar Calendar?

Why have the SDAs changed the Sabbath from the lunar calendar to the Gregorian calendar? Are not all the feast days and Sabbaths of the Bible based on the phases of the moon? Is the SDA celebration of the weekly Sabbath the “true Sabbath of God?” We must then ask if details really matter when God speaks?

### Questions anyone?

1. Did the Jews in Old Testament times meet to worship on the Sabbath? If not, what did the Covenant Community do on the Sabbath?
2. Where does the New Testament record show that the Church met to worship on the Sabbath and what does it say they should do?
3. What could be the reason that God would leave His Church with such a scarcity of instruction as there is in the New Testament about such an important distinctive as the Sabbath?
4. Where does the New Testament command Sabbath keeping for the Church?
5. Why were both Jesus and the Apostles silent about the imperative for the Church to keep the Sabbath and what to do when they did?
6. Why does Jesus always group the Sabbath commandment with the ceremonial and ritual laws which “faded away” with the replacement of the Old Covenant (Testament) by the New Covenant? (Heb. 8:13)
7. If Sabbath keeping is the mark of the true remnant

Church and Sunday keeping is the mark of the Devil’s Church, why is the New Testament consistently unclear and even silent about such a major distinction?

8. Why was Jesus so careless and neglectful on such an important issue as Sabbath keeping, to tell any believer what they should or shouldn’t do on that day?
9. Why do we find the words of Ignatius, one of the earliest Church Fathers, and his comments on the observance of the Sabbath in such general acceptance in the early second century and for at least a millennia following? When describing Christians with a Jewish background as those who “have come to the possession of a new hope, *no longer observing the Sabbath*, but living in observance of the Lord’s Day, on which (the first day of the week) also our life has sprung up again by Him and His death.” (Magnesians 9) Why is there no record in history of such a non-sabbatarian heresy being condemned?
10. Were the early Christians “breaking or ignoring the sacredness of the Sabbath”, when they gathered daily from house to house to break bread instead of waiting until that one special day and giving it the honor?
11. Why does the New Testament make it clear that the observance of a particular day was not imposed as a binding obligation on the Church? (Rom. 14:5-6) Why was freedom given to the Church in regards to special days? Why did Paul command in Col. 2:16-17 not to allow anyone to act as their judges in regard to Sabbath days? Why does Paul warn in Gal. 4:9-10 against going back under law by insisting on the legal requirements of special days?

**If indeed it is true, that Sabbath keeping is central and paramount to the meeting, the worship, and the focus of the New Testament Church, then these questions must be considered. The answers to any and all questions of religious behavior and belief, as SDAs admit, must be settled in the court of Scripture.**

