

HOW DO YOU KNOW IF YOU'RE A SEXIST? PART 3

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We started with the question, "How do we know if we're a sexist or not?" We went through the steps to show if you were a sexist or not. First step was for us to Compare and Contrast (C/C) ourselves to something. That something was the moral standard of what is right and what is wrong. Next step was to determine if the moral standard itself was right or wrong. We found out that we need to be sure of the source of the inspiration in which we believe. This is where we have difficulties because we believe in the Bible and Ellen G. White (EGW). We're good and faithful Adventist. Our source of inspiration is the Bible and EGW. However, it depends on how we read the Bible and EGW because depending on how we read, we have a different moral standard, a moral standard to which we C/C ourselves.

We talked about 2019, and how our moral standard changed. We accepted equality. Beforehand, a women was to wear dresses and was not allowed to be ordained. We C/C ourselves to the standard, and we see that we're good. But then, based upon how we read, using methodology and line upon line, 2019, publically, our moral standard changed. Suddenly, when we C/C ourselves to the standard something is not right anymore. Now, women should be free to wear pants. Now, women can be ordained. If we incorporated that in our line, and we C/C ourselves to the updated moral standard, we see that we live according to the standard. We're on the right path.

So, the problem is not the steps we take, but the problem is what foundation do we have in order to develop our moral standard to which we C/C ourselves. These are the steps that everyone takes, but the question is, what is our source? How readest thou? Would you take the "Thus saith the Lord," or do you take the lines and the methodology? And this is what has happened to this movement. We have established that the lines and the methodology were one of the first things given to this movement. God first teaches us how to read. Since that time, we have been growing, maturing, in the understanding of how to read. And this growing process is also by which the standard is growing.

People who do not the like the standard or who do not like to change their lives, they will find ways to attack the mechanism by which we change. They will attack some of the steps. So, you have the faithful group who believe in the methodology that God has given, trust that the standard is God given and not given by an individual person, but by the methodology that God has given, the next step should naturally be to change your life according to the new standard. This is the faithful group, but we also know that whenever there is an update, a change in the

standard, i.e. women can now be ordained, and they are equal to men, there will be people who accept it and people who reject it.

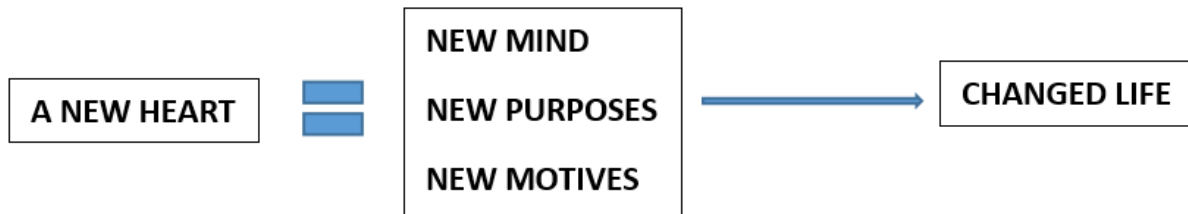
There will always be a shaking when new truths are introduced. Inevitably, there is always a shaking when the standard gets updated. People who are shaken or unhappy with the update, often attack the messenger or the source. They say that the new standard is not according to the Bible and EGW. With that kind of an argument, what are they really attacking? They are actually attacking the source. They attack the line upon line and the methodology, and they would rather take the "Thus saith the Lord." This is one way to reject.

The other way to reject is bit more subtle. They can say yes to the source, amen to the standard, but they refuse to C/C themselves to the new standard. Elder Tess has been saying that you have people accepting equality and say yes, I believe in equality, but then at Panium, they say, "Lord, Lord, have we not in Thy name." What is the problem? They accept the standard but they don't C/C themselves to the standard. They might say, I believe that my wife is equal but she cannot have the keys to my car or cannot have a credit card. You say yes to equality, but there is a problem with C/C your life to the standard. You do not change.

Again the question, how do I know if I'm a sexist? The steps, the mechanism, by which we change has been laid out. We need to C/C ourselves to the standard. The standard is established by line upon line and methodology. Some people attack these steps. One side says, I want the "Thus saith the Lord," women cannot be ordained, and they are rejecting the MC message. But the other side who say, yes and amen, I believe the methodology and the lines, I believe in equality, but when it comes to the C/C their lives to the standard, they are neglectful; they remain sexist. One path, two ditches.

As Elder Tess has mentioned in the past, like the Apis Bull, you have the form and the spirit. When we want to get rid of sexism, we cannot just get rid of the form. We have to also change the spirit. It's not enough just to commit verbally to equality, we have to change our thinking, our mindset. Standard Adventist statement, if we want to go to heaven, we know that we need something new in us. What is this new thing that we need in us? Speaking about the standard Adventist understanding, what is that new thing that we need? A new heart. "A new heart I will give you also, and I will take away your stony heart." We need a new heart.

What does a new heart look like according to EGW? EGW defines what a new heart looks like. Messages to Young People (MYP) 72.1 – "To have a new heart is to have a new mind, new purposes, new motives." So, according to EGW, this is what a new heart is. What is the sign of a new heart? How does a new heart express itself when you have a new mind, new purposes, and new motives? By having a changed life. There is a daily, hourly, dying to selfishness and pride. So, the title of this section of the MYP is "Not Feeling but a Changed Life." She also says in page 71.2 that "many who speak to others of the need of a new heart do not themselves know what it is meant by these words. The youth especially stumbles over this phrase, 'a new heart.'"



What is she saying here? People struggle to understand what it means to have a changed or a new heart. She explains now what the problem is. Why do people get confused what it means to have a new heart? She continues by saying that people “look for a special change to take place in their feelings. This they term conversion.” People “look for a special change to take place in their feelings” and then they say, I am converted. EGW says that “over this error, thousands have stumbled to ruin not understanding the expression, ‘you must be born again.’” This is the problem that they have.

The standard was updated in 2019. Now the new standard says that equality is on the list. And what does God tell us? We need a new heart. In the time that we ought to be teachers, we need for someone to teach us again. We all need a new heart because we have grown up in the spirit and the form of the Apis Bull. We have all learned and grown up to be sexist. We are all victims of that evil. God tells us that we need a new heart, and what does a new heart look like? What is a new heart? EGW gave us three things in the quote – new mind, new purpose, and new motives. How does the new heart express itself? What is the sign of the new heart? A changed life.

So, a new heart which God is willing to give us is a new mind, new purpose, and new motives, and this new heart is expressed through a changed life. We must make an effort to die daily, hourly to selfishness and pride. This is the mechanism how we get a changed life. The nature of man. We have a habit, and our habit is to be sexist. Then the new standard comes, it is updated, and we no longer are allowed to be sexist. So, what do I need to do? I need to change my sexist habits. Now we can go into the science of how to change habits. EGW will summarize that or use symbols like daily and hourly dying to selfishness to explain that process.

When the standard is updated, equality is added, it is not enough to say, amen, I believe in equality. We also need the spirit. The spirit is that process, the way we think, our motives. This is what needs to be change. We need to take our thoughts, our motives, and our purposes, and

C/C them to the standard. We need to live according to the standard. So, what is a new mind? Simply put, the way we think, how our thoughts are processed. In the internet, it says that the mind is thoughts, feelings, and self-awareness. The Wikipedia says that mind is thoughts, imaginations, perceptions, pain, experience, belief, desire, tension, emotions.

Let's stick with thoughts, our thought process. What is purpose? Purpose is the reason for something. For example, the purpose of a phone is so that you can call someone. The purpose for a water bottle is to contain drinkable liquid. So, what is our purpose? What is our goal? Why do we even exist? Why do we do anything? What is our motives? What is the motivation behind what we do? If we pick up the water bottle to drink, most likely, we are motivated by our thirst. If we do something in our lives, often, we have motives behind it. What are the motives behind our actions?

If you want to have a new heart, as good Adventists, we know that we need a new heart. EGW and the Bible tells us that we need a new way of thinking, new reason, new purpose for the things that we do, new goals, and we need new motivation, why we act the way we act. We connect this to sexism. Sexism is our test, and God will test us, not just because we have told everyone that we believe in equality. Let's take the symbology of hoops or hole, i.e. eye of needles, the holes where the thread goes through, and the holes are diminishing in size. At the large hole, you claim to believe in equality, but you don't have the new heart.



So, you get through the first hole because it is big enough to get through just by your claims. But, as the journey continues, these holes get smaller and smaller. As the holes become increasingly smaller, it is no longer enough just to say that you believe in equality. You must now demonstrate that the message has entered into your heart. If it has not, you will not fit through the tiny hole. If your actions do not agree with what you say, then you will not fit through. However, if you demonstrate a changed life as shown by your actions, then you will fit through.



So, you will be measured as with a ruler, as with a plumb line to see if you're indeed straight. This is how God knows if someone is ready or not. They use the same system in companies and factories. If you have a bucket full of things in it with different sizes, what they often do is empty the bucket on a platform which shakes. This platform has holes that only a certain size will fit through. This is one way, for example, where different size coins are emptied into a container, and the coins are put into their proper place as they fit through their respective sizes. The coins will not fit into any other holes but only to their respective holes that is specifically made for their size.

God does the same. He goes through the history, through the line, and at every waymark the hole gets smaller, and depending on how much you are living up to the standard, how much you have been changed by it, you will either fit through or not. What does God actually use? What occurrences? The shakings. Remember the parable of the objects of different sizes on the shaking platform with holes that factories use to sort out the objects? This is what is happening to the movement. It continues to be shaken to see who will fall through, and who will live up to the constantly updated standard.

EGW says that everything that can be shaken will be shaken. It will be shaken for so long that only few will remain. Part of the few are those who have accepted the present message, and their lives are changed by it. They have removed sexism from their lives in the form and the spirit. We need a new heart. We need to have a new thought process; a new purpose; a new motivation. If we have that, our lives will change. This is why this message is a life changing message. This is why we need to self-analyze and continue to C/C ourselves to the standard. As the standard is elevated, we must be elevated.

What if, however, we don't know about the standard? We might know that there is a standard, but we don't know what is written. If we don't know what is written in the standard, can we C/C ourselves to the standard? Can we have a new heart? No, we cannot. It is not enough just to believe in the correct method, it is not enough to acknowledge that we have a standard based upon the message, but these two points, the standard and the methodology, are essential. People attack them. We need to guard them. These two points are essential. If we don't obtain the knowledge about the standard, however, to educate ourselves, it will not be

enough just to believe in the lines and the methodology. We need to know what's written in the standard in order to C/C our lives to the standard.

The mechanism by which we change, receive a new heart, has been laid out for us. God uses this to change us. There are many different points, however, that we can go wrong. We can attack the lines. We can attack the standards. We can fail to C/C. We can fail to educate ourselves on what is written in the standard. We need to factor all these things. We cannot just have the form, but we also need the spirit. We need a changed life which we need in order to get to heaven. EGW warns us. A new heart is not a changed feelings. Do not wait until you feel right. Feelings are part of our lower nature. They are part of the physical in the nature of man.

People are often so focused on their emotion and how they feel, and EGW warns us not to look for changes in the feeling and then call this conversion. We need to act by principle. We need to use our higher nature. God has given us all the instructions we need to know where we can look at our lives and ask ourselves if we have received and accepted the message or not. The problem that we're having, because the people are so focused on their emotions, when you get to 2019, and the standard is updated, when you C/C yourselves how will you feel? Since 2019, women are being treated as equal to men. When the husbands C/C themselves to the updated standard, not just husbands but also sons, brothers, and fathers, will they feel good or bad? Bad. Unhappy. Our natural inclination is to reject what makes us feel bad.

If we have a good feeling, we're happy, then we are on the right path. EGW warns us when you check yourselves, if you live according to how God wants you to live, don't based that on your feelings. Based it on the check list. Take your actions, your thoughts, your dreams, your motives, and check them not with your feelings but with the standard. And then based upon rules, you will know if you're on the right path or not. Do not base on feelings because if you do, you will be lying to yourself.

It is natural that sometimes when something is new, new behavior is expected from you, you might feel fear. For example, if you have a wife being abused by her husband, and she knows that she should leave him, oftentimes, women in this situation cannot leave their abuser. Often in this case, women need help, support or professional help until they find the strength to break away. If you're afraid, go and get support or help. If you get counsel, you might reach the solution to do what is right. Getting support might give you the courage to take the steps in the right direction. Every member in this movement should know that they are not a lone warrior, they are not alone in battling an army. The movement is an army, and we help one another. People can reach out for help. No one needs to be alone in trying to bring in the message into their lives.

In summary, we have to answer the question, how do I know if I am a sexist? First of all, we need to look at the mechanism. How does the mechanism work so at different steps we can know if we're sexist or not? What can go wrong in this mechanism? If we just do these steps, we're safe. We're on the right path. Every update of the standard is causing the shaking, and

then people at some point along the mechanism are trying to reject or attack the steps. We have a road, and on each side of the road, you have a ditch. You can be in the ditch where you deny the methodology and you say, "Thus saith the Lord." The other ditch is where you profess to believe equality, but your life doesn't reflect it. You have the spirit of the Apis Bull. You need to change the spirit. EGW gives us a parable where she talks about a new heart. When the message of equality come, we're being tested. It's not enough to say that I believe in equality; our hearts need to be changed.

We need to fit through the difficult hole, the eye of the needle. Then we have to look at what is a new heart. EGW warns us that people base their understanding of the new heart by their feelings, by how they feel. Same warning for us, when you have the standard being updated, don't base, don't C/C yourself against the standard based on your feelings. You will end up lying to yourself. Base it upon the understanding, the knowledge that EGW has given us. We need to have the knowledge of the nature of man. A new heart is to think differently, to have different goals, different purposes, and different motivations from what we use to have. With the message regarding sexism, we used to think as sexist, have sexist dreams, and sexist motives. But now, as we have a new heart, we must stop having sexist thoughts, sexist dreams, purposes and motivations.

This is how we have a changed life. Changed life is the sign that we are living according to the message. This is the living testimony that must be revised among God's people. We're waiting for Panium. We are eager to go to the Levites. We're happy to speak about the LGBTQIA. But Elder Tess is restraining us and is telling us, why should we going to the next subject if we have not accepted sexism yet. Why does she keep belaboring this point? Why does she continue to repeat this subject? We look to the right, we look to the left and ask, isn't it time to move on? Isn't sexism old news? The problem that we have is that before we can go to the Levites, we have to pass through the eye of the needle. We are standing before the last, the smallest hoop, and we want to just bypass it. We want to just go to the Levites. We can't do that. What we're trying to do is, is trying to get as many people through this last hoop as possible.

How many ways lead to heaven? Only one. There are many ways leading to Rome, but there is only one way to heaven. If we want to continue as a faithful priest on our line, we need to fit through the last eye of the needle before we can go to the Levites. So, be thankful that we have a wise leader who is holding us back and say that we need to understand sexism before we can continue on our journey because that is the only way where we have some more time and chances so that we can fit through the hole, and actually be prepared to go to the Levites. But, if we hasten and say that we've been dealing with the subject of sexism for one and a half years so it's time to move on, we will go to the Levites, and we'll find ourselves wanting. This is what it means in the Bible verse, "Lord, Lord, have we not in Thy name." God says, "I know thee not." So, let's not rush. Quality is better than quantity. Everything that we need to know is there. We need to know the mechanism. EGW, by the study of the nature of man, gives us the process of how we can change our lives.

What we need to do is to bring all the puzzle pieces together. We need to follow the mechanism while daily, hourly, dying to selfishness and pride. We need to work on getting a new heart and a changed life that reflects the new heart. The conservative Adventist world speaks abundantly about the need for a new heart. They will use quotes where they say that we cannot change our hearts; only God can to change our hearts. Christ have to give us this new heart. Based upon that understanding, they spend hours on their knees, begging God for a new heart, and they're waiting and waiting their whole lives until God will change their hearts. But like in Christ's time, when everyone was waiting for the Savior, and they were going to the temple to pray or it, what did the small group understand? The time is fulfilled. The Savior is among us. This is where we find salvation.

Conservative Adventist will spend hours praying for a new heart. They plead with God for a new heart, but they are seeing the mechanism and they're not seeing that the message is already here. If you want a new heart, then take the steps of the mechanism that has been laid out. Get up from your knees and put this mechanism into effect. Believe the methodology and the line. Believe in equality. Know the standard. C/C it with your life, not based upon feelings but upon principle. Then, you will come to find that you have a new heart if you are faithful in implementing the steps that God has already laid out for us. No one needs to fail this journey, and no one needs to be ignorant of this. God has taken care that everything that we need is there.

Prayer – Amen.