

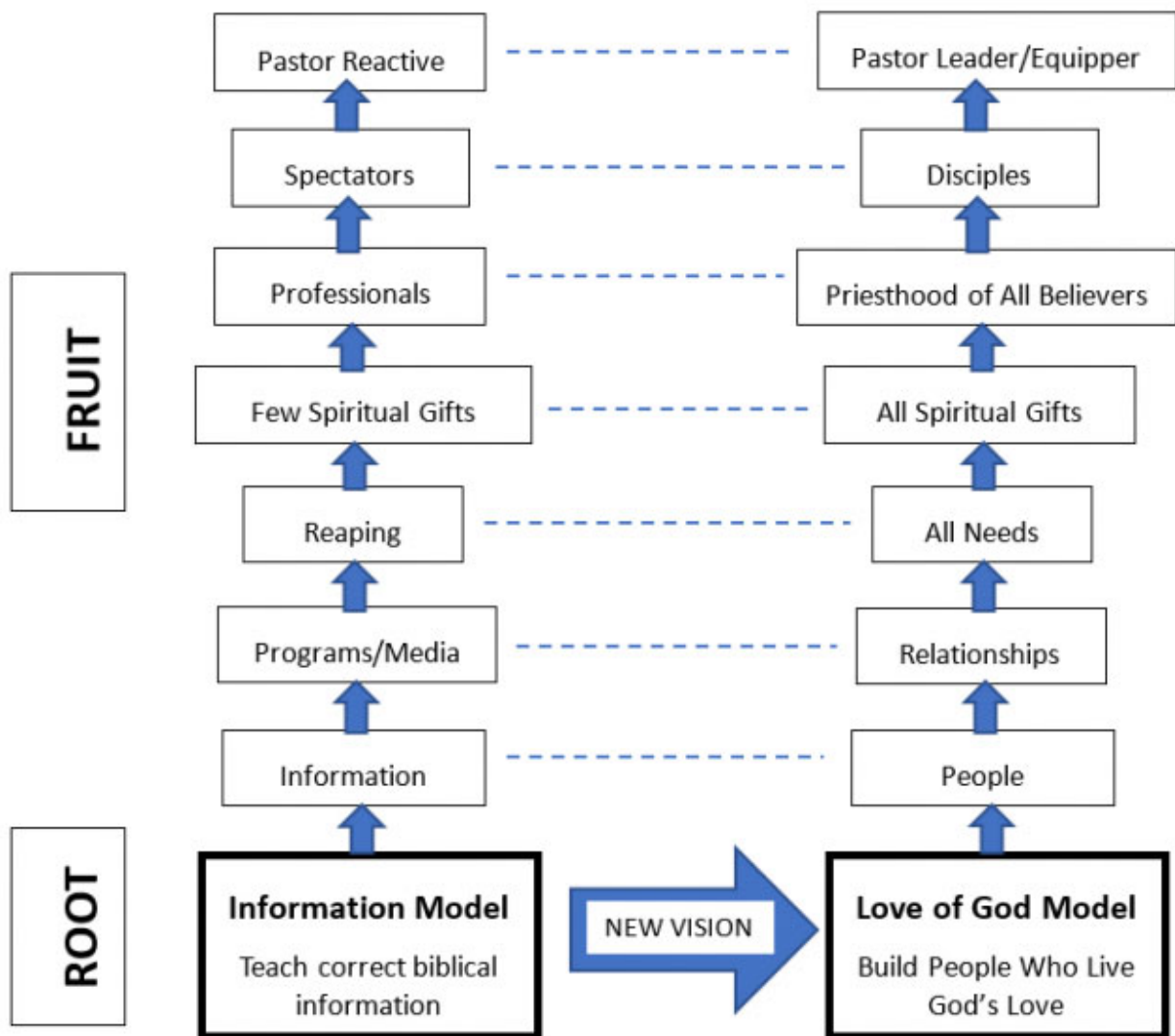
An Invitation to the Remnant Church
Hyde Park Seventh-day Adventist Church
Part 1: The Standard of Discipleship

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Key Text: **John 13:34-35**

One of the main challenges that confronts God’s Last-Day church is the disjuncture between orthodoxy (*correct beliefs or teachings*) and orthopraxy (*correct practice or conduct*).

Two different paradigms of the Church highlight this dichotomy between orthodoxy and orthopraxy.



Kim Allan Johnson, “Two Models of Church: Which One You Choose Makes All the Difference,” *Spectrum*, vol. 47, no. 2 (May 24, 2019), <https://spectrummagazine.org/views/2019/two-models-church-which-one-you-choose-makes-all-difference>, accessed May 28, 2019.

How does the Bible describe the concept of “the remnant”?

1. **2 Kings 19:30-31** teaches that the remnant are those who SURVIVE and are PRESERVED by the Lord the bear witness to HIS CHARACTER.
2. **Ezra 9:8** affirms that the remnant are those who have experienced GRACE to represent God.
3. **Isaiah 1:9** asserts that the Lord PRESERVED a remnant to bear witness to His GRACE. (See also Isaiah 10:20-23; 37:32)
4. **Jeremiah 23:3** teaches that God will gather the remnant of His flock, make them FRUITFUL, and cause them to INCREASE.
5. **Romans 11:5-6** affirms that the remnant is established according to the ELECTION of GRACE.
6. **Revelation 12:17** identifies God’s remnant people as those who keep the COMMANDMENTS of God have the TESTIMONY of Jesus Christ. (See also Revelation 14:12)

The concept of “The Remnant” is anchored in the biblical teaching that God, in grace, preserves people in every generation to bear witness to His character of grace. This biblical concept involves both *correct beliefs* and *correct conduct*. The commandments of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ are not mere dogmas or propositional truths. They are invitations to lives of radical discipleship for Christ.

“If the truth we profess to believe does not change the heart and transform the character, it is of no value to us.” (E. G. White, “Brotherly Love Needed,” *Review and Herald*, October 31, 1893).

“Men may speak fluently upon doctrines, and may express strong faith in theories, but do they possess Christianlike meekness and love? If they reveal a harsh, critical spirit, they are denying Christ. If they are not kind, tenderhearted, long-suffering, they are not like Jesus; they are deceiving their own souls. A spirit contrary to the love, humility, meekness, and gentleness of Christ, denies Him, whatever may be the profession.” (E. G. White, *Evangelism*, 632.4)

What does John 13:34-35 teach us about the identity of Christ’s disciple?

1. They are called to keep Christ’s commandment to LOVE one another.
2. Jesus Christ is the standard or model for the LOVE that must exist among His disciples.
3. Christ’s LOVE is divine and not a mere human EMOTION.
4. The identifying mark of Christ’s disciples is the Christ-like LOVE they have for ONE ANOTHER.

Concerning the early Christians, Tertullian (A.D. 160 – 225), the North African Christian scholar wrote, “But it is mainly the deeds of a love so noble that lead many to put a brand upon us. See, they say, **how they love one another**, for they themselves [i.e., non-Christians] are animated by mutual hatred. See, they say about us, **how they are ready even to die for one another**, for they themselves [i.e., non-Christians] would sooner kill.” (*Apology*, A.D. 197)

How does 1 John 2:3-11 help to identify God's true representatives?

1. Those who truly know Christ keep His COMMANDMENTS.
2. Those who keep Christ's commandments WALK in LIGHT and not darkness.
3. Those who walk in LIGHT are those who LOVE one another.

What challenge does Ephesians 5:1-2 give to God's church?

1. Be IMITATORS of God.
2. Walk in LOVE, as Christ has loved us and GIVEN Himself for us.
3. Like Christ's offering and sacrifices of love, our love for one another must be PLEASING and ACCEPTABLE to God.

According to 1 Thessalonians 4:9, it is God teaches us how to LOVE ONE ANOTHER.

How does 1 Peter 1:22 help us understand what it means to obey the truth?

1. We obey the truth through the SPIRIT in sincere LOVE.
2. Obeying the truth will lead us to LOVE one another FERVENTLY with a pure heart.

Excerpts from *Christian Leadership*

When Their Counsel is Not Followed - God sees every transaction; nothing is hid from Him. There is too much responsibility assumed by men who have not cultivated the love and compassion and sympathy and tenderness that characterized the life of Christ. In dealing with some of their brethren who have not followed their counsel, or who may have questioned their course of action or who may have had dealings with them that did not please them, they manifest no love, although these souls are the purchase of the blood of Christ, and may be more precious in the sight of God because of their simplicity and their integrity in maintaining the right at any cost. – E. G. White, Letter 31a, 1894, p. 14 (October 27, 1894 to A. R. Henry). *Christian Leadership*, 6.1

Pleasure in Bruising Souls - I am sorry that there are those in positions of trust who very sparingly cultivate the sympathy and tenderness of Christ. They do not even cultivate and manifest love toward their brethren and sisters who are in the faith. They do not exercise the precious tact that should bind and heal those who go astray, but instead they exhibit cruelty of spirit, that drives the wanderer still further into the dark, and makes angels weep. Some seem to find a sort of pleasure in bruising and wounding souls who are ready to die. As I look upon men who handle sacred truth, who bear sacred responsibilities, and who are failing to cultivate a spirit of love and tenderness, I feel like crying out, "Turn ye, turn ye; for why will ye die?" – E. G. White, Letter 43, 1895, p. 3 (June 14, 1895 to J. H. Kellogg). *Christian Leadership*, 6.2

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. E. G. White, *Christian Leadership*, 7.1

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 kindness, 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. E. G. White, *Christian Leadership*, 7.2

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. - Letter 20, 1892 (October 17, 1892 to J. H. Kellogg). ChL 7.4

Representatives of Jesus - It would be well if those occupying positions of trust in our institutions would remember that they are to be representatives of Jesus. True goodness, holiness, love, compassion for tempted souls must be revealed in their lives. Christ gave Himself to the world, that He might save those who would believe in Him. Shall not we, partakers of this great salvation, value the souls for whom He gave His life! Let us labor with a perseverance and energy proportionate to the value Christ places upon His blood-bought heritage. Human souls have cost too much to be trifled with, or treated with harshness or indifference. E. G. White, *Christian Leadership*, 7.5

A defective life is a dishonor to God. Co-workers with Christ will manifest no harshness, no self-sufficiency. These elements must be purified from the soul, and the gentleness of Christ take possession. Never be unkind to any soul, for by the grace of God that soul may become an heir of God and joint heir with Christ. Do not bruise the hearts of Christ's purchased ones, for in doing this you bruise the heart of Christ. Ever remember that we must all meet again around the great white throne, there to receive the approval or disapproval of God. A soul hurt is often a soul destroyed. Let those who have light and privileges remember that their very position of trust makes them responsible for souls. They will have to meet again those whom they have driven from Christ bruised and wounded to death. E. G. White, *Christian Leadership*, 8.1

Challenge:

1. Dedicate, at least, an hour each day to contemplate on the life of Jesus Christ (Suggestions – read a few chapters in the Gospels; or read sections of *The Desire of Ages* or *Christ Object Lessons*).
2. Take time to prayerfully reflect on God's love for you manifested through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Find time daily to thank God for the life, death, resurrection, and soon return of Christ.
3. Prayerfully seek to mend the broken relationships in your life.
4. Be intentional about not bruising souls in your daily interactions.
5. Be intentional about imitating Jesus Christ in all of your interactions.