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Editorial

The Sabbath and Human Relations

By Sakae Kubo

Because of what they believe and because of their worldwide mission, Seventh-day Adventists should be in the forefront in proclaiming the equality of all men before God. The doctrine of creation, the Lord's Supper, the church as the body of Christ, faith as a means by which one enters the kingdom of God, all teach that we stand on equal footing before God. There is no favored race or favored people.

However, Seventh-day Adventists proclaim the brotherhood of all men in a special way. Every Sabbath as they observe it, they proclaim to the world that they believe that there is neither Jew nor Greek, but one new man in Christ Jesus. Since the Sabbath points to creation, it points to the fact that we are all children of a common father.

It points also to the fact that all men are created in the image of God. Unfortunately, sinful man has sought to create God in the image of man, and thus in the creation stories of different peoples, God is the special creator of that special race, and all other peoples are considered inferior to that one race. Considering the fact that the Bible has come to us through the Jewish race, one would naturally expect that this would also be the case in the Bible, but the amazing thing is that the Bible in no way depicts the creation of the Jewish nation in the creation story. Instead, we find the creation of mankind. The creation story in no way exalts the Jewish nation at the expense of all other nations, but it pictures a time before nations began and the creation of man as such. Thus, the Sabbath points to the creation of all men by the hand of God and opposes any idea that God can be made in the image of man; on the contrary, it pictures man as created by God in the image of God.

The Sabbath, by its command to let all men rest including the servants of the master, also points to the fact that on the Sabbath, all men stand equal before God. The master must do the servant's work, while the servant is free from any work. The Jewish writers point to the

fact that on the Sabbath there is no master or servant. There is no rich man or poor man, for all come together in the synagogue as brothers to worship God. And so the Sabbath does point to the fact that we are all one in Christ Jesus by

lifting our minds to the fact that we are all creatures before God. Thus, as we come to worship every Sabbath, we witness to the world that we believe that there is neither Jew nor Gentile, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female, but we are all truly united in Christ Jesus. There are no more racial, economic, sexual, or social barriers, for Christ has broken down the dividing wall that existed between us and He has made us one new man in Him. This implication of the Sabbath we need to live out in our relationship with all persons within and without the church. —



Sakae Kubo is chairman of the Religion Department of Walla Walla College.