

“Liberty is the very essence of faith.”

*Martin Luther*

“God never forces the will or the conscience; but Satan’s constant resort – to gain control of those whom he cannot otherwise seduce – is compulsion by cruelty. Through fear or force he endeavors to rule the conscience and to secure homage to himself. To accomplish this, he works through both religious and secular authorities, moving them to the enforcement of human laws in defiance of the law of God.” pg.591

*Great Controversy*

“In order to endure the trial before them, they must understand the will of God as revealed in His Word; they can honor Him only as they have a right conception of His character, government, and purposes, and act in accordance with them. None but those who have fortified the mind with the truths of the Bible will stand through the last great conflict. To every soul will come the searching test: Shall I obey God rather than men?” pg.593

*Great Controversy*

“We are not doing the will of God if we sit in quietude,  
doing nothing to preserve Liberty of Conscience.”

*Testimonies for the Church Volume 5 pg.713*

“The opinions of learned men, the deductions of science, the creed or decisions of ecclesiastical council, as numerous and discordant as are the churches which they represent, the voice of the majority – not one nor all of these should be regarded as evidence for or against any point of religious faith. Before accepting any doctrine or precept, we should demand a plan, ‘Thus saith the Lord’ for its support.” pg.595

*Great Controversy*

“In matters of conscience the majority has no power”<sup>159</sup>

“To protect Liberty of Conscience is the duty of the State”<sup>159</sup>

“The papist determined to put down what they termed daring obstinacy”<sup>160</sup>

“Those who still refused to sacrifice liberty of conscience and the right of individual judgment well knew that their position marked them for future criticism, condemnation, and persecution.”<sup>160</sup>

*Spirit of Prophecy V.4*

“The people of the Lord need to be aroused to resist the advances of this most dangerous foe to civil and Religious Liberty.” pg.382

*Spirit of Prophecy* v.4

Those who had accepted the reformed faith met together, and their unanimous decision was, “Let us reject this decree. In matters of conscience the majority has no power.” pg.68

*Acts of the Apostles*

“The minds of the people must be agitated; every controversy, every reproach, every effort to restrict Liberty of Conscience, is God’s means of awakening minds that otherwise might slumber.” pg.33 (1896)

*Mount of Blessings*

“In all cases where the king had a right to command, Daniel would obey; but neither the king nor his decree could make him swerve from allegiance to the *King of Kings*. Thus the prophet boldly yet quietly and humbly declared that no earthly power has a right to interpose between the soul and God.” pg.542

*Prophets and Kings*

# The 2015 Vaccination Statement

- “The Adventist health emphasis is based on biblical revelation, the inspired writing of E. G. White (co-founder of the Church), **and on peer-reviewed scientific literature.**”
- “This statement was voted by the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists **Administrative Committee** in Silver Spring, Maryland, April 15, 2015.”

<https://gc.adventist.org/official-statements/immunization/>

Does the ADCOM usually decide what source SDA's use to obtain truth?

## New Source of Truth?

SDA Religion gets official truth from Science  
(a system of Man)?

Just to Change 1 Fundamental Belief based on the Bible takes 5-10 years for GC session to decide

Didn't Science come up with the  
Theory of Evolution

Is Peer-Reviewed Scientific Literature  
Always Correct?

“...denominational beliefs...entrusted to the General Conference in session.”  
(GCWPM, B.05.6)

Protestant conviction of Sola  
Scriptura (“Bible only”)

<https://www.adventist.org/beliefs/>

# GC Reaffirmation Statement, October 2021

“The Seventh-day Adventist Church, in consultation with the Health Ministries and Public Affairs and Religious Liberty departments of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, is convinced that the vaccination programs that are generally being carried out are important for the safety and health of our members and the larger community. Therefore, claims of religious liberty are not used appropriately in objecting to government mandates or employer programs designed to protect the health and safety of their communities.”

<https://www.healthministries.com/reaffirming-adventist-church-response-to-covid-19/>

If we accept that the GC ADCOM has a right to make this kind of statement, then they have effectively gained the right from this moment forward to determine what, when, or where the Holy Spirit is allowed to convict us on any given matter. Because precedent has been set.

The writers of this statement are endorsing government mandates. They are also denying religious freedom of conscience to SDA church members. They are saying that even if you have a sincerely held personal conviction against a vaccination (or mRNA Vacc), they will not allow you to claim that belief stems from any belief of the SDA church or even any religious belief.

A precedent was established here, and it will continue to haunt us unless we as members stand up and say that we do not accept this.

Our liberty of conscience is given by God.

## Support Mandates?

That one sentence changed Adventism in a frightening way. The councils of the church supported the mandates over your conscience. Does a small group of ecclesiastical leaders have the right to say that you have no right of conscience in this issue or any other issue?

# Religious Liberty & Individual Liberty of Conscience

“The use of force and coercion is inimical (Injurious or Harmful) to life, to dignity and to authentic religion...Religious liberty...deals...with a person’s relationship with God, the Creator. SDAs therefore view religious liberty as the primordial human right that undergirds all human rights...PARL, one of the original core departments of the Church, was initially established to promote and maintain religious liberty, with particular emphasis upon the most intimate freedom, individual liberty of conscience...the dept...works for the religious liberties of individual church members.” Chapter on PARL

*General Conference Working Policy Manual*

# General Conference session in 2022

Official Recording of GC Session 2022

[https://www.youtube.com/live/BBH4307\\_QjE?si=w5JFpaZu0djl8Olc](https://www.youtube.com/live/BBH4307_QjE?si=w5JFpaZu0djl8Olc)

Jonathan Zirkle's request starts at 04:31:55

Chair asked President to speak starts at 04:53:31

Wilson claims this is known to be a divisive subject and he seems to know people will disagree. *Making a Statement on a divisive subject causes division*

*Wouldn't Statements that have affected members worldwide be an item for the GC Session?*

Chair and President claim that the GC Session only deals with Constitution and Bylaws, Church Manual, and fundamental belief items

It appears that Elder Wilson controlled the vote.

Church Leaders don't want GC to Review official Statements

Why Do Leaders not want the GC in Session to decide?

Mr. Zirkles request was to discuss, before the GC session, the "official statements" that church leaders have made about vaccinations and how those statements have affected members worldwide. Wison redirected and made the question seem to be about whether a person should receive Vaccination

Official Vaccine statements were not reviewed by the GC Session

## Power of the General Conference in Session

“...the definition of denominational beliefs is entrusted to the General Conference in session.” (GCWPM, B.05.6)

All organizations and institutions throughout the world will recognize the authority of the General Conference in Session as the highest authority of the Seventh-day Adventist Church under God. (GCWPM, B.10.22)

*General Conference Working Policy Manual*

## Rules for General Conference Session Voting

“Delegates to a conference session...should view the work as a whole, remembering their responsibility for the welfare of the worldwide work of the Church. It is not permissible for church or conference delegations to organize or attempt to direct their votes as a unit...Each delegate should be susceptible to the direction of the Holy Spirit and vote according to personal convictions. *Any church or conference officer or leader attempting to control the votes of a group of delegates would be considered disqualified for holding office.*” pg.212

*Seventh-day Adventist Church Manual*

<https://gc.adventist.org/church-manual/>



This statement says the membership request Governments control

Church and State need to maintain a separation

Why Doesn't Administration use the correct Channels?

Any organization making statements for members without representing their Views is not Legal.

### **The Dangers of Climate Change**

“The world membership of the Seventh-day Adventist Church requests that the governments concerned take steps necessary to avert the danger:”

This is the Official Statement 12/19/95

This was approved and voted by the ADCOM not at a GC session

<https://gc.adventist.org/official-statements/the-dangers-of-climate-change/>

Official SDA Website Statement says Membership Request when they have not requested

A Vote at a GC Session Represents the members through the delegates each church sends to the the GC session

Leadership needs to place trust in God not Man

ADCOM=Administration Committee

“The people of the Lord need to be aroused to resist the advances of this most dangerous foe to civil and Religious Liberty.” pg.382

*Spirit of Prophecy V4*

- “The opinions of learned men, the deductions of science, the creed or decisions of ecclesiastical council, as numerous and discordant as are the churches which they represent, the voice of the majority – not one nor all of these should be regarded as evidence for or against any point of religious faith. Before accepting any doctrine or precept, we should demand a plan, ‘Thus saith the Lord’ for its support.” pg.595

*Great Controversy*

“A lack of moral courage to step aside from the beaten track of the world leads many to follow in the steps of learned men; and by their reluctance to investigate for themselves, they are coming hopelessly fastened in the chains of error.” Pg.597

*Great Controversy*

“In Matters of Conscience, the majority has no power...The papist determined to put down what they termed obstinacy...Those who still refused to sacrifice liberty of conscience and the right of individual judgment well knew that their position marked them for future criticism, condemnation, and persecution.” pg.160

*Spirit of Prophecy V4*

“But are ministers infallible? How can we trust our souls to their guidance unless we know from God’s word that they are light bearers?” Pg.597

*Great Controversy*

“Unless I am convicted by Scripture and plain reason (I do not accept the authority of popes and councils because they have contradicted each other), my conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot and will not recant anything, for to go against conscience is neither right nor safe.

So help me God

Amen”

Martin Luther

## **An Appeal To the German Nobility**

“Romanists have raised three barriers against all reformation.

- When the temporal power has attacked them they have denied its authority, and asserted that the spiritual power was superior to it.
- When anyone rebuked them out of the Scripture, they have answered that no-one but the Pope was able to interpret Scripture.
- When they have been threatened with a council, the reply has been, “No one but the sovereign pontiff has authority to convoke a council.””

*Martin Luther*

## **An Appeal to the SDA Membership**

Seventh-day Adventist Church Leadership is not set up like the Roman Church

- The General Conference Session, a representation of membership, is the highest SDA authority and gets its power through its membership.
- God impresses us individually through our Consciences of truths in His Word and Inspired Writings
- All official Statements need to come before the GC Session, officials must obey the rules as set forth
- The Local Church Business meeting has the Highest authority in a local church, we have a responsibility to know God’s will through personal Study/devotions

# Conclusion

- What is being asked by many Adventists around the world is that the statements be removed and preserve our historic protestant stance on Liberty of Conscience.
- Locally we are asking that the Church discuss our church's position on these statements and vote according to your conscience, take a stand against the two Vaccine Statements limiting Religious liberty, and add our voice to many others, asking that church administrators allow this item to be discussed at the upcoming General Conference Session.
- 450 churches, 2 conferences, and 1 union have rejected the statements and written official letters to church leadership.