

Conversations

Talk to older Seventh-day Adventists about different beliefs and practices that have been like traditions in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Listen well rather than arguing. Ask yourself what it might be like when you're an "older Seventh-day Adventist" and a young person asks you this type of question.

Conversation starters: "What have you seen change, or stay the same, over the years in the Seventh-day Adventist Church when it comes to. . ."

1. The Sabbath—its important and how to "keep it"
2. Seventh-day Adventists are God's true church (and have "the truth")
3. Adventist education—is it important, and what difference does it make?
4. Adventist health and lifestyle—what is it, why do it, what has changed and what hasn't?
5. Race relations—does the church just reflect the world, or is there a difference?
6. The majority of SDAs used to live in North America—until the 1980s. Now the majority (95%) live outside of North America. How does that change things?
7. What has been the SDA belief and practice when it comes to lifestyle issues like:
 - a) Attending a theater
 - b) Dancing
 - c) Smoking
 - d) Drinking alcohol
 - e) Eating meat
 - f) Tithe and offerings
 - g) Sexual practices
8. Seventh-day Adventists believe that salvation comes from trusting Jesus, not by perfectly obeying the laws God has given His people. But our name includes the Sabbath (seventh-day), which places importance on obeying the fourth commandment (remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy). Sometimes there's a tension between trusting Jesus and obeying God's commandments, with people swinging to one extreme or the other. Some call trusting Jesus "cheap grace" and some call obeying God "legalism." Where have you seen this tension in your life, and in the Seventh-day Adventist Church, over time?