

A Small Church Sued Over Its Name

Secular media report on the case of a Tennessee pastor who is being sued by the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists®.



You can watch a news clip concerning the most current lawsuit over the use of the Adventist name at:

<http://youtu.be/Wy9k3Adsx4Q>

“**D**are any of you, having a matter against another, go to law before the unjust, and not before the saints? Do you not know that the saints shall judge the world? and if the world shall be judged by you, are you unworthy to judge the smallest matters? Know you not that we shall judge angels? how much more things that pertain to this life? If then you have judgments of things pertaining to this life, set them to judge who are least esteemed in the church. I speak to your shame. Is it so, that there is not a wise man among you? no, not one that shall be able to judge between his brethren?”

“But brother goes to law with brother, and that before the unbelievers. Now therefore there is utterly a fault among you, because you go to law one with another. Why do you not rather take wrong? why do you not rather suffer yourselves to be defrauded? Nay, you do wrong, and defraud, and that your brethren.”

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Many Adventist as well as secular media reported on the case of the Guys, Tennessee church.

“We would really like to comply to the court orders. We respect the courts; we respect the law. But in this case the law is violating our conscience and we must put our conscience before the law.”

Pastor Walter McGill of Guys, Tennessee

“Do you not know that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you; but you are washed, but you are sanctified, but you are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.”

“All things are possible to me, but all things are not expedient: all things are possible for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.” (1 Corinthians 6:1-12)

We are grieved to have learned that the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists has persisted in bringing lawsuits against those of the same faith who are not a part of their church organization when they call themselves Seventh-day Adventists or use the Adventist name. Although they lost the Kinship case, which resulted in allowing homosexuals to call themselves Seventh-day Adventists, the pastor of the Creation Seventh-day Adventist Church told

“Eyewitness News” on his local news channel in April, 2012, that he is ready to give up the pulpit for prison because his church has been ordered to quit using Seventh-day Adventist in its name. He said, “We would really like to comply to the court orders. We respect the law; we respect the law. But in this case the law is violating our conscience and we must put our conscience before the law.” While we may not completely agree with others beliefs and methods, we wholeheartedly support each individual’s right to exercise religious liberty.

On April 15 the pastor wrote an open letter in which he stated, “... I am willing to be incarcerated for my faith... Since the courts have ruled my religion is illegal, and I cannot in good conscience give up the name of my faith. I am repeatedly in contempt of court.”

“All persons interested in information regarding my conflict with the Seventh-day Adventist Church may become educated by logging onto the following URL online: <http://pastorwalterchickmkgilllawsuit.net/>.”

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In His Steps

The Creation Seventh-day Adventist Church does keep all the commandments and also believes in the gift of the Spirit of Prophecy as manifested in the life and ministry of Ellen G. White.

Concerning initiating a legal battle or any other battle against commandment keepers, Ellen White had the following to say: “It is not the true church of God that makes war with those who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.” *Signs of the Times*, April 22, 1889.

Concerning those who do this she also wrote, “They show that they have chosen the world as their judge, and in heaven their names are registered as one with unbelievers. Christ is crucified afresh, and put to open shame. Let these men know that God does not hear their prayers. They insult His holy name, and He will leave them to the buffetings of Satan until they shall see their folly and seek the Lord by confession of their sin.” *Selected Messages*, vol. 3, 299.

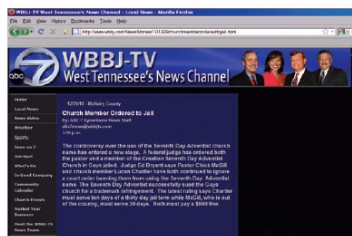
“Jesus did not appeal to the law for redress when He was unjustly accused. When He was reviled, He reviled not again; when He was threatened, He did not retaliate. ... I have written largely in regard to Christians who believe the truth placing their cases in courts of law to obtain redress. In doing this, they are biting and devouring one another in every sense of the word, ‘to be consumed one of another.’ They cast aside the inspired counsel God has given, and in the face of the message He gives they do the very thing He has told them not to do. Such men may as well stop praying to God, for He will not hear their prayers. They insult Jehovah, and He will leave them to become the subjects of Satan until they shall see

their folly and seek the Lord by confession of their sins.” *Ibid.*, 302.

“This action, of appealing to human courts, never before entered into by Seventh-day Adventists, has now been done. God has permitted this that you who have been deceived may understand what power is controlling those who have had entrusted to them great responsibilities.” *Ibid.*, 303.

The following bit of news was recently reported on the Internet: Recently, a group of Seventh-day Adventists opened a page on Facebook * called “Adventists for Life,” expressing their opposition to abortion. According to the news article, Adventist leaders had the page removed. Adventists for Life is not an organization but rather an informal gathering of Seventh-day Adventists. The news article also said that the originators were requested to deregister the domain name www.adventistforlife.org. See www.abajournal.com/news/article/facebook_removes_adventists_for_life_page_after_infringement_complaint/.

Evidently it is all right in the eyes of some to come after people who call themselves Adventists and protest abortion while at the same time it is all right to use the name “Seventh-day Adventist” on hospitals that are performing abortions! It seems, the world is being given the message that Adventists believe that it is all right to do abortions but it is not all right for an Adventist to protest against abortions.



Some TV channels made the case of this small church their top story.

It is considered all right that those protesting against abortions be stopped by using a union of church and state! Thought question: Is this really any different in substance from what the popes did in the Dark Ages?

We would do well to remember the words of Jesus, “Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of.” Luke 9:55.

Commenting on that text Ellen White wrote, “It is no part of Christ’s mission to compel men to receive Him. It is Satan, and men actuated by his spirit, that seek to compel the conscience. ... There can be no more conclusive evidence that we possess the spirit of Satan than the disposition to hurt and destroy those who do not appreciate our work, or who act contrary to our ideas. ... Nothing can be more offensive to God than for men, through religious bigotry, to bring suffering upon those who are the purchase of the Saviour’s blood.” *The Desire of Ages*, 487, 488.



Cover article by John Grosboll, Director of Steps to Life