

**Aim:** Fundamental 22 – Christian Behaviour

**Resources:** What We Believe for Kids by Jerry D Thomas; What We Believe for Teens by Seth J Pierce; God Loves Me 28 ways – Bible Adventures for Young Readers. All published by Pacific Press Publishing Association.

This term we are looking at what the Seventh-day Adventist Church believes. Today we are doing Fundamental 22 – Christian Behaviour.

**Read what Peter said to Ananias in Acts 5:4**

The problem wasn't that Ananias and Sapphira wanted to keep part of the profit from the sale of their property. The problem was that they wanted people to think they gave more than they did; they said all the money was for God, but secretly kept part of it.

**Read Leviticus 19:11**

**Read 1 John 2:6** (live as Jesus did)

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Aside from the fact that Seventh-day Adventists worship on Saturday instead of Sunday, the other thing that sets us apart from many other Christian churches is the belief that being a Christian should make a difference in every aspect of our lifestyle. Today we are going to look at what some of those differences are, and why we believe this way.

**Read 1 Corinthians 6:19-20** (Your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit... God bought you...)

**Romans 12:1** (Give yourself to God)

**2 Corinthians 6:18 – 7:1** (cleanse ourselves from everything that can defile our body or spirit.)

To defile something is to ruin it, or pollute it, or spoil it.

**Romans 12:2** (Don't copy the customs of this world, but let God transform you...)

There are some Christian groups who have taken this verse and decided to dress, live and act the way their ancestors did hundreds of years ago. Or that Christians must wear a particular uniform. Most Seventh-day Adventists don't believe this is what the verse is saying. The way we dress, the type of work we do, and how we act will depend on where we live and what is seen as culturally appropriate there. So in some ways we will be like the people who live around us. But we need to look at the behaviours and customs of our society and only keep those that agree with what the Bible teaches – those things that don't defile us as the last verse said.

**1 Peter 3:3-4** (Don't be concerned about the outward beauty...)

**Ephesians 5:1-4** Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk, or crude joking, which are out of character, but rather thanksgiving.

**Ephesians 5:18** (don't get drunk)

3 John 2 - "Dear friend, I hope all is well with you and that you are as healthy in body as you are strong in spirit."

Seventh-day Adventist are perhaps best known for the health message.

NEWSTART: Nutrition, Exercise, Water, Sunlight, Temperance, Air, Rest, Trust.

(Ask if they know what each one means and explain if needed.)

Note: Temperance can be said as, 'All good things in moderation.'

Avoiding bad things like: smoking, drinking alcohol, drugs.

When the Israelites left Egypt, God told them to only eat certain types of animals that He called 'clean animals'.

He said they should not eat the 'unclean' animals. Many of these unclean animals are the types of animals that we might call garbage collectors today – they eat other dead animals, and so they are more likely to make us sick if we were to eat them. Many Seventh-day Adventists are vegetarian. Some are vegan. Others eat some of the clean meat animals. But most choose to avoid eating the unclean animals.

Some people have done studies comparing Seventh-day Adventists who are vegetarian, with the average population, and found that these Seventh-day Adventists tend to live long and have less health problems than the average population.

**1 Corinthians 10:31**

If you are not sure if something is right to do or not – this verse is a good guide.

**Philippians 4:8** (Whatever is true...)