

# Ellen White & Worshipping the Holy Spirit

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This article deals with a specific quote attributed to Ellen White in which the following sentence appears “worship the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit”. This phrase has been seized upon by Trinitarians eager to prove that we can worship God in three persons. The statement has been circulated and used as conclusive evidence in support of the theory of the Trinity. This has raised some questions and queries as to why this statement has only surfaced recently, and more specifically, did Ellen White really write it?



I found myself asking these questions in light of the Bible testimony that worship only belongs to the Father, and it is His will that we honor the Son in the same way<sup>1</sup>. There is no one else that is deemed worthy of worship and praise. I wanted to get to the bottom of the matter regarding this statement and answer my questions. This article is the result.

## The Quote

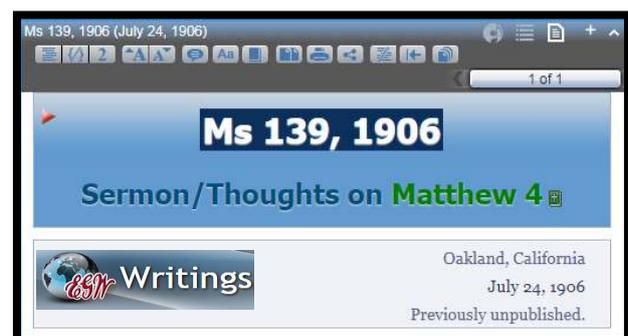
Before going any further we need to look at that phrase in its immediate context. Here it is:

“Now a little point. As the saints in the kingdom of God are accepted in the beloved, they hear: “Come, ye blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.” And then the golden harps are touched, and the music flows all through the heavenly host, **and they fall down and worship the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.**” {Ms139-1906.32}

This quote is attributed to Ellen White with the bibliography entry being “White, E. G. (1906). *Ms 139, 1906.*” As such, many people have treated this statement as coming from the pen of Ellen White and therefore a long sought for evidence for the mysterious Trinity.

## The Source

Let us dispel the assumptions with the facts. Ellen White never wrote that statement. This is actually a report of a sermon she gave. Here’s what the EGW Writings website states. It is a sermon that is previously unpublished. →



<sup>1</sup> Bible evidence is abundant that only the Father and Son are to be worshipped. John 4:23, 24; 5:23; Revelation 5:13; Philippians 2:10, 11; 1 Corinthians 8:6; John 14:6. Also see the video [Who Do You Worship?](#)

On Tuesday July 24, 1906 Mrs. White was preaching in Oakland, California. This sermon report is said to be “previously unpublished” being made available on the online electronic database in 2015<sup>2</sup>. This information is important in understanding how we are to weigh this statement. Many of Ellen White’s public sermons were stenographically reported and later prepared for publication (she didn’t write her sermons). There were no tape recorders in those days so our only reference is the report by the stenographer. The only problem is the possibility of human error in reporting or later editing prior to publication. It’s pretty obvious that a mistake was made in the report of this sermon, particularly dealing with the statement we are exploring. Mrs. White actually warns us of a danger when it comes to unconfirmed reports of what she may have said or did.

### **A Warning**

“And now to all who have a desire for truth I would say: Do not give credence to **unauthenticated reports** as to what Sister White has done **or said** or written. **If you desire to know what the Lord has revealed through her, read her published works.**” {E. G. White, *Testimonies Volume 5*, p. 696}



The published works of Ellen White, those published during her lifetime, contain the accurate and authentic material that she wrote and approved. The process of publication ensured that the final product was genuine. Why does she highly recommend her published works rather than reports of what she may or may not have said? It is very simple; Mrs. White was actually involved in the process and would review manuscripts prior to printing:

“I read over all that is copied, to see that everything is as it should be. I read all the book manuscript before it is sent to the printer.” {E. G. White, *Selected Messages Book 3*, p. 90}

“I have all my publications closely examined. I desire that nothing shall appear in print without careful investigation.” {E. G. White, *Manuscript Releases, vol. 10 [Nos. 771-850]*, p. 12.4}

So Ellen White did NOT write the statement “worship the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.” Not only did she not write it, but she never had a chance to examine and review it prior to publication. The reason being it was published 100 years after her death! This means the statement does not belong in her “published works” which she reviewed and approved. As a matter of fact, the stenographer’s shorthand notes are not even available (the stenographer is unknown). Only the typed copy of the sermon exists<sup>3</sup> (the typist is unknown). The next question we need to ask ourselves is this: is the statement an accurate report of what she said? To answer this question we only have to examine her published writings and compare them with this report. After all, this is what she instructs us to do if we truly desire to know what the Lord revealed to her.

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<sup>2</sup> Email correspondence with the Ellen G. White Estate, Inc., Jun 30, 2017. The online electronic database website: <https://egwwritings.org>

<sup>3</sup> Email correspondence with the Ellen G. White Estate, Inc., Jun 30, 2017

## Her Published Writings

While there is no evidence to prove that Mrs. White ever checked the words “worship the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit” we do know what she said when it came to worship and who alone deserves worship. Here is a sample from her published writings:

“The **Father and the Son alone** are to be exalted.” {*The Youth’s Instructor*, July 7, 1898}

“The Son of God had wrought the Father's will in the creation of all the hosts of heaven; **and to Him, as well as to God**, their homage and allegiance were due.” {*Patriarchs & Prophets*, p. 36}

“The holy pair [Adam & Eve] united with them [angels] and raised their voices in harmonious **songs of love, praise, and adoration to the Father and His dear Son** for the tokens of love which surrounded them.” {*The Story of Redemption*, p. 22}

“In your hands will be placed a golden harp, and touching its strings, you will join with the redeemed host in filling all heaven with **songs of praise to God and His Son.**”  
{*(Australasian) Union Conference Record*, January 15, 1903 par. 14}

“And the years of eternity, as they roll, will bring richer and still more glorious revelations of **God and of Christ.**” {*The Great Controversy*, p. 678}

“Heaven is a ceaseless approaching **to God through Christ.**” {*The Desire of Ages*, p. 331}

“All the redeemed saints will see and appreciate as never before **the love of the Father and the Son**, and songs of praise will burst forth from immortal tongues.” {*That I May Know Him*, p. 371}

“There they will assemble in the sanctuary from Sabbath to Sabbath, from one new moon to another, to unite in loftiest strains of song, in praise and thanksgiving **to Him who sits upon the throne, and to the Lamb for ever and ever.**” {*Testimonies Volume 6*, p. 368}

Let’s compare things side by side:

Written and reviewed by Ellen White	An unknown person reported heard Ellen White say
<p>“The Father and the Son alone are to be exalted.”</p> <p>(Many other quotes from Ellen White’s pen confirm this fact.<sup>4</sup> Her entire writing career is consistent when it comes to who we are to worship and exalt. Her writings are what we are to rely on.)</p>	<p>“worship the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.”</p> <p>(The only quote that says this. It was not written by Ellen White, and was never published during her lifetime. Not only is this an unconfirmed report, but it contradicts her writings.)</p>

<sup>4</sup> For a more detailed examination of Ellen White’s entire writing career see the booklet [The Godhead in Black and White](#). The companion booklet [Putting the Pieces Together](#) deals with the common quotes used to support the Trinity such as the ones in the book *Evangelism*.

## The Contradiction

It is very clear that we have a contradiction between the published writings of Ellen White and the report of her sermon (written by an unknown individual). This contradiction makes it clear that either a mistake was made or something was later added to the report. Either way, it doesn't change the outcome. This is nothing more than an unauthenticated report of what Ellen White supposedly said. We are instructed that we are not to give heed to such reports as an accurate portrayal of what Ellen White believed.

The Bible is clear on the matter. We are never commanded anywhere in the Bible to worship the Holy Spirit. We are never commanded to worship three beings. We only worship one God, the Father (1 Corinthians 8:6), through His Son Jesus who is the only way to that one God (John 14:6). In so doing we fulfill the command of our Master in John 5:23. We should not expect the Messenger of the Lord, Sister White, to be out of harmony with the above plain testimonies of Scripture. Indeed, she is not. The above brief sample from her writings demonstrates that very clearly.

Rather than attributing the quote to Ellen White such quotes should be referenced using the name of the person making the report, or as "an unknown source" if the reporter is unknown. Quotes from such sources should not be treated as possessing equal weight with Ellen White's published writings. This is according to her own warning and instruction.

## Conclusion

I am well aware of the urgent need and desire for Trinitarians to find some shred of evidence in support of the mysterious Trinity. This urgency is exacerbated by the lack of any inspired source that supports the worship of a God in three persons. If people still wish to base their worship of a triune God on this single quote from an unknown source then it is entirely their choice. Those who desire to worship the Holy Spirit as a different person to the Father and Son can continue to do so at their own peril. If they find in this anonymous quote justification for this risky unbiblical practice, then all we can do is invite them to consider the weight of evidence. When it comes to worship the only safety is to remain within the confines of that which God has inspired and communicated to us. After all, the test issue in the last days is over worship!

Treating an unconfirmed report as holding equal weight and value with Ellen White's own published writings is a dangerous practice. It goes against her own instructions on the matter. The next time someone quotes this dubious statement to me I will require one from the pen of Ellen White herself. That being after a plain thus saith the Lord is provided first. If this quote is the only evidence people can find in support of worship to the Holy Spirit then it immediately proves just how untenable that position is. Let us be responsible when it comes to quoting the writings of Ellen White. Not everything attributed to her should be classed as coming from her pen. ✍



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