

THE ELDERS AND THE CARE FOR THE NEW CONVERTS

Volume 2

Section 6



General Conference
Ministerial Association



*“I am coming soon.
Hold on to what you
have, so that no one
will take your
crown.”*

Revelation 3:11



“Every one who has received the divine illumination, is to brighten the pathway of those who know not the Light of life... Every soul whom Christ has rescued is called to work in His name for the saving of the lost... There is something for every one to do. Every soul that believes the truth is to stand in his lot and place, saying, ‘Here am I; send me.’”

ChS 10



“When men and women accept the truth, we are not to go away and leave them and have no further burden for them. They are to be looked after. They are to be carried as a burden upon the soul, and we must watch over them as stewards who must render an account.”

Ev 345



I. What happens to persons when they are baptized?



- They leave behind some of their old friends with whom they used to share much of their time, but who now do not agree with their new faith.
- They might even lose some affection from family members who do not favor the decision they have taken.



- They leave behind some habits that were well-rooted in their lives and which pleased them, but now they discover that those habits destroy their spiritual life.
- They may even leave their traditional work because it conflicts with the principles they have accepted.



- They may have to change the social activities that for a long time they shared with some of their co-workers.
- They may need to change their social environment, since they are not able to spend their time of leisure as they did before. Not only do they change their surroundings, but they also change with whom they share their social lives.



- They may change their eating habits substantially, and this in a way could bring uncertainty as to whether they will be able to achieve the necessary changes.
- Perhaps their wardrobe choices may be affected.
- They may have to tweak part of their vocabularies.



“Those who have newly come to the faith should be patiently and tenderly dealt with, and it is the duty of the older members of the church to devise ways and means to provide help and sympathy and instruction for those who have conscientiously withdrawn from other churches for the truth’s sake, and thus cut themselves off from the pastoral labor to which they have been accustomed.”

Ev 351



“The church has a special responsibility laid upon her to attend to these souls who have followed the first rays of light they have received; and if the members of the church neglect this duty, they will be unfaithful to the trust that God has given them.”

Ev 351



“And the new converts will need to be instructed by faithful teachers of God’s Word, that they may increase in a knowledge and love of the truth, and may grow to the full stature of men and women in Christ Jesus. They must now be surrounded by the influences most favorable to spiritual growth.”

Ev 337

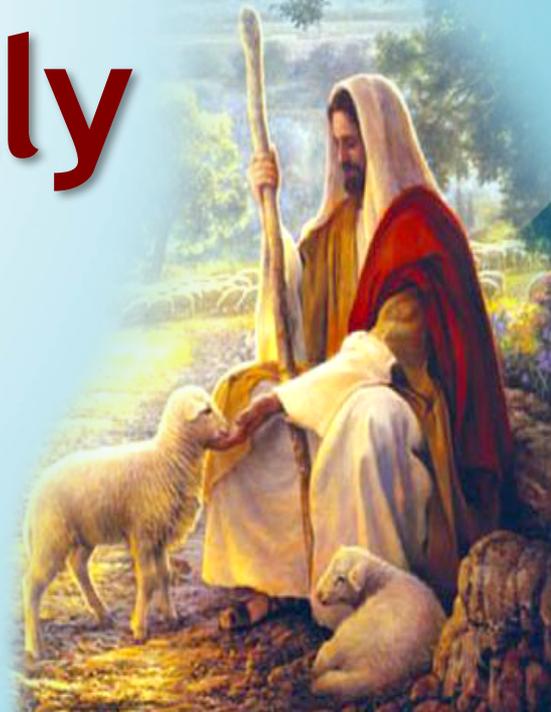


“The new believers are to be carefully instructed, that they may have an intelligent knowledge of the various lines of work committed to the church of Christ. One or two men should not be left alone with the burden of such a work [of instructing the new believers].”

Ev 338



II. Apprehensions of those recently baptized



Generally those who are newly baptized fear:

- Failing the Lord in the decision they have taken.
- Not measuring up to the church that has embraced them, particularly the persons who evangelized them.
- Not being able to conquer habits that they have practiced for a long time.



- Having no friends in the church since they left their old friends.
- Feeling isolated in church and not being invited to participate in its activities.



- Enduring the criticism they will get from some family members, friends or co-workers.
- In short, altogether failing in something that they have so dearly embraced.



“If one member of Christ’s household falls into temptation, the other members are to look after him with kindly interest, seeking to arrest the feet that are straying into false paths, and win him to a pure, holy life. This service God requires from every member of His church.... The members of the Lord’s family are to be wise and watchful, doing all in their power to save their weaker brethren from Satan’s concealed nets.”

Ev 353



III. Needs of those who are newly baptized



- They urgently need new friends.
- To be treated with patience, kindness and consideration.
- Above everything else, to be understood.
- To be instructed further in Biblical doctrines.



- To receive assistance with the changes they are implementing in their lives.
- To be invited to and be provided with new methods of recreation.
- To be used in the service of the Lord.
- To be helped in discovering their spiritual gifts.



- To be warned that the church members are not *perfect*.
- To be helped in *depending upon Jesus and not in those persons who evangelized him*.



- To have their *social* needs taken into account.
- To receive guidance as to which *small group* would be best for them to join.
- To be helped in understanding the *organizational structure* of the church.



“After individuals have been converted to the truth, they need to be looked after... These should not be left alone, a prey to Satan’s most powerful temptations; they need... to be kindly dealt with, to be led along, and to be visited and prayed with. These souls need the meat apportioned to every man in due season.”

Ev 351



IV. What causes discouragement in persons who are newly baptized?



- Discovering that in the church not everything is perfect.
- Finding a spirit of criticism and gossip in the church.
- Being criticized or judged for a mistake.



- Being embarrassed openly in public.
- Not being considered when there are activities.
- Not having friends who stand by them.



- Making a mistake.
- Being treated with indifference.
- Not being visited by anyone if they are ill.
- Losing their job and not being able to provide for their own needs.



V. Signs of discouragement in those persons who are newly baptized



- They start arriving late to the worship services.
- They no longer come to church every Sabbath.
- They give excuses when asked why they are not coming to church.
- When they do attend church, they leave right away as soon as the service is over.



- They keep to themselves when they are in church.
- They do not accept any position so that they can be of service to the church.
- They express resentment towards another member.
- They do not want anyone to talk to them about the church or to visit them.



VI. What do newly baptized persons expect from those who have been church members for a long time?



- That they be their best friends.
- That they provide them spiritual support.
- That they help them grow in the faith.
- That they give them a chance to use their talents for the Lord.
- That they involve them in church activities.



- That they be understanding of them and their families.
- That they help them win their families over to Christ.
- That they pray with them and their families, and visit them.
- That they invite them and their families to social events.



*“Personal responsibility,
personal activity in seeking
the salvation of others, must
be the education given to all
newly come to the faith.”*

Ev 354



VII. Recently baptized persons are to be considered as spiritual children



“By ‘little ones’ Christ does not mean babies. Those to whom He refers are ‘little ones which believe in Me’—those who have not gained an experience in following Him, those who need to be led like children, as it were, in seeking the things of the kingdom of heaven.”

Ev 341



What is taught to children?

- How to eat.
- How to dress.
- How to speak.
- How to pray.



What should be taught to spiritual children?

- To pray.
- To search the Bible.
- To set aside a time each day for private worship.
- To depend on Jesus every moment.
- To do missionary work.



Just as children are taught with patience, so it is necessary that spiritual children, that is, the new converts to the faith, be taught with that same patience and dedication.



*“When souls are converted,
set them to work at once.
And as they labor according
to their ability, they will
grow stronger. It is by
meeting opposing influences
that we become confirmed in
the faith.”*

Ev 355



Recapitulating what we studied



What two things could newly baptized persons leave behind?

- Previous friends.
- Previous social activities.

What two things could newly baptized persons fear?

- Failing the Lord.
- Feeling isolated in church.



What three things do newly baptized persons need?

- Friends in the church.
- To be treated with patience, kindness and consideration.
- To be helped to depend on Jesus.



What three things could discourage newly baptized persons?

- Finding a spirit of criticism and gossip in the church.
- Not being included in church activities.
- Having no friends to stand by them.



Name four signs of discouragement in newly baptized persons

- No longer come to church every Sabbath.
- When they do attend church, they leave right away as soon as the service is over.
- Do not accept any position so that they can be of service to the church.
- Express resentment against another member.



What four things do newly baptized persons expect from the church?

- That they be understanding of them and their families.
- That they provide them spiritual support.
- That they help them win their families for Christ.
- That they invite them and their families to social events.



What five things should be taught to newly baptized persons as if they were spiritual children?

- To pray.
- To search the Bible.
- To set aside a time each day for private worship.
- To depend on Jesus every moment.
- To do missionary work.

