

No Apologies Offered

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The Seventh-day Adventist church is a unique church in its doctrinal and prophetic viewpoints. The Great Controversy theme runs throughout the Bible and Adventist doctrine. Inclusive with the Great Controversy are the emphases given to the messages of the three angels of Revelation 14 and the 2300-day prophecy. Our confidence in the Bible as a unified body of spiritual insight and revelation of God are unexcelled by any other religion. As Seventh-day Adventists we have a very special role to play at the end of this world's history. Sometimes we try to downplay our uniqueness in an effort to appear Christian to other people, thereby gradually becoming mainstream Christianity. We must be careful that we never downgrade the wonderful truths of the Bible, but rather present them in a loving, appealing manner.



Adventist education is also based upon the Great Controversy theme. Our reason for existence is to guide our youth to a fuller knowledge of God and His saving grace. Our youth must learn that the issues they face in life happen because of the war that Satan is waging for each individual. It becomes a personal matter as to who will win the fight for our lives. In the past few years, many people have wanted to emphasize Christian education rather than Adventist education—again an attempt to appear acceptable to other Christians. When this happens, we become mainstream in our educational approach. If we lose our effectiveness as Adventists, then why spend the money we do on Adventist education?

It is my firm belief that we have no apologies to make for who we are or our educational system. Our local public school board has this motto on their buses: “Journey to Learning”. Adventist education promotes a “Journey to Excellence”. When our focus is on excellence, on providing a spiritual, social and educational experience that goes beyond curriculum requirements, we are beginning to provide a journey to excellence that other systems of education cannot match.

The “Journey to Excellence” suggests continual growth in a school environment, in the professionalism of its teachers and administration and in its student body. As we approach a new school year, what growth will be evident in each of our schools? When we live according to the Bible, when we adapt a healthy balance in our lifestyles, when we follow the counsels of the Spirit of Prophecy, when our students see enthusiasm and pride in our school, we have no apologies to offer. To develop that quality in education demands more of our time and energy; it requires coordinated effort not only of the teachers, but of the board and constituent members as well.

This coming school year, make no apologies for Adventist education. Even though everything is not perfect, are we not in advance in what we accomplish with our students? Just continue growing and maturing in Christ personally and educationally. Have a wonderful year growing and learning!