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25-I-2

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"Elmshaven" St. Helena, California

September 16, 1935

3 Aude Street  
Toronto 4  
Ontario, Canada

*Beards  
One Cup. Communion*

Dear Brother

Soon after Elder White received your letter of June 3 he handed it to me with the request that I look up what he had written in earlier years in answer to similar questions. He is devoting almost every ounce of available strength to his articles "Sketches and Memories of James and Ellen White", so he asks to be excused from giving personal attention to your letter.

Because of the heavy pressure of a number of lines of important manuscript work which could not be delayed our correspondence this summer has been badly neglected. I deeply regret this delay in responding to your request.

Your first question:--"Did Mrs. White leave any statement of any kind regarding the matter of ministers and laymen shaving on the Sabbath; also regarding the matter of cutting of the beard and hair, etc.?"

Mrs. White made no written statements on these matters. I find, however, Elder White in a letter written May 12, 1930 deals with this point and I shall here copy a paragraph from that communication:

"At one time we had in our employ a brother who became very conscientious over shaving. We paid little attention to this, believing that shaving was a matter for each one to manage as he chose; but one day he felt that he must have Sister White's approval of his course and laid before her his convictions that shaving was wrong. Then she told him and us what I had heard her state before and have heard her state since that the matter of shaving or of developing a beard was one of the non essentials which need not be considered in connection with Christian duty."

*Shaving*

Your next question relates to the use of individual cups for the communion service. Mrs. White left no statement in print on this subject. However, Elder White has memory of over-hearing conversations on this point as he has stated in a letter written June 24, 1929. I shall copy two or three paragraphs from the above referred to communication:

"In response to the questions submitted to Sister White regarding the propriety and advantage of using the Individual cup at Communion service, Sister White gave uniform reply, that the matter

*Communion cup*

was not of such a character as to arouse controversy in any church. If a church was unanimous in its desire to use the common cup, and if its members understood the risk to health in so doing, that it was their privilege to follow their preference.

"On the other hand if any church deemed it advisable to use the individual cup that no one should feel that it was an error. Furthermore, she stated that considering the health conditions which surround us in these later years, that she considered it a much safer practice to use the individual cup. This she did her self when attending service where the individual cup had been adopted by the congregation.

"In view of the fact that Sister White was given much light regarding the Lord's supper as celebrated by Christ and His disciples,-- in view of the fact that she has written much regarding the celebration of the Lord's supper by His people in these last days covering almost every phase of the spiritual condition that we should be in when we take part in that service, and in consideration of the fact that in none of her books, and in none of her articles, and in none of her manuscripts, and in none of her sermons did she ever state that in communion service it was advisable to use the ~~common~~ cup,--in view of these circumstances and the fact that she gave sanction to the use of the individual cup and that she used it herself, there is, it seems to me, abundance of evidence that we are perfectly free to use that method which is most favorable to avoidance of the transmission of disease." <

Your third question is as follows:--"Did Sister White leave any statement regarding our attitude in time of war, especially insofar as noncombatant work is concerned? Does she say anything regarding the taking part in band concerts or other noncombatant work?"

We have no information relative to the subject of the attitude of our people in time of war. I think the most helpful information can be secured from the General Conference office. Some of our leading workers have given very careful study to this question.

I am hoping that this information will be helpful to you and to our Ukrainian minister who has brought these questions to you.

With kind regards, I am

Sincerely your brother,



Arthur L. White, Asst. Sec.  
THE ELLEN G. WHITE ESTATE