

GOD'S CHURCH
GOSPEL ORDER









The wisest of men may learn useful lessons from the ways and habits of the little creatures of the earth. The industrious bee gives to men of intelligence an example that they would do well to imitate. These insects observe perfect order, and no idler is allowed in the hive. (*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 4, p. 455.2a)

They execute their appointed work with an intelligence and activity that are beyond our comprehension. The ants, which we consider as only pests to be crushed under our feet, are in many respects superior to man; for he does not as wisely improve the gifts of God. The wise man calls our attention to the small things of the earth: (*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 4, p. 455.2b)

“Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise: which having no guide, overseer, or ruler, provideth her meat in the summer, and gathereth her food in the harvest.” “The ants are a people not strong, yet they prepare their meat in the summer.”

(Testimonies for the Church, vol. 4, p. 455.2c)

We may learn from these little teachers a lesson of faithfulness. Should we improve with the same diligence the faculties which an all-wise Creator has bestowed upon us, how greatly would our capacities for usefulness be increased. God's eye is upon the smallest of His creatures; does He not, then, regard man formed in His image and require of him corresponding returns for all the advantages He has given him? (*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 4, p. 455.2d)

1 Corinthians 14:40 (KJV) — 40 Let all things be
done decently and in order.



1 Corinthians 14.33 (KJV) — 33 For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.



confusion = ἀκατάστατος (*akatastatos*)

to rise up in open defiance of authority, with the presumed intention to overthrow it or to act in complete opposition to its demands—‘to rebel against, to revolt, to engage in insurrection, rebellion.’
(Louw-Nida) (Johannes Louw and Eugene A. Nida, editors, *Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament: Based on Semantic Domains*, vol. 1, p. 496)

Matthew 6:10 (AV) — 10 Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.



Order is heaven's first law, . . . (Ellen White,
Testimonies for the Church, vol. 6, p. 200.2)

In heaven there is perfect order, perfect obedience, perfect peace and harmony. Those who have had no respect for order or discipline in this life would have no respect for the order which is observed in heaven. They can never be admitted into heaven, for all worthy of an entrance there will love order and respect discipline. (*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 4, p. 429)

Leviticus 26:8 (KJV) — 8 And five of you shall chase an hundred, and an hundred of you shall put ten thousand to flight: and your enemies shall fall before you by the sword.

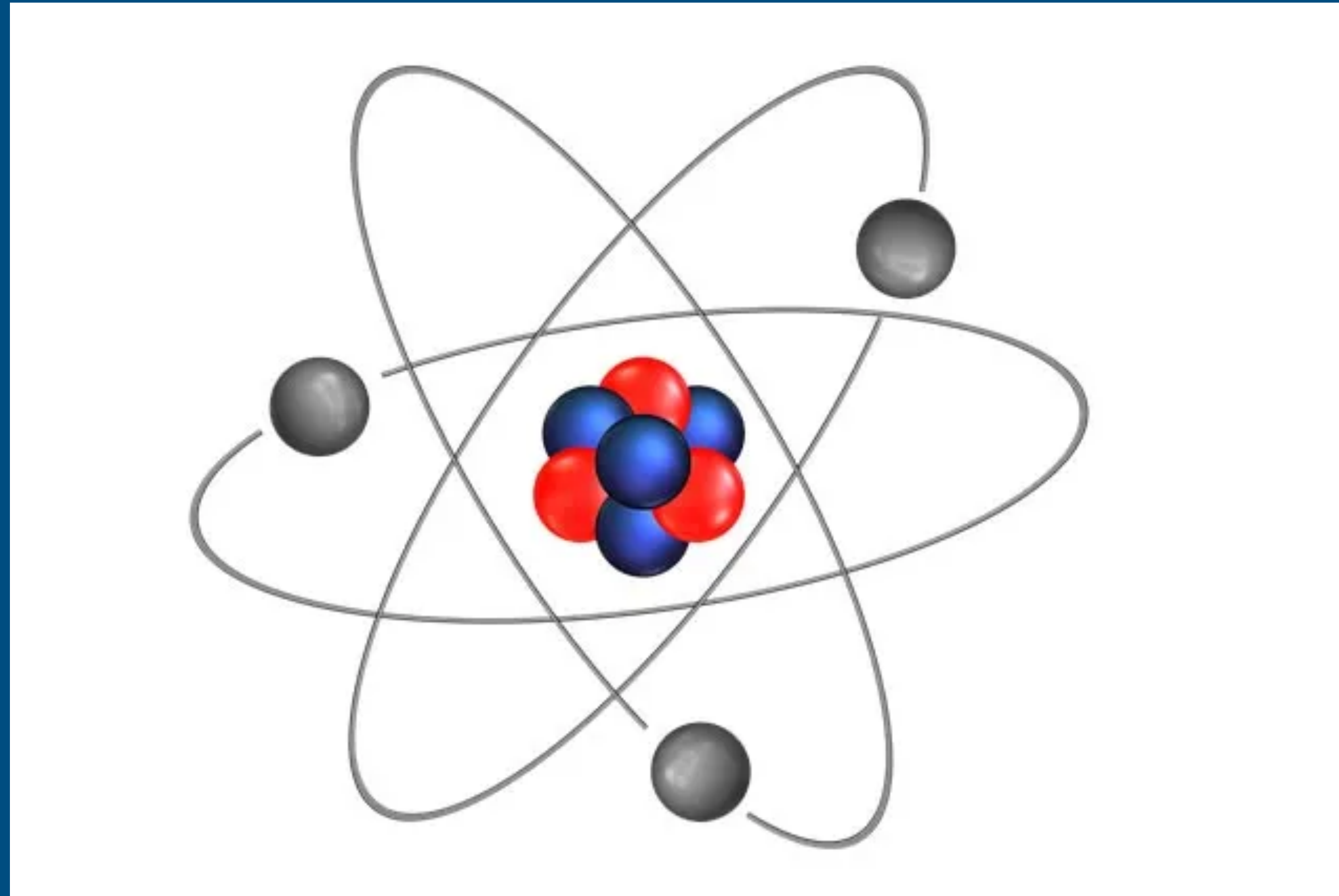


$5:100 = 1:20$ But, $100:10,000 = 1:100$

Psalm 133:1 (KJV) — 1 Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!



We are Not to be Independent Atoms



Students should be taught that they are not independent atoms, but that each one is a thread which is to unite with other threads in composing a fabric. (*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 6, p. 172.2)

An army in battle would become confused and weakened unless all worked in concert. If the soldiers should act out their own impulsive ideas, without reference to each other's positions and work, they would be a collection of independent atoms; they could not do the work of an organized body. So the soldiers of Christ must act in harmony. (Ellen White, *Spalding and Magan Collection*, p. 121.1a)

They alone must not be cherished. If they do this, the Lord's people in the place of being in perfect harmony, of one mind, one purpose, and consecrated to one grand object, will find efforts fruitless, their time and capabilities wasted. Union is strength. A few converted souls acting in harmony, acting for one grand purpose, under one head, will achieve victories at every encounter. (Ellen White, *Spalding and Magan Collection*, p. 121.1b)

Ephesians 4:4–6 (KJV) — 4 There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;
5 One Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.



1 Timothy 3:15 (KJV) — 15 But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth



Amos 3:3 (AV) — 3 Can two walk together, except they be
agreed?



2 Corinthians 6:16, 17 (AV) — 16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 17 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,



Christ calls [demands] for unity. But He does not call for us to unify on wrong practices. The God of heaven draws a sharp contrast between pure, elevating, ennobling truth and false, misleading doctrines. He calls sin and impenitence by the right name. He does not gloss over wrongdoing with a coat of untempered mortar. I urge our brethren to unify upon a true, scriptural basis.—Manuscript 10, 1905. (*Selected Messages*, bk. 1, p. 175.1)

O how Satan would rejoice if he could succeed in his efforts to get in among this people, and disorganize the work at a time when thorough organization is essential, and will be the greatest power to keep out spurious uprisings, and to refute claims not endorsed by the word of God! (*Gospel Workers*, p. 487.1)

God has made His church on the earth a channel of light, and through it He communicates His purposes and His will. He does not give to one of His servants an experience independent of and contrary to the experience of the church itself. Neither does He give one man a knowledge of His will for the entire church while the church—Christ's body—is left in darkness.

(Acts of the Apostles, p. 163.1a)

In His providence He places His servants in close connection with His church in order that they may have less confidence in themselves and greater confidence in others whom He is leading out to advance His work. (*Acts of the Apostles*, p. 163.1b)

There have ever been in the church those who are constantly inclined toward individual independence. They seem unable to realize that independence of spirit is liable to lead the human agent to have too much confidence in himself and to trust in his own judgment rather than to respect the counsel and highly esteem the judgment of his brethren, especially of those in the offices that God has appointed for the leadership of His people. (*Acts of the Apostles*, p. 163.2a)

God has invested His church with special authority and power which no one can be justified in disregarding and despising, for he who does this despises the voice of God.

(Acts of the Apostles, p. 163.2b)

Those who are inclined to regard their individual judgment as supreme are in grave peril. It is Satan's studied effort to separate such ones from those who are channels of light, through whom God has wrought to build up and extend His work in the earth. To neglect or despise those whom God has appointed to bear the responsibilities of leadership in connection with the advancement of the truth, is to reject the means that He has ordained for the help, encouragement, and strength of His people. (*Acts of the Apostles*, p. 164.1a)

For any worker in the Lord's cause to pass these by, and to think that his light must come through no other channel than directly from God, is to place himself in a position where he is liable to be deceived by the enemy and overthrown. (*Acts of the Apostles*, p. 164.1b)

The Lord in His wisdom has arranged that by means of the close relationship that should be maintained by all believers, Christian shall be united to Christian and church to church. Thus the human instrumentality will be enabled to co-operate with the divine. Every agency will be subordinate to the Holy Spirit, and all the believers will be united in an organized and well-directed effort to give to the world the glad tidings of the grace of God. (*Acts of the Apostles*, p. 164.1c)

1 Corinthians 1:2 (KJV) — 2 Unto the church of God which
is at Corinth, . . .



Galatians 1:2 (KJV) — 2 And all the brethren which are
with me, unto the churches of Galatia:



Though some persons have tried to see in the term ἐκκλησία a more or less literal meaning of ‘called-out ones,’ this type of etymologizing is not warranted either by the meaning of ἐκκλησία in NT times or even by its earlier usage. The term ἐκκλησία was in common usage for several hundred years before the Christian era and was used to refer to an assembly of persons constituted by well-defined membership. (Johannes Louw and Eugene A. Nida, editors, *Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament: Based on Semantic Domains*, vol. 1, p. 125)