

Summary

The diploma thesis „The Fundamental Beliefs of the Seventh-day Adventist Church: Theological Debate about their Nature, Role, and Arrangement in the Last 25 Years“ has two main aims. First of all the paper tries to examine the debate of Seventh-day Adventist theologians about the church’s doctrine since 1995 up to the present day. The paper’s other effort is to place the examined debate into a historical and hermenutical context of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

The introduction presents the aims of the paper, their justification, methodology, main research issues and content structure of the thesis.

In the first part of the paper are shown the main landmarks of the Seventh-day Adventist doctrinal statements since 1848 up to the present day. Then the first part focuses on the elementary hermeneutical principles of Seventh-day Adventist in relation to the Scripture and the writings of Ellen G. White which is considered as a non-canonical prophet.

The second part of the thesis deals in detail with question, how theologians from the Seventh-day Adventist Church understand the nature, role and arrangement of the Fundamental beliefs of their church. Namely – what the fundamental beliefs are, why should church hold them and how to arrange them. In connection with the first part of the paper a debate about the „sola scriptura“ principle is presented as well.

The conclusion sums up the main findings following from the paper’s sections. Besides other things, the thesis shows that the fundamental beliefs are a lively topic among adventist thinkers and that they see them positively, although some theologians point out their deficiency and suggest to make some changes, which would remove or at least reduce their imperfections. The part of the conclusion is devoted to the resolution of problematic issues emerging from the examined debate about the fundamental beliefs from an author’s point of view.