

## **Doctrinal Statement – (Adapted from the EFCA)**

### **God**

We believe in one God<sup>1</sup>, Creator of all things<sup>2</sup>, holy<sup>3</sup>, infinitely perfect<sup>4</sup>, and eternally existing<sup>5</sup> in a loving unity<sup>6</sup> of three equally divine persons<sup>7</sup>: the Father<sup>8</sup>, the Son<sup>9</sup>, and the Holy Spirit<sup>10</sup>. Having limitless knowledge<sup>11</sup> and sovereign power<sup>12</sup>, God has graciously purposed from eternity to redeem a people for Himself<sup>13</sup> and to make all things new<sup>14</sup> for His own glory<sup>15</sup>.

### **The Bible**

We believe that God has spoken in the Scriptures<sup>16</sup>, both Old and New Testaments<sup>17</sup>, through the words of human authors<sup>18</sup>. As the verbally inspired Word of God<sup>19</sup>, the Bible is without error in the original writings<sup>20</sup>, the complete revelation of His will for salvation<sup>21</sup>, and the ultimate authority by which every realm of human knowledge and endeavor should be judged<sup>22</sup>. Therefore, it is to be believed in all that it teaches<sup>23</sup>, obeyed in all that it requires<sup>24</sup>, and trusted in all that it promises<sup>25</sup>.

### **The Human Condition**

We believe that God created Adam and Eve in His image<sup>26</sup>, but they sinned when tempted by Satan<sup>27</sup>. In union with Adam<sup>28</sup>, human beings are sinners by nature and by choice<sup>29</sup>, alienated from God<sup>30</sup>, and under His wrath<sup>31</sup>. Only through God's saving work in Jesus Christ<sup>32</sup> can we be rescued<sup>33</sup>, reconciled<sup>34</sup> and renewed<sup>35</sup>.

### **Jesus Christ**

We believe that Jesus Christ<sup>36</sup> is God incarnate<sup>37</sup>, fully God<sup>38</sup> and fully man<sup>39</sup>, one person in two natures<sup>40</sup>. Jesus - Israel's promised Messiah<sup>41</sup> - was conceived through the Holy Spirit<sup>42</sup> and born of the virgin Mary<sup>43</sup>. He lived a sinless life<sup>44</sup>, was crucified under Pontius Pilate<sup>45</sup>, arose bodily from the dead<sup>46</sup>, ascended into heaven<sup>47</sup> and sits at the right hand of God the Father<sup>48</sup> as our High Priest<sup>49</sup> and Advocate<sup>50</sup>.

### **The Work of Christ**

We believe that Jesus Christ, as our representative<sup>51</sup> and substitute<sup>52</sup>, shed His blood on the cross<sup>53</sup> as the perfect, all-sufficient sacrifice<sup>54</sup> for our sins<sup>55</sup>. His atoning death<sup>56</sup> and victorious resurrection<sup>57</sup> constitute the only ground for salvation<sup>58</sup>.

### **The Holy Spirit**

We believe that the Holy Spirit, in all that He does, glorifies the Lord Jesus Christ<sup>59</sup>. He convicts the world of its guilt<sup>60</sup>. He regenerates sinners<sup>61</sup>, and in Him they are baptized<sup>62</sup> into union with Christ<sup>63</sup> and adopted as heirs<sup>64</sup> in the family of God<sup>65</sup>. He also indwells<sup>66</sup>, illuminates<sup>67</sup>, guides<sup>68</sup>, equips<sup>69</sup> and empowers<sup>70</sup> believers for Christ for Christ-like living and service<sup>71</sup>.

### **The Church**

We believe that the true church<sup>72</sup> comprises all who have been justified by God's grace through faith alone in Christ alone<sup>73</sup>. They are united by the Holy Spirit in the body of Christ<sup>74</sup>, of which He is the Head<sup>75</sup>. The true church is manifest in local churches<sup>76</sup>, whose membership should be composed only of believers<sup>77</sup>. The Lord Jesus mandated two ordinances, baptism<sup>78</sup> and the Lord's Supper<sup>79</sup>, which visibly and tangibly express the gospel. Though they are not the means of salvation, when celebrated by the church in genuine faith, these ordinances confirm and nourish the believer<sup>80</sup>.

### ***Christian Living***

We believe that God's justifying grace must not be separated from His sanctifying power and purpose<sup>81</sup>. God commands us to love Him supremely and others sacrificially<sup>82</sup> and to live out our faith with care for one another<sup>83</sup>, compassion toward the poor<sup>84</sup> and justice for the oppressed<sup>85</sup>. With God's Word, the Spirit's power, and fervent prayer in Christ's name<sup>86</sup>, we<sup>87</sup>, are to combat the spiritual forces of evil<sup>88</sup>. In obedience to Christ's commission, we are to make disciples among all people<sup>89</sup>, always bearing witness to the gospel<sup>90</sup> in word and deed<sup>91</sup>.

### ***Christ's Return***

We believe in the personal, bodily<sup>92</sup> return of our Lord Jesus Christ<sup>93</sup>. The coming of Christ, at a time known only to God<sup>94</sup>, requires constant expectancy<sup>95</sup> and, as our blessed hope<sup>96</sup>, motivates the believer to godly living, sacrificial service and energetic mission<sup>97</sup>.

### ***Response and Eternal Destiny***

We believe that God commands everyone everywhere<sup>98</sup> to believe the gospel<sup>99</sup> by turning to Him in repentance<sup>100</sup> and receiving the Lord Jesus Christ<sup>101</sup>. We believe that God will raise the dead bodily<sup>102</sup> and judge the world<sup>103</sup>, assigning the unbeliever to condemnation and eternal conscious punishment<sup>104</sup>, and the believer to eternal blessedness and joy with the Lord<sup>105</sup>, in the new heaven and the new earth<sup>106</sup>, to the praise of His glorious grace<sup>107</sup>. Amen.

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<sup>1</sup> Dt. 6:4; Mk. 12:29

<sup>2</sup> Gen. 1:1; Ps. 33:6; Jn. 1:3; Col. 1:15-17; Heb. 11:3

<sup>3</sup> Ex. 15:11; Isa. 6:3; 57:15

<sup>4</sup> Dt. 32:4; Job 1:7-10; Ps. 18:30; 50:2; 90:2; 145:3; Matt. 5:48

<sup>5</sup> Ps. 33:11; 102:25-27; 115:3; Dan. 4:34-35; Jn. 5:26; Acts 17:24-25

<sup>6</sup> Jn. 3:35; 17:24; 1 Jn. 4:8,16

<sup>7</sup> Jn. 17:11; Matt. 3:16-17; 28:19; 2 Cor. 13:14; 1 Pet. 1:2

<sup>8</sup> Dt. 32:6; Mt. 6:6; Rom. 8:15; 1 Cor. 8:6

<sup>9</sup> Matt. 3:17; Jn. 1:14; 3:16; Gal. 4:4; Heb. 1:5

<sup>10</sup> Jn. 14:16,17,26; 15:26; 16:7-15; Rom. 8:9,26; Gal. 4:6

<sup>11</sup> Ps. 139:1-16; 147:5; Isa. 46:10; Jn. 21:17

<sup>12</sup> Jer. 32:17; Eph. 1:11; Rm. 8:28; 2 Cor. 6:18; Eph 3:20; Rev 1:8

<sup>13</sup> 1 Cor. 2:7; Eph. 1:11; 3:10,11; 2 Tim. 1:9; Tit. 1:2; 1 Pet. 1:20; Rev. 13:8

<sup>14</sup> Matt. 19:28; Acts 3:21; Rom. 8:19-21; Rev. 21,22

<sup>15</sup> Ps. 19:1-2; Isa. 43:7; Jer. 13:11; Col. 1:15-23; Rev. 4:11; 5:9-14

<sup>16</sup> Matt.1:22; 4:4; 19:4,5; Heb. 1:1-2

<sup>17</sup> 2 Pet. 3:15,16

<sup>18</sup> Lk. 1:1-4

<sup>19</sup> 2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Pet.1:20,21

<sup>20</sup> Num. 23:19; 2 Sam. 7:28; Prov. 30:5; Ps.119:96,160; Matt. 5:18; Jn. 10:35; 17:17; Tit 1:1,2

<sup>21</sup> Lk. 16:29-31; Gal. 1:8,9; 2 Tim. 3:15

<sup>22</sup> Jn. 17:17; 1 Tim. 3:15-17; 1 Pet. 1:23; Ps. 119:44,45,165

<sup>23</sup> Matt. 22:29; Rom. 15:4; 2 Tim. 3:16

<sup>24</sup> Matt. 28:20; 2 Thess. 3:14; 1 Jn. 2:5

<sup>25</sup> Rom. 1:2; 4:21; Heb. 10:23; 2 Pet. 1:4; 3:13

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26 Gen. 1:26-27; 5:1; 9:6; 1 Cor. 11:7; Col. 3:10; Jas. 3:9  
27 Gen. 3:1-6; Jn. 8:44; Rom. 5:12-14; 16:20; 2 Cor. 11:3; 1 Tim. 2:13-14  
28 Job 14:4; Ps. 51:5; Jn.3:6; Rom. 3:12; 5:12-14; 1 Cor. 15:22a; 1 Jn. 1:8  
29 Gen. 6:5; Jer. 17:9; Isa. 6:5; Rom. 5:15; 8:5-8; Eph. 2:1-2; 4:17-19  
30 Rom. 5:10  
31 Rom. 1:18; 2:5; 3:9-19; 3:23; Eph. 2:3  
32 Acts 4:12; 1 Tim. 2:5  
33 1 Thess. 1:10  
34 Rom. 5:1,2,10; Col. 1:20  
35 Rom. 8:29; 2 Cor. 3:18; Eph. 4:24; Phil. 3:21; 1 Jn. 3:2  
36 Matt. 1:21; 16:18  
37 Jn. 1:14,18; 1 Jn. 4:2  
38 Isa. 9:6; Jer. 23:6; Jn. 1:1; 20:28; Rom. 9:5; Col. 2:9  
39 Matt. 4:2; Lk. 2:40,52; Jn. 11:35; Heb. 5:7-8; 1 Jn. 1:1-3  
40 Jn. 3:13; 10:30; 17:5  
41 Gen. 3:14-20; 12:1-3; 49:8-12; 2 Sam. 7:11b-16; Matt. 1:1,17; Lk. 4:16-22; 24:25-27; Jn. 1:41; 4:25-26; Acts 2:36; 13:23,32; Rom. 1:2-3; 2 Tim. 2:8,9  
42 Matt. 1:18; Lk. 1:34,35  
43 Isa. 7:14; Matt. 1:20; Lk. 1:34,35  
44 Rom. 5:19; Gal. 4:4,5; Matt. 3:15; Phil. 2:7,8; Heb. 4:15  
45 Dt. 21:23; Ps. 16:10; Matt. 27:26; Mk. 15:15; Lk. 23:16; Jn. 19:16; Acts 2:27,37  
46 Matt. 28:1-10; Mk. 16:1-8; Lk. 24:39; Rom. 4:25; 1 Cor. 15:20,44-45; Col. 1:18; Rev. 1:5  
47 Lk. 24:51; Acts 1:6-11; Eph. 1:20; 4:8-10; 1 Tim. 3:16  
48 Eph. 1:20; Col. 3:1; Heb. 1:3; 8:1; 10:12; 1 Pet. 3:22  
49 Heb. 2:17; 3:1; 4:14; 6:20; 8:1  
50 Rom. 8:34; Heb. 7:25; 9:24; 1 Jn. 2:1  
51 Gen. 2:15-17; Matt. 4:1-11; Mk. 1:12-13; Lk. 4:1-13; Rom. 5:18-19; 1 Cor. 1:30; 15:45,47; Phil. 3:9  
52 Mk. 10:45; Heb. 2:16-17; 1 Pet. 2:24; 3:18  
53 Lev. 17:11; Matt. 26:28; Heb. 9:14,22; 10:19; 1 Pet. 1:18-19; Rev. 12:10-11  
54 1 Cor. 5:7; Heb. 9:23-24,26,28; 10:1; 13:11,12  
55 Isa. 53:5-7,12; Jn 1:29; Rom. 3:21-26; 2 Cor. 5:21; Gal. 3:13; 1 Jn. 3:5  
56 Rom. 3:25; Heb. 2:17; 1 Jn. 2:2; 4:10  
57 Col. 1:13; 2:13-15; Heb. 2:14-15  
58 Rom. 4:25; 6:4,11,14; 1 Cor. 6:14; 15:20; 2 Cor. 4:14; Eph. 1:19-20; 2:5-6; 1 Pet. 1:3  
59 Jn. 16:14  
60 Jn. 16:8; 1 Cor. 2:14  
61 Ezek. 36:25-27; Jn. 3:3,5; 1 Cor. 12:3; 2 Cor. 5:17; Eph. 2:5; Col. 2:13; 1 Thess. 1:4-5; 2 Thess. 2:13; Tit. 3:5; Jas. 1:18; 1 Pet. 1:3  
62 Mk. 1:8; Acts 1:5; 1 Cor. 12:13  
63 Rom. 3:24; 5:15-21; 12:5; 1 Cor. 1:2; 5:19; 15:22b; 2 Cor. 5:17; Gal. 1:22; 2:17; 3:28; Eph. 1:4; 2:12; 3:6; 4:32; 2 Tim. 2:10; 1 Thess. 4:16  
64 Rom. 8:15,23; 9:4; Gal. 4:5; Eph. 1:5; Tit. 3:7  
65 Matt. 12:49-50; 2 Cor. 6:18; Eph. 3:14; 1 Jn. 3:14-18  
66 Jn. 14:17; Rom. 8:11; 1 Cor. 3:16  
67 1 Cor. 2:2; 2 Cor. 4:4-15; Eph. 1:17-19; Phil. 1:9-11  
68 Jn. 16:13; Acts 15:28; Rom. 8:4,14; Gal. 5:16,18  
69 Rom. 12:4-8; 1 Cor. 12:4-10; Eph. 4:7-11; 1 Pet. 4:10-11  
70 Acts 1:8; 10:38; Rom. 15:13; 1 Cor. 12:11; Eph. 3:16; 2 Tim. 1:7  
71 Acts 6:8; Rom. 8:4-6,12-16; 2 Cor. 13:14; Gal.3:3,5; 5:22-23,25; Eph. 2:22; 4:3; Phil. 2:1-2  
72 Matt. 16:18; 1 Cor. 12:28; Eph. 4:4-6; 5:25; Heb. 12:28  
73 Ps. 103:12; Isa. 44:22; Jn. 3:16; Acts 16:31; Rom. 3:20-28; 4:3; 5:1,21; 8:1,30,33-34; 10:4,9; 2 Cor. 5:21; Gal. 2:16; Eph. 2:8-9; Phil. 3:9; Tit. 3:7; Heb. 10:14  
74 1 Cor. 12:12-27  
75 Eph. 1:22-23; 4:15-16; Col. 1:18; 2:19  
76 Acts 9:31; 20:28-30; Rom. 16:5; 1 Cor. 1:2; 16:19; 2 Cor. 1:1; 1 Thess. 1:1; Philemon 1-2  
77 Matt. 18:15-20; Acts 2:41,47; 14:23; 20:7; 1 Cor. 1:2,9; 11:20; 12:13; 14:40; 16:1-2; 1 Tim. 3:1-13; 5:9; Tit. 1:5-9; Heb. 10:25  
78 Matt. 28:18-20; Rom. 6:3-4; Col. 2:12

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<sup>79</sup> Matt. 26:26-29; Mk. 14:22-25; Lk. 22:15-20; 1 Cor. 11:23-26  
<sup>80</sup> Jn. 6:55-56; Acts 2:38; 8:39; 16:34; 1 Cor. 10:16; 11:29-30; Col. 2:12  
<sup>81</sup> Matt. 7:17-18; 12:33,35; Heb. 11:6; Eph. 2:10; 1 Cor. 10:31; Col. 3:17,23; 2 Thess. 2:13; 5:23;  
2 Cor. 5:17; 1 Jn. 2:29; 3:9; 5:18; 2 Cor. 3:18; Tit. 3:5; 1 Cor. 6:11; Rom. 6:11,14; 1 Pet. 1:15;  
Phil. 2:12-13; Heb. 12:1,14; Rom. 6; 2 Tim. 1:9; Jas. 2:17; 1 Pet. 2:24; 2 Pet. 1:3-11  
<sup>82</sup> Dt. 6:5; Lev. 19:18; Matt. 22:37-39; Mk. 12:30; Lk. 10:27  
<sup>83</sup> Rom. 12:10; 14:13; 15:7,14; Gal. 5:26; Eph. 4:32; 1 Thess. 3:12; 5:11,15; Heb. 10:24-25; 1 Pet.  
4:9  
<sup>84</sup> Dt. 15:11; Ps. 82:3,4; 140:12; Prov. 14:21,31; 19:17; 22:9,16,22,23; 28:8; 29:7; 31:8,9; Jer.  
22:16; Gal. 2:10; Jas 1:27  
<sup>85</sup> Ex. 23:6; Lev. 19:15; Ps. 83:3,4; 140:12; Prov. 29:7; 31:9; Isa. 1:17; Jer. 9:24; Mic. 6:8; Zech.  
7:9,10; Matt. 23:23; Lk. 4:18  
<sup>86</sup> Eph. 6:10-18  
<sup>87</sup> Heb. 3:13; 10:25  
<sup>88</sup> 2 Cor. 10:3-5; Eph. 6:11,12; 2 Tim. 4:7; 1 Jn. 5:3-4  
<sup>89</sup> Matt. 28:19; Jn. 20:21; Rev. 7:9  
<sup>90</sup> Acts 1:8  
<sup>91</sup> Matt. 5:13-16  
<sup>92</sup> Matt. 24:30; 26:64; Acts 1:11; Rev. 1:7; Rev. 20:1-10  
<sup>93</sup> Matt. 25:31; Tit. 2:13; 2 Thess. 1:6-8; Rev. 19:11-21  
<sup>94</sup> Matt. 24:36; Mk. 13:32  
<sup>95</sup> Matt. 24:42-51; Rom. 13:11-14; 1 Thess. 5:1-11; Jas. 5:8,9; 2 Pet. 3:10-14; Rev. 3:3  
<sup>96</sup> Tit. 2:13  
<sup>97</sup> 2 Thess. 1:6-8; 2 Tim. 4:8; Tit. 2:14; Heb. 9:28; 1 Jn. 3:2-3; 2 Pet. 3:10-14  
<sup>98</sup> Acts 17:30; 20:20  
<sup>99</sup> Mk. 1:15; Jn. 6:29; 8:24; 11:26; 14:1; 20:31; Acts 16:31; Rom. 3:22; 10:14; Gal. 3:22; 1 Tim.  
1:16; 1 Pet. 1:8; 1 Jn. 3:23  
<sup>100</sup> Isa. 55:6-7; Lk. 24:47; Acts 2:37-38; 3:19; 14:15; 17:30; 20:21; 26:17,18; Rom. 2:4; 2 Cor. 7:9-  
10  
<sup>101</sup> Jn. 1:12  
<sup>102</sup> Isa. 26:19; Dan. 12:2; 1 Cor. 15; 1 Thess. 4:13-18; Rev. 20:13  
<sup>103</sup> Ecc. 12:14; Matt. 12:36; 26:31-32; Acts 17:31; Rom. 14:10; 2 Cor. 7:9-10  
<sup>104</sup> Matt. 25:46; Lk. 16:26; 2 Thess. 1:9; Rev. 14:11; 21:6,8; 22:14,15  
<sup>105</sup> Matt. 25:34,46; Jn. 14:2; Rev. 21:1-3  
<sup>106</sup> Isa. 65:17; 66:22; Rom. 8:19-21; Heb. 12:26,27; 2 Pet. 3:13; Rev. 21:1; 22:3  
<sup>107</sup> Eph. 1:6,12