



EFCA Statement of Faith
Adopted by the Conference on June 19, 2019
(with Scripture References – a Spiritual Heritage Committee working document)

The Evangelical Free Church of America is an association of autonomous churches united around these theological convictions:

God

1. We believe in one God (**Dt. 6:4; Mk. 12:29**), Creator of all things (**Gen. 1:1; Ps. 33:6; Jn. 1:3; Col. 1:15-17; Heb. 11:3**), holy (**Ex. 15:11; Isa. 6:3; 57:15**), infinitely perfect (**Dt. 32:4; Job 1:7-10; Ps. 18:30; 50:2; 90:2; 145:3; Matt. 5:48**), and eternally existing (**Ps. 33:11; 102:25-27; 115:3; Dan. 4:34-35; Jn. 5:26; Acts 17:24-25**) in a loving unity (**Jn. 3:35; 17:24; 1 Jn. 4:8,16**) of three equally divine Persons (**Jn. 17:11; Matt. 3:16-17; 28:19; 2 Cor. 13:14; 1 Pet. 1:2**): the Father (**Dt. 32:6; Mt. 6:6; Rom. 8:15; 1 Cor. 8:6**), the Son (**Matt. 3:17; Jn. 1:14; 3:16; Gal. 4:4; Heb. 1:5**), and the Holy Spirit (**Jn. 14:16, 17, 26; 15:26; 16:7-15; Rom. 8:9, 26; Gal. 4:6**). Having limitless knowledge (**Ps. 139:1-16; 147:5; Isa. 46:10; Jn. 21:17**) and sovereign power (**Jer. 32:17; Eph. 1:11; Rom. 8:28; 2 Cor. 6:18; Eph. 3:20; Rev. 1:8**), God has graciously purposed from eternity to redeem a people for Himself (**1 Cor. 2:7; Eph. 1:11; 3:10,11; 2 Tim. 1:9; Tit. 1:2; 1 Pet. 1:20; Rev. 13:8**) and to make all things new (**Matt. 19:28; Acts 3:21; Rom. 8:19-21; Rev. 21,22**) for His own glory (**Ps. 19:1-2; Isa. 43:7; Jer. 13:11; Col. 1:15-23; Rev. 4:11; 5:9-14**).

The Bible

2. We believe that God has spoken in the Scriptures (**Matt. 1:22; 4:4; 19:4,5; Heb. 1:1-2**), both Old and New Testaments (**2 Pet. 3:15,16**), through the words of human authors (**Lk. 1:1-4**). As the verbally inspired Word of God (**2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Pet. 1:20,21**), the Bible is without error in the original writings (**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**), the complete revelation of His will for salvation (**Lk. 16:29-31; Gal. 1:8,9; 2 Tim. 3:15**), and the ultimate authority by which every realm of human knowledge and endeavor should be judged (**Jn. 17:17; 1 Tim. 3:15-17; 1 Pet. 1:23; Ps. 119:44,45,165**). Therefore, it is to be believed in all that it teaches (**Matt. 22:29; Rom. 15:4; 2 Tim. 3:16**), obeyed in all that it requires (**Matt. 28:20; 2 Thess. 3:14; 1 Jn. 2:5**), and trusted in all that it promises (**Rom. 1:2; 4:21; Heb. 10:23; 2 Pet. 1:4; 3:13**).

The Human Condition

3. We believe that God created Adam and Eve in His image (**Gen. 1:26-27; 5:1; 9:6; 1 Cor. 11:7; Col. 3:10; Jms. 3:9**), but they sinned when tempted by Satan (**Gen. 3:1-6; Jn. 8:44; Rom. 5:12-14; 16:20; 2 Cor. 11:3; 1 Tim. 2:13-14**). In union with Adam (**Job 14:4; Ps. 51:5; Jn.**

3:6; Rom. 3:12; 5:12-14; 1 Cor. 15:22a; 1 Jn. 1:8), human beings are sinners by nature and by choice (Gen. 6:5; Jer. 17:9; Isa. 6:5; Rom. 5:15; 8:5-8; Eph. 2:1-2; 4:17-19), alienated from God (Rom. 5:10), and under His wrath (Rom. 1:18; 2:5; 3:9-19; 3:23; Eph. 2:3). Only through God's saving work in Jesus Christ (Act 4:12; 1 Tim. 2:5) can we be rescued (1 Thess. 1:10), reconciled (Rom. 5:1,2,10; Col. 1:20) and renewed (Rom. 8:29; 2 Cor. 3:18; Eph. 4:24; Phil. 3:21; 1 Jn. 3:2).

Jesus Christ

4. We believe that Jesus Christ (**Matt. 1:21; 16:18**) is God incarnate (**Jn. 1:14, 18; 1 Jn. 4:2**), fully God (**Isa. 9:6; Jer. 23:6; Jn. 1:1; 20:28; Rom. 9:5; Col. 2:9**) and fully man (**Matt. 4:2; Lk. 2:40, 52; Jn. 11:35; Heb. 5:7-8; 1 Jn. 1:1-3**), one Person in two natures (**Jn. 3:13; 10:30; 17:5**). Jesus—Israel's promised Messiah (**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**)—was conceived through the Holy Spirit (**Matt. 1:18; Lk. 1:34,35**) and born of the virgin Mary (**Isa. 7:14; Matt. 1:20; Lk. 1:34,35**). He lived a sinless life (**Rom. 5:19; Gal. 4:4,5; Matt. 3:15; Phil. 2:7,8; Heb. 4:15**), was crucified under Pontius Pilate (**Dt. 21:23; Ps. 16:10; Matt. 27:26; Mk. 15:15; Lk. 23:16; Jn. 19:16; Acts 2:27, 37**), arose bodily from the dead (**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**), ascended into heaven (**Lk. 24:51; Acts 1:6-11; Eph. 1:20; 4:8-10; 1 Tim. 3:16**) and sits at the right hand of God the Father (**Eph. 1:20; Col. 3:1; Heb. 1:3; 8:1; 10:12; 1 Pet. 3:22**) as our High Priest (**Heb. 2:17; 3:1; 4:14; 6:20; 8:1**) and Advocate (**Rom. 8: 34; Heb. 7:25; 9:24; 1 Jn. 2:1**).

The Work of Christ

5. We believe that Jesus Christ, as our representative (**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**) and substitute (**Mk. 10:45; Heb. 2:16-17; 1 Pet. 2:24; 3:18**), shed His blood on the cross (**Lev. 17:11; Mt. 26:28; Heb. 9:14, 22; 10:19; 1 Pet. 1:18-19; Rev. 12:10-11**) as the perfect, all-sufficient sacrifice (**1 Cor. 5:7; Heb. 9:23-24, 26, 28; 10:1; 13:11, 12**) for our sins (**Isa. 53:5-7, 12; Jn. 1:29; Rom. 3:21-26; 2 Cor. 5:21; Gal. 3:13; 1 Jn. 3:5**). His atoning death (**Rom. 3:25; Heb. 2:17; 1 Jn. 2:2; 4:10**) and victorious resurrection (**Col. 1:13; 2:13-15; Heb. 2:14-15**) constitute the only ground for salvation (**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**).

The Holy Spirit

6. We believe that the Holy Spirit, in all that He does, glorifies the Lord Jesus Christ (**Jn. 16:14**). He convicts the world of its guilt (**Jn. 16:8; 1 Cor. 2:14**). He regenerates sinners (**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; Jms. 1:18; 1 Pet. 1:3**), and in Him they are baptized (**Mk. 1:8; Acts 1:5; 1 Cor. 12:13**) into union with Christ (**Rom. 3:24; 5:15-21; 12:5; 1 Cor. 1:2; 6:19; 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**) and adopted as heirs (**Rom. 8:15, 23; 9:4; Gal. 4:5; Eph. 1:5; Tit. 3:7**) in the family of God (**Matt. 12:49-50; 2 Cor. 6:18; Eph. 3:14; 1 Jn. 3:14-18**). He also indwells (**Jn. 14:17; Rom. 8:11; 1 Cor. 3:16**), illuminates (**1 Cor. 2:2; 2 Cor. 4:4-15; Eph. 1:17-19; Phil. 1:9-11**), guides (**Jn. 16:13; Acts 15:28; Rom. 8:4, 14; Gal. 5:16, 18**), equips (**Rom. 12:4-8; 1 Cor. 12: 4-10; Eph. 4: 7-11; 1 Pet. 4:10-11**) and empowers (**Acts 1:8; 10:38; Rom. 15:13; 1 Cor. 12:11; Eph. 3:16; 2 Tim. 1:7**) believers for Christ-like living and service (**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**).

The Church

7. We believe that the true church (**Matt. 16:18; 1 Cor. 12:28; Eph. 4:4-6; 5:25; Heb. 12:28**) comprises all who have been justified by God's grace through faith alone in Christ alone (**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**). They are united by the Holy Spirit in the body of Christ (**1 Cor. 12:12-27**), of which He is the Head (**Eph. 1:22-23; 4:15-16; Col. 1:18; 2:19**). The true church is manifest in local churches (**Acts 9:31; 20:28-30; Rom. 16:5; 1 Cor. 1:2; 16:19; 2 Cor. 1:1; 1 Thess. 1:1; Philem. 1-2**), whose membership should be composed only of believers (**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**). The Lord Jesus mandated two ordinances, baptism (**Matt. 28:18-20; Rom. 6:3-4; Col. 2:12**) and the Lord's Supper (**Matt. 26:26-29; Mk. 14:22-25; Lk. 22:15-20; 1 Cor. 11:23-26**), 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 (**Jn. 6:55-56; Acts 2:38; 8:39; 16:34; 1 Cor. 10:16; 11:29-30; Col. 2:12**).

Christian Living

8. We believe that God's justifying grace must not be separated from His sanctifying power and purpose (**Matt. 7:17-18; 12:33, 35; Heb. 11:6; Eph. 2:10; 1 Cor. 10:31; Col. 3:17, 23; 1 Thess. 5:23; 2 Thess. 2:13; 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; 2 Tim. 1:9; Js. 2:17; 1 Pet. 2:24; 2 Pet. 1:3-11**). God commands us to love Him supremely and others sacrificially (**Dt. 6:5; Lev. 19:18; Matt. 22:37-39; Mk. 12:30; Lk. 10:27**) and to live out our faith with care for one another (**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**), compassion toward the poor (**Dt. 15:11; Psalms 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; Js. 1:27**) and justice for the oppressed (**Ex. 23:6; Lev. 19:15; Psalms 82:3,4; 140:12; Prov. 29:7; 31:9; Isa. 1:17; Jer. 9:24; Mic. 6:8; Zech. 7:9,10; Matt. 23:23; Luke 4:18**). With God's Word, the Spirit's power, and fervent prayer in Christ's name (**Eph. 6:10-18**), we (**Heb. 3:13; 10:25**), are to combat the spiritual forces of evil (**2 Cor. 10:3-5; Eph. 6:11, 12; 2 Tim. 4:7; 1 Jn. 5:3-4**). In obedience to Christ's commission, we are to make disciples among all people (**Matt. 28:19; Jn. 20:21; Rev. 7:9**), always bearing witness to the gospel (**Acts 1:8**) in word and deed (**Matt. 5:13-16**).

Christ's Return

9. We believe in the personal, bodily (**Matt. 24:30; 26:64; Acts 1:11; Rev. 1:7**) and glorious (**Matt. 16:27; 19:28; 24:30; 25:31; Mk. 8:38; Lk. 9:26; 21:27; Col. 3:4; 2 Thess. 1:10; Tit. 2:13; 1 Pet. 1:7; 4:13; 5:1, 4**) return of our Lord Jesus Christ (**Matt. 25:31; Tit. 2:13; 2 Thess. 1:6-8; Rev. 19:11-21**). The coming of Christ, at a time known only to God (**Matt. 24:36; Mk. 13:32**), requires constant expectancy (**Matt. 24:42-51; Rom. 13:11-14; 1 Thess. 5:1-11; Js. 5:8,9; 2 Pet. 3:10-14; Rev. 3:3**) and, as our blessed hope (**Tit. 2:13**), motivates the believer to godly living, sacrificial service and energetic mission (**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**).

Response and Eternal Destiny

10. We believe that God commands everyone everywhere (**Acts 20:20**) to believe the gospel (**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**) by turning to Him in repentance (**Isa. 55:6-7; Lk. 24:47; Acts**

2:37-38; 3:19; 14:15; 20:21; 26:17,18; Rom. 2:4; 2 Cor. 7:9-10) and receiving the Lord Jesus Christ (**Jn. 1:12**). We believe that God will raise the dead bodily (**Isa. 26:19; Dan. 12:2; 1 Cor. 15; 1 Thess. 4:13-18; Rev. 20:13**) and judge the world (**Ecc. 12:14; Matt. 12:36; 26:31-32; Acts 17:31; Rom. 14:10; 2 Cor. 5:10; 2 Tim. 4:1; Rev. 20:12**), assigning the unbeliever to condemnation and eternal conscious punishment (**Matt. 25:46; Lk. 16:26; 2 Thess. 1:9; Rev. 14:11; 21:6,8; 22:14,15**), and the believer to eternal blessedness and joy with the Lord (**Matt. 25:34, 46; Jn. 14:2; Rev. 21:1-3**), in the new heaven and the new earth (**Isa. 65:17; 66:22; Rom. 8:19-21; Heb. 12:26,27; 2 Pet. 3:13; Rev. 21:1; 22:3**), to the praise of His glorious grace (**Eph. 1:6, 12**). Amen.