

Grace Evangelical Free Church

Our Statement of Faith:

WE BELIEVE:

1. The Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, to be the inspired Word of God, without error in the original writings, the complete revelation of His will for the salvation of men and the Divine and final authority for Christian faith and life.
2. In one God, Creator of all things, infinitely perfect and eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
3. That Jesus Christ is true God and true man having been conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He died on the cross a sacrifice for our sins according to the Scriptures. Further, He arose bodily from the dead, ascended into heaven, where at the right hand of the Majesty on High, He is now our High Priest and Advocate.
4. That the ministry of the Holy Spirit is to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ, and during this age to convict men, regenerate the believing sinner, indwell, guide, instruct, and empower the believer for godly living and service.
5. That man was created in the image of God but fell into sin and is, therefore, lost and only through regeneration by the Holy Spirit can salvation and spiritual life be obtained.
6. That the shed blood of Jesus Christ and His resurrection provide the only ground for justification and salvation for all who believe, and only such as receive Jesus Christ are born of the Holy Spirit and, thus, become children of God.
7. That water baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances to be observed by the Church during the present age. They are, however, not to be regarded as a means of salvation.
8. That the true Church is composed of all such persons who through saving faith in Jesus Christ have been regenerated by the Holy Spirit and are united together in the body of Christ of which He is the Head.
9. That only those who are, thus, members of the Church shall be eligible for membership in the local church.
10. That Jesus Christ is the Lord and Head of the Church and that every local church has the right under Christ, to decide and govern its own affairs.
11. In the personal premillennial and imminent coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and that this "Blessed Hope" has a vital bearing on the personal life and service of the believer.
12. In the bodily resurrection of the dead; of the believer to everlasting blessedness and joy with the Lord; of the unbeliever to judgment and everlasting conscious punishment.

Our Statement of Values:

VALUES FOR GODLY WORSHIP:

1. We are committed to dependence on God (Deut. 6:5-9, Jos. 24:14)

Grace EFC exists for God and His purposes. In every person and program God is first. He is to be experienced and is to be pleased.

2. We are committed to Bible-centered exposition. (Deut. 8:3, Mt. 4:4, Acts 2:42-43) Grace EFC believes the Bible is God's inspired Word and is the authority for faith and practice in our daily living. God's Word is both timeless and timely. It is relevant to the common needs of people at all times and for all cultures.

3. We are committed to prayer (Mt. 7:7-11, James 5:13-18)

We believe that God desires His people to pray and that He hears and answers prayer.

4. We are committed to inspired worship (Ps. 100. Heb. 12:18-29)

Grace EFC is a community of believers who eagerly strive to allow God to be present in our public gathering. We believe that God is most greatly glorified and pleased when we worship Him through the power and inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

VALUES FOR GODLY WALK:

5. We are committed to Spirit-led lay ministry (Eph. 4:12)

We believe that the primary responsibility of the pastor(s) and elders at Grace EFC is to prepare God's people for their individual Christian work.

6. We are committed to godly character and integrity (Col.1:10. 1Th. 2:12)

We believe that Christ has called His people out of this world to be witnesses for Him, to obey His commandments, and to live lovingly and biblically toward our neighbors whether they are fellow believers or those who Christ seeks to save.

VALUE FOR GODLY WITNESS:

7. We are committed to godly leadership (1Tim. 3:17, Tit. 1:6-9)

We believe that Christ is ultimately the only head of the church and that He has chosen to function through leaders within the local church. We believe that these leaders must meet the biblical qualification of leadership.

8. We are committed to unity through teamwork (Ecc. 1:9, Rom. 12:5, 1Cor. 12:27). We believe that God has brought each of us into this family of believers at Grace EFC with unique gifts and abilities. While we each have different gifts, we are to work together in a spirit of unity and cooperation in order to build Christ's Church.

9. We are committed to excellence in ministry (Prov. 27:27, Mal. 1:6-14, Col. 3:17). We believe that excellence honors God and inspires people in faith, commitment, and worship. We further believe that it is our Lord's desire that we strive for excellence. He deserves the best we have to offer.

10. We are committed to reaching our community for Christ (Mt. 28:18-20. 1Pet. 3:15-16). We believe that evangelism begins with warm fellowship, friendliness, and the spirit of valuing the importance of people as our Lord values them. We believe that it is the work of the Holy Spirit to bring people into His kingdom.

Distinctives of the Evangelical Free Church of America (<http://www.efca.org>):

THE EFCA IS INCLUSIVE NOT EXCLUSIVE:

The great heritage of the Evangelical Free Church people around the world includes the fact that

fellowship and ministry opportunities in the local church are based solely on one's personal faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord and trusting Him alone for salvation. Membership requires commitment to sound doctrine as expressed in our Statement of Faith. A person is not, however, excluded from membership because he or she does not agree to every fine point of doctrine.

THE EFCA IS EVANGELICAL BUT NOT SEPARATISTIC:

The evangelical Free Church was born out of a heritage of commitment to the authority and inerrancy of Scripture. We have a deep conviction based on the authority of God's inerrant Word, but we do not draw battle lines over minor points.

THE EFCA IS ECUMENICAL IN SPIRIT THOUGH NOT IN STRUCTURE:

We join with other Christians and other denominations of like faith in common goals and ministries to accomplish the Great Commandment and the Great Commission.

THE EFCA BELIEVES IN LIBERTY WITH RESPONSIBILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY:

We believe in Christian liberty, but freedom always has its limitation. We encourage our people to be responsible, godly men, women, and young people who desire to live under the control of the Holy Spirit, in obedience to the principles and precepts of God's Word.

THE EFCA BELIEVES IN THE RATIONAL AND RELATIONSHIP DIMENSIONS OF CHRISTIANITY:

We believe the Scriptures must be applied to our lives with warmth of heart, and concern. Sound Christian doctrine must be coupled with dynamic Christian experience. Ours is a ministry of love and spiritual reconciliation.

THE EFCA AFFIRMS THE RIGHT OF EACH LOCAL CHURCH TO GOVERN ITS OWN AFFAIRS:

We are committed to a congregational form of government. Strong pastoral leadership coupled with discerning and well-equipped Christian lay people can produce spiritual growth as well as significant church growth. Within the local church, the highest human authority rests in the congregation.

The Historical Background of the Evangelical Free Church of America:

The Evangelical Free church of America was formed in 1950 by the merger of two church bodies: the Swedish Evangelical Free Church and the Norwegian Danish Evangelical Free Church Association. Both groups were birthed in the revival movements of the late nineteenth century.

The Swedish group had its formal beginnings in Boone, Iowa, at the conference held in October of 1884. In that same year, two Norwegian-Danish groups began to worship and fellowship together in Boston, Massachusetts, and Tacoma, Washington. By 1912 both the Swedish Evangelical Free Church and the Norwegian-Danish Evangelical Free Church Association had been formed.

These two associations, representing 275 local congregations, were formally joined together as they gathered for a merger conference in June of 1950 at the Medic Lake Foundation Grounds in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The international and national offices of the EFCA have been located in Minneapolis since the merger took place.

From its inception, the Evangelical Free Church of America has been committed to being involved actively in the mission of Christ's church in our local church communities, nation, and world. Our Mission focuses on our strategic involvement in responding to the Great Commission of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The EFCA supports more than 500 missionaries in 40 countries with an additional 500 short-term missionaries being sent each year. The EFCA Mission's vision and purpose are fulfilled primarily through church planting and training of national workers. These activities are motivated by 1) concern for Christ's glory, 2) the constraints of Christ's compassion, 3) the clarity of Christ's command, 4) the certainty of Christ's coming, 5) the eternal future of those who do not have Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord.