

Emmanuel Faith's Final Proposed Statement of Faith

Updated October 15, 2020*

Preamble to the Statement of Faith

We are grateful to God for revealing Himself to us through the Scriptures and trust Him to continually show us His will through His Word. Under the headship of Jesus Christ, the Board of Elders is responsible to guard, guide, and govern His church. Therefore, the Board is the church's authority regarding the religious beliefs and practices in the EFCC Constitution, including the Statement of Faith. This Statement of Faith defines the biblically-based, core beliefs of our church family. (Acts 20:28; Ephesians 5:23; 1 Timothy 3:3-5; Titus 1:9; 1 Peter 5:1-4)

Section 1: The Bible

We believe the Scripture, both the Old and New Testaments, to be God's written word. The Bible's human authors, with their distinct personalities and styles, were inspired by God and carried along by the Holy Spirit to choose the exact words God intended to communicate to humankind. Scripture was without error in the original writings and is completely truthful in all that it addresses; therefore, it is to be believed as God's instruction in all that it affirms. It is to be obeyed as God's command in all that it requires and embraced in all that it promises. The Bible is the only rule for faith and practice. We affirm that the person and work of Jesus Christ is the central focus of the entire Bible. (Numbers 23:19; Joshua 1:8-9; 23:14; Psalm 19:7-9, 119:42; Proverbs 30:5-6; Matthew 5:17-18; Luke 24:27; John 5:39-40; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21)

Section 2: The Trinity

We believe there is only one God, Creator of all things, eternally existing in three equal but separate persons, revealed to us in the Bible as God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Each one possesses the same divine nature and attributes, and is worthy of worship, confidence, and obedience. The triune God is glorious, infinite and personal, perfect in holiness, wisdom, unity, foreknowledge, power, and love. (Deuteronomy 6:4; Psalm 90:2, 139:1-18; Isaiah 6:3; 66:1-2; Daniel 4:35; Matthew 3:16-17; 28:19-20; John 1:1-4, 4:24; Acts 5:3-4; Romans 11:33-36; Ephesians 4:3-6; 2 Corinthians 13:14; 1 John 4:16)

Section 3: The Person and Work of God the Father

We believe that God the Father is Lord of heaven and earth and is working all things according to His sovereign will and purpose. He hears and answers prayer while graciously providing for all His creation and blessing those who follow His plan. Because of His great love, He sent Jesus to die for the forgiveness of sin and then raised Him from the dead. He sends the Holy Spirit to all those whom He adopts into His family. He reigns supreme from heaven. (Matthew 23:9; Luke 10:21-22; John 3:16, 6:27, 16:23; Acts 13:29-30; Romans 1:7, 6:4; Galatians 1:1; Ephesians 1:3-12, 4:6; 1 Corinthians 15:24-28; 1 Timothy 1:1-2, 2:5-6; James 1:17-18; 1 Peter 1:3; Revelation 1:6)

Section 4: The Person and Work of Jesus

We believe that God the Son, without ceasing to be God, became fully man as Jesus Christ after being miraculously conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He lived a sinless life, and through His death on the cross, paid our penalty for sin which is death. Thus, He satisfied God's righteous judgment and revealed His merciful love by offering Himself as an atoning sacrifice providing forgiveness to all who trust Him. He defeated the powers of evil, was raised bodily from the dead, and ascended to the Father's right hand where He reigns as Lord and intercedes on the believer's behalf. (Leviticus 16:5-10; Luke 1:34-35; John 1:1-2, 14, 18; Romans 3:23-26, 5:8, 6:23, 8:34; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Galatians 3:10-13; Colossians 2:13-15; 1 Timothy 2:5-6; Hebrews 2:14-15; 1 John 2:2)

Section 5: The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit

We believe that God the Holy Spirit is a person, possessing all the divine attributes. The Holy Spirit convicts the world concerning sin, righteousness, and judgment, and gives new spiritual life to those who trust in Jesus Christ. As the Helper, He indwells believers permanently at the moment of salvation, guides them in the truth, empowers them to bear fruit, and enables them to walk in holiness. The Holy Spirit gives spiritual gifts to every believer according to His divine will and plan. These gifts are to be biblically exercised for the glory of Jesus Christ and the building up of His church. (John 3:5-8, 16:7-14; Acts 1:8, 5:3-4; 1 Corinthians 12:7, 14:12; Galatians 5:22-23; Ephesians 1:13-14; 2 Timothy 1:6; 1 Peter 4:10-11)

Section 6: The Human Condition

We believe that Adam and Eve were originally created in the image and likeness of God, free from sin. They sinned by a voluntary act of personal disobedience to the revealed will of God and were thereby subject to spiritual, physical, and eternal death which is separation from God. While every human being is made in the image of God, the consequences of sin have affected every aspect of human nature. All people, except Jesus, are born with a sinful nature and are sinners by choice; therefore, they are under condemnation and are incapable of reconciling with God apart from divine grace.

(Genesis 1:26, 3:1-24, 6:5; Psalm 51:5; Jeremiah 17:9; Romans 3:10-23, 5:12, 8:7-8; Ephesians 2:1-3, 4:17-18; James 1:13-15, 3:9)

Section 7: The Gift of Salvation

We believe that God, because of His great love, offers salvation as a free gift to be received by faith alone in Jesus Christ. This gift was purchased through Jesus' life, death, burial, and resurrection. By faith, we are justified before God apart from any human merit or work and are reconciled to Him by His saving grace through the regenerating work of the Spirit and the word of God. He makes us alive with Christ, gives us a new heart, forgives our sins, clothes us in righteousness, adopts us into His family, transfers us into His Kingdom,* and guarantees us eternal life.

(Ezekiel 36:26-27; John 3:16, 5:24, 14:6; Romans 6:23; Ephesians 1:6-7, 2:4-9; Colossians 1:12-14; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4; 2 Corinthians 3:3, 5:18; Titus 3:5; 1 Peter 1:23-25)

**Please note: The phrase "transfers us into His Kingdom" was missing in the document that was mailed to members. This phrase is included in the Elder approved Final Proposed Statement of Faith.*

Section 8: The Life of the Disciple

We believe that all who receive God's grace by faith in Jesus Christ are given new spiritual life by the Holy Spirit; are completely forgiven of their sins; and are eternally secure, persevering by His grace. The Spirit empowers believers to love God and people, be disciples who learn to obey Jesus, deny themselves, and abide in Christ. As disciples learn to live sacrificially in God's Kingdom, they become more like Jesus, proclaiming the gospel and making disciples of all nations.

(Matthew 4:17-19, 7:20-27, 16:24-25, 22:36-40, 24:13, 28:19-20; John 3:3-8, 10:27-29, 13:34-35; Acts 1:8, 10:43; Romans 8:11, 28-39; 2 Corinthians 3:18, 5:17; Galatians 5:16-25; Ephesians 1:7, 13-14; 2:10; Hebrews 3:14; James 1:2-3, 2:14-26; 1 John 2:19, 5:11-13)

Section 9: The Church

We believe that all who place their faith in Jesus Christ are united by the Holy Spirit into one Church of which Christ is the Head. Following Jesus' ascension to heaven, believers of all ethnicities and backgrounds have become one body, meeting together regularly in local assemblies which are led by appointed leaders. Churches gather for teaching, worship, prayer, fellowship, service, and the practices of baptism and the Lord's Supper, while maintaining the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

(Acts 1:9-11, 2:42-47, 8:12; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26, 12:12-13; Ephesians 1:22-23, 4:1-6, 15-16; Titus 1:5-9; Hebrews 10:24-25, 13:17)

Section 10: The Second Coming of Christ

We believe in the personal, bodily, and glorious return of our Lord Jesus Christ to gather up His Church, exercise judgment, and establish His Kingdom reign on earth. The anticipation of Christ's return, along with the rewards we will receive, joyfully motivate us to live in the way of Jesus.

(Isaiah 9:6-8; Matthew 6:1-6, 24:31, 42-44, 25:1-13; John 14:1-3; 2 Corinthians 5:10; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Titus 2:11-14; 2 Peter 3:9-13; Revelation 3:10, 19:11-16, 20:1-21:4)

Section 11: The Eternal State

We believe that at death, the souls of believers pass immediately into the joyful presence of Jesus Christ while the souls of unbelievers experience anguish apart from God. All who have died will be bodily resurrected, at which point unbelievers will be judged, eternally punished and shut out from the presence of the Lord. Believers in Jesus will enjoy eternal life and reign with God in the new heaven and new earth.

(Matthew 25:46; Luke 16:19-31; 2 Corinthians 5:8-10; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 2 Thessalonians 1:9-10; Revelation 20:1-22:21)