

Crossway Membership Journal: Doctrine

As you watch the following videos, answer the questions below. Bring your answers with you to the conversation that will focus on these videos.

Doctrine,
Devotion,
and Duty

Our goal is to love God completely, and to love our neighbors as ourselves. That requires knowledge, relationship and feeling, and action, and these three areas should mutually inform each other. In particular, our study of doctrine should strength our relationship with God and each other, and it should lead us to take godly action.

What is something that was encouraging or brought joy as you considered it (again)?

What is something new for you, or something you have a question or concern about?

God

1. We believe in one God, Creator of all things, holy, infinitely perfect, and eternally existing in a loving unity of three equally divine Persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Having limitless knowledge and sovereign power, God has graciously purposed from eternity to redeem a people for Himself and to make all things new for His own glory.

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The Bible

2. We believe that God has spoken in the Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, through the words of human authors. As the verbally inspired Word of God, the Bible is without error in the original writings, the complete revelation of His will for salvation, and the ultimate authority by which every realm of human knowledge and endeavor should be judged. Therefore, it is to be believed in all that it teaches, obeyed in all that it requires, and trusted in all that it promises.

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The Human Condition

3. We believe that God created Adam and Eve in His image, but they sinned when tempted by Satan. In union with Adam, human beings are sinners by nature and by choice, alienated from God, and under His wrath. Only through God's saving work in Jesus Christ can we be rescued, reconciled and renewed.

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Jesus Christ

4. We believe that Jesus Christ is God incarnate, fully God and fully man, one Person in two natures. Jesus—Israel's promised Messiah—was conceived through the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He lived a sinless life, was crucified under Pontius Pilate, arose bodily from the dead, ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father as our High Priest and Advocate.

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The Work of Christ

5. We believe that Jesus Christ, as our representative and substitute, shed His blood on the cross as the perfect, all-sufficient sacrifice for our sins. His atoning death and victorious resurrection constitute the only ground for salvation.

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The Holy Spirit

6. We believe that the Holy Spirit, in all that He does, glorifies the Lord Jesus Christ. He convicts the world of its guilt. He regenerates sinners, and in Him they are baptized into union with Christ and adopted as heirs in the family of God. He also indwells, illuminates, guides, equips and empowers believers for Christ-like living and service.

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The Church 7. We believe that the true church comprises all who have been justified by God's grace through faith alone in Christ alone. They are united by the Holy Spirit in the body of Christ, of which He is the Head. The true church is manifest in local churches, whose membership should be composed only of believers. The Lord Jesus mandated two ordinances, baptism and the Lord's Supper, 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.

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Christian Living 8. We believe that God's justifying grace must not be separated from His sanctifying power and purpose. God commands us to love Him supremely and others sacrificially, and to live out our faith with care for one another, compassion toward the poor and justice for the oppressed. With God's Word, the Spirit's power, and fervent prayer in Christ's name, we are to combat the spiritual forces of evil. In obedience to Christ's commission, we are to make disciples among all people, always bearing witness to the gospel in word and deed.

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Christ's Return 9. We believe in the personal, bodily and premillennial return of our Lord Jesus Christ. The coming of Christ, at a time known only to God, demands constant expectancy and, as our blessed hope, motivates the believer to godly living, sacrificial service and energetic mission.

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Response
and Eternal
Destiny

10. We believe that God commands everyone everywhere to believe the gospel by turning to Him in repentance and receiving the Lord Jesus Christ. We believe that God will raise the dead bodily and judge the world, assigning the unbeliever to condemnation and eternal conscious punishment and the believer to eternal blessedness and joy with the Lord in the new heaven and the new earth, to the praise of His glorious grace. Amen.

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Resources

EFCA Statement of Faith <https://www.efca.org/resources/document/efca-statement-faith>

Culture

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Of, By,
and For

We strive to be a church that is OF, BY, and FOR peoples of many nations

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Cultural
Triangle

A useful oversimplification of cultures is seen in three different tendencies:

- Expressive cultures
- Analytical cultures
- Reflective cultures

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What is something new for you, or something you have a question or concern about?

Cultural
Triangle and
Worship

How the three tendencies of the cultural triangle help shape a worship service:

- Expressive cultures
- Analytical cultures
- Reflective cultures

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What is something new for you, or something you have a question or concern about?

Cultural
Triangle and
Meetings

How the three tendencies of the cultural triangle help shape working together as a team:

- Expressive cultures
- Analytical cultures
- Reflective cultures

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Worldview
Triangle

Another useful oversimplification is the identification of three broad tendencies in how people view the world, and especially, what is a central lens for interpreting life experience:

- Guilt
- Shame
- Power

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What is something new for you, or something you have a question or concern about?

Head,
Heart,
Hands

We are called to love God with the whole of our being. One way to express this call is to think of three broad aspects of what it means to be human:

- Head
- Heart
- Hands

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Core Values

God's Word

We believe that **God has spoken, and continues to speak, to all of His people through the Bible.** (2 Timothy 3:14-17; Hebrews 4:12-13)

- So the Bible and its teachings are central to our ministries and gatherings as a church.
- We encourage all of our people to read and study the Bible, whether it is individually, in small groups, or as a church, using the languages and tools that are best suited to them while also being accurate and clear in the expression of God's message in His Word. (Acts 17:10-12)

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Holy Spirit

We believe that **God the Holy Spirit empowers and guides His church** through the Bible and through His presence among us.

- While we have structures that help make us orderly (1 Corinthians 14:26-33), our **ultimate hope is in the work of the Holy Spirit** among us (Acts 1:8; 6:1-6; 1 Thessalonians 1:5).

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Diverse Unity

We **deeply value our unity in Christ in the midst of the richness of diversity of His body and in our congregation.**

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** Priesthood of all Believers*

** Wholeness of our Humanity Given to God*

Church Practice

Governance

Congregational governance

Elders & Board

Pastor(s) & staff

Ordinances

Baptism

Lord's Supper

Services

Ministry teams

Worship

Children's ministry

Youth

Helps

Life Group leaders

EFCA

Belonging

Expectations

Finding a place to receive spiritual care

Finding a place to care for others

Gifts, passions