

We Believe in the Living out Our Faith, part 2 (*Various Texts*)

EFCA Statement of Faith, Article 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.*

The Church as an Army

- As God's people, the Church is engaged in a war
 - NOT against other people or society
 - But against evil spiritual forces (Eph. 6:12; 3:10; see 2 Cor. 10:3-5; Eph. 1:21; 1 Jn. 5:3-4)
- Because our battle is spiritual, are weapons need to be as well (Eph. 6:13-18a)
 - God's word
 - The Spirit's power
 - Fervent prayer

Christ's Commission

- With this arsenal in place, we are called to a mission (Matt. 28:19-20; Matt. 16:16-18)
- To make disciples of Jesus: dedicated followers
 - From among all people
 - Starting in our backyard & going to the whole world (Acts 1:8)
- We make disciples by:
 - Baptizing them: Inclusion in relationship with the Trinity
 - Teaching them obedience: Which involves both active instruction & modeling behavior
 - "In word & deed" (Matt. 5:13-16)
- All done through the power of the Spirit of Christ in us (Matt. 28:20b)

So What?

- We, as the Church, have a mission to bring Jesus to the world
 - Empowered by God to fight the battle
- How are we doing?