

We Believe: in God, part 1 (*Various Texts*)

What Defines Us

- What defines us as the Church is our shared beliefs in who God is and who we are as a result
- Throughout history Christians have expressed the core of their shared beliefs in Statements of Faith or Creeds
 - We are going to spend the summer looking at our Statement of Faith
- We stick to these essentials because they are centered on the truth of God and His Word
 - And bring unity among His people
 - We can have differing opinions about everything else
- True biblical belief is NOT simply mental affirmation
 - It supposed to shape our thinking, decisions, and actions

EFCA Statement of Faith, Article 1, pt. 1

We believe in one God, Creator of all things, holy, infinitely perfect, ...

One God

- The Bible is clear that there is only one true God
 - Jesus calls this the greatest commandment (Mark 12:29-30, cf. Deut. 6:4-5)
- This is not simply an issue of being monotheistic
 - But also speaks of the place that God is to have in the life of those who trust in Him (Ex. 20:2-6)
 - There are other supernatural beings, but they are not GOD
 - And there are other created things that vie for our devotion, but they should not take His place in our lives

Creator of All

- The name that God gives Himself is YHWH: I AM THAT I AM (Ex. 3:14)
 - Often translated in the OT as The LORD
 - The essence of existence
- All things exist because YHWH created them
 - He is the only uncreated thing (John 1:3)
 - Thus, other supernatural beings are NOT GOD because YHWH is their source (Ps. 33:6; Col. 1:16-17)
- God created *ex nihilo* (out of nothing) (Heb. 11:3; Gen. 1:1-2)
 - Genesis 1 & 2 give accounts of His creative efforts in what we see, but this is hardly the whole of the story

The Holy & Perfect One

- Because God is the creator of all things, He is distinct from His creation
 - This is the essence of holiness

- Holy: Set apart (Ex. 15:11)
- God is not bound in any way by that which He has created, and yet does not separate Himself from His creation (Isa. 57:15)
- God is without weakness, fault, or corruption (Deut. 32:4; Ps. 18:30)

So What?

- We can trust the LORD in everything because He is the one and only true God who is above all and before all and because He is perfect and holy.
- Are we trusting Him alone?

Meditation Verse: *Psalm 18:30*