

We Believe: in God, part 4 (Various Texts)

EFCA Statement of Faith, Article 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.*

Our Purpose-Driven God

- God created everything, including us, with a purpose in mind from the very beginning (Eph 3:10-11; 2 Tim 1:9; see also 1 Cor 2:7; Eph 1:11; Tts 1:2; 1 Pet 1:20; Rev 13:8)
- God's eternal purpose is expressed in three concepts:
 - Redemption
 - Restoration
 - Glory

Redemption

- Redemption: To buy back that which has been lost
- We were enslaved by our sin (John 8:34)
- But Jesus paid the price to free us from slavery to sin (Eph 1:7; Tts 2:14; see also Rom 3:24; 8:23; 1 Cor 1:30; Gal 3:13; 4:5; Col 1:14; esp. Rom 6:16-23)
- This was always God's plan (Heb 9:12, 15)

Renewal

- God's purpose results in a renewal to how things were before humanity's rebellion (Acts 3:18-21; Rom 8:19-21; Rev 21 & 22)

All for the Glory of God

- This all results in God being glorified as:
 - Creator (Ps 19:1-2; Rev 4:11)
 - Redeemer & Restorer (Isa. 43:7; Jer. 13:11; Col. 1:15-23; esp. Rev 5:9-14)

So What?

- Our God is purposeful
 - He has a plan for us
- He is Redeemer & Restorer
 - Our story is not over