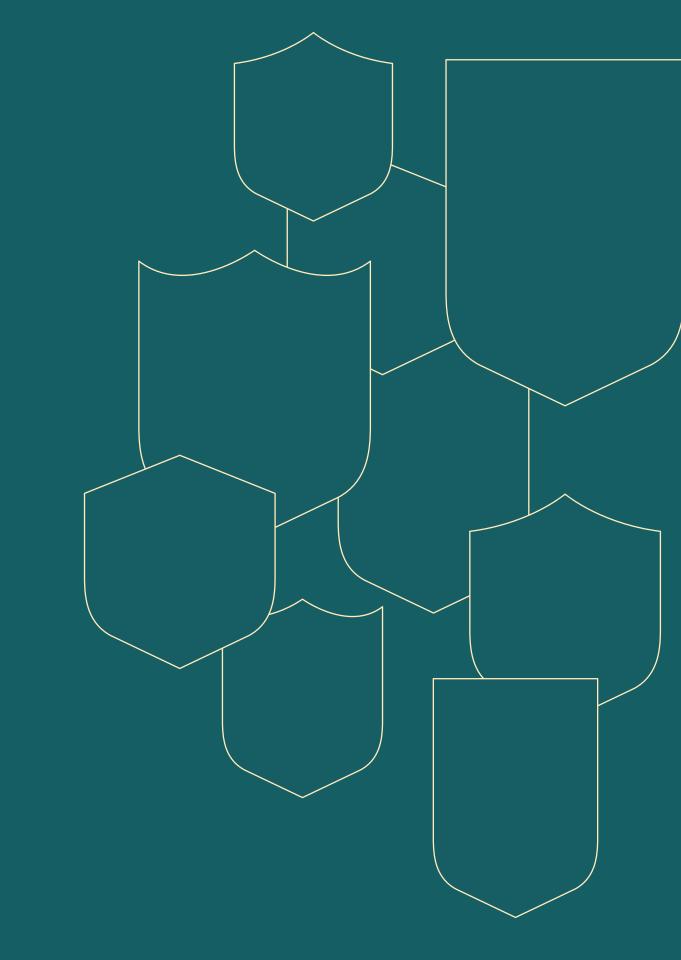


A Biblical, Theological and Pastoral Response

EFCA THEOLOGY CONFERENCE 2020



CONTENDING FOR THE FAITHE

7 Critical, Contemporary Doctrinal Challenges



A Biblical, Theological and Pastoral Response

All Scripture referenced within this booklet is from the Holy Bible, English Standard Version (ESV). No part of this booklet may be reproduced in any form without written permission from the EFCA.

Follow along on social media with **#EFCATheoConf.**

GREETINGS IN THE LORD!

We extend a warm welcome to you and are grateful for your presence at the 2020 EFCA Theology Conference.

We are greatly encouraged you have joined us for these few days of learning, reflection and discussion. Your attendance reflects your interest in and commitment to these important and timely biblical and doctrinal themes.

Our conference theme is "Contending for the Faith -7 Critical Contemporary Doctrinal Challenges: A Biblical, Theological, and Pastoral Response." We are addressing and following up our 2018 Doctrinal Survey. Thanks be to God we remain strongly and thoroughly orthodox and evangelical in belief. We do not take that for granted. And yet, there are also some outliers, which is not completely surprising, even though it is still somewhat distressing. Now is the time to address some of those issues so we retain biblical and theological fidelity and there is no incremental biblical or theological compromise against matters which are of first importance.

The preconference sessions also address two important subjects. The first focuses on the difficult yet important topic of "Abuse in the Church: A Gospel-Grounded and Godly-Guided Response." It is important that we are not only trained in these matters, but also that others know we care about these matters, and especially those who have been abused. The second is "Women and Ministry Matters," in which we affirm women and ministry matter, and we will focus on matters associated with and related to women and ministry.

Within this context of learning, we will experience fellowship in Christ created by the Holy Spirit, and also our shared ministry experiences in the EFCA. We will encourage one another. This is one of the aspects that makes our Theology Conference unique. We will also engage in corporate worship. Grounded in the biblical truth, our appropriate response to God and his Word is worship as expressed together through song, confession, both of sin and the affirmation of the faith once for all entrusted to the saints, and prayer. We will worship God acceptably with reverence and awe. This is one of the ways we live out the reality that theology is best learned and lived in community.

Thank you to Trinity International University for the warm welcome they have extended. Please offer your appreciation to President Perrin and all his excellent staff.

We invite you to stop by the foyer to visit with our conference sponsors. FCMM Benefits and Retirement (FCMM) assists churches in providing a retirement plan, long term disability insurance, payroll service, and access to group health insurance. Jeff Englin, Jerry Rich, and Ric Stanghelle represent FCMM. Consider making a personal appointment at their booth. Christian Investors Financial (CIF) President Paul Anderson, along with Cary Linder, would enjoy greeting you and discussing their services. CIF provides investors with investment options, and churches with loans and services.

There will be a book giveaway at the conclusion of the conference. Fair warning: you must be present to win!

The conference recordings will be available after the conference on the EFCA Theology Podcast (efca.org/podcast).

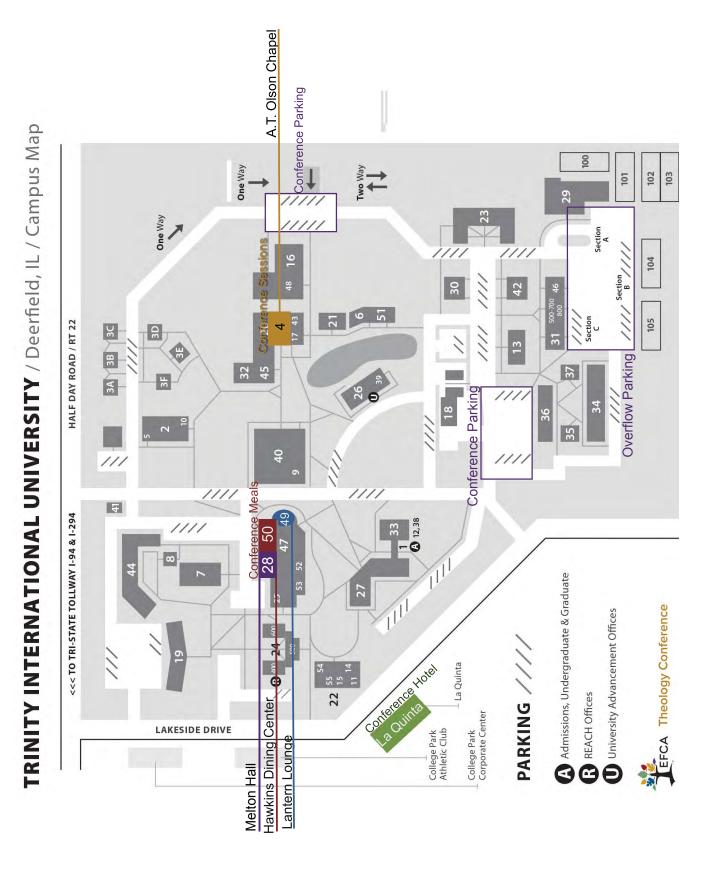
Thank you for attending the 2020 Theology Conference. The conference team is available to assist you with any questions or needs you may have.

Contending for the Faith,

Greg Strand Executive Director of Theology and Credentialing Evangelical Free Church of America, Minneapolis, Minnnesota

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NUMERICALLY

BUILDINGS & DEPARTMENTS

Peterson Academic Wing

Petersen Wing

- Admissions (Petersen Wing Ground Level) Aldeen
 - Apartments A, B, C, D, E, F
 - A.T. Olson Chapel
- Health and Wellness (Aldeen)
 - **Gundersen Building**

Records (Petersen Wing - Lower Level)

Quad 3

Quad 2 Quad 4

Quad 1

Rockford Room (Mansion)

Rolfing Library

5 42 \$ 44 5 91 48 49 50 21 52

Security

41

- Carlson Hall
- Carlson Hall 111
- Henry Computer Lab
- Clothes Horse (Aldeen) 0
- Marketing/Creative Services (Lew Center) 1
 - Financial Aid (Petersen Wing Lower Level) 2
 - Gundersen Apartment m
- Graphic Design Studio & Lab (Lew Center) 4
 - University Student Success Center (Lew) **Rodine Global Ministry** 5 9
 - Human Resources
- Facility, Safety & Campus Services 8
 - Johnson Hall 19
 - 50
- -ew Center 52
- 54
- Mail Services (Waybright Center) 52
- University Advancement (Mansion) 26
 - McLennan Academic Building
 - Melton Hall (Waybright Center) 28
 - **Meyer Sports Complex** 50
 - **Owens Hall** 33

Hawkins Dining Hall (Waybright Center) Center for Bioethics & Human Dignity

Nyberg Exec. Meeting Room (W.C.) Student Affairs (Lower Level)

Lantern Lounge (Waybright Center)

Hinkson Hall (Rodine)

Waybright Center

47

Counseling Center / Health Services

Veenstra Wing

Frinity Hall

Student Accounting

South Apartment

- **Kantzer Wing**
 - Lee Center 5
- -udwigson Apartment 23
- Madsen Hall/REACH Offices

0 Θ

- 27

- **North Apartment**

Leslie Frazier Field

South Fields (2)

Center Field

104 103

Schartner Field

01

Baseball Field

02

Career Services (Lew Center) Information Technology Softball Field FIELDS 100 53 53

ALPHABETICALLY

Admissions (Petersen Wing - Ground Level) / 1 **BUILDINGS & DEPARTMENTS**

Melton Hall (Waybright Center) / 28

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EFCA CONFERENCE SPEAKERS



Preconference Speakers

MIKE SLOAN

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More info: https://www.netgrace.org/our-team

EFCA FAMILY

Women in Ministry Matters

Conference Speakers



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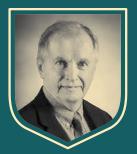
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EFCA THEOLOGY PRECONFERENCE

ABUSE IN THE CHURCH: A Gospel-Grounded and Godly-Guided Response

Greg Strand

INTRODUCTION

Over the past couple of years, the reports of sexual abuse by pastors and leaders in the church have been grievous beyond words. With the Roman Catholic church, it goes back many years, and yet there are ongoing revelations of more abuse. More recently, reports of abusive behavior from Bill Hybels and Willow Creek have been revealed. Added to this are the reports of sexual abuse in the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC). And these are the ones about which we have heard. Consider the many abuse situations that have not been revealed, the many about whom we have not heard, the many abused who suffer in silence. Although we have no revelations like this in the EFCA of which we are aware, it does not mean it has not and does not happen. Even though we are not the size of a sister denomination like the SBC, it is likely we would have a similar percentage of abusive situations affecting our own EFCA churches.

The numbers of abuse victims are staggering. One is too many. Abuse betrays the gospel we affirm and proclaim. Abuse dishonors the Lord we love. Abuse destroys the well-being and dignity of the innocent victim. Although women are abused more often than men, men are not immune. Statistics reflect the reality that one in four women and one out of six men are sexually abused in their lifetime, while eight in ten women and four out of ten men have experienced some form of sexual harassment in their lifetime. For many, it happened/ happens during childhood. For those so abused, we engage in responsive care, seeking to listen and love. We are also committed to preventative care, which means we must say something about structure, that we want leaders and churches to be safe places where people are loved, cared for, protected and can flourish.

Consider the statistics and what that means in your own local church. Remember those statistics are not just numbers but people, those who have personally been either sexually abused or sexually harassed. With the love of Christ, the indwelling of the Spirit, and the

power of the gospel, we eagerly long to love and care for the abused, and to walk with them to get the help and healing they need in and through Christ.

GOSPEL-GROUNDED AND GODLY-GUIDED

We believe our commitment to the gospel of Jesus Christ, and our desire to love God and love others (Matt. 22:37-39) compel us to address this through information and education. Our concern to affirm and live out the gospel of Jesus Christ for and on behalf of the abused means we will learn how to love and care for them. It also means the abuser must be held accountable for the egregious sin committed against another. With courage and humility, our commitment to inform and educate, to love and hold accountable is intentionally done over and against the common mode of operating as that of ignorance, preservation of the status quo, and arrogance. In the EFCA, we are doing so in two specific ways.

First, we have distributed the book *Becoming a Church That Cares Well for the Abused* to all the key leaders in the EFCA and also to the senior pastors of all our EFCA churches. This was made possible through a generous donation from the EFCA Network. This book is accompanied by a 12-part video series which can be viewed on the Church Cares website. These resources were developed by the SBC after the disclosure of sexual abuse last year among pastors and leaders. "At the end of this training," they note, "you should be able to say, 'I know what I should do when there is a report of abuse in my ministry, why I should do it, and how to do it."

The second way we will address this is by providing this training session: "Abuse in the Church: A Gospel-Grounded And Godly-Guided Response." This leadership training will be provided by Mike Sloan, GRACE Director of Safeguarding Certification (Godly Response to Abuse in Christian Environments). Of this training, they write:

Abuse in the church is a systemic issue that calls for a proactive response from leaders. Regardless of our intentions, a passive approach from leaders enables abuse in the local church. The issues involved in confronting abuse are complex and leaders must humble themselves and seek better tools to confront the prevalent and dark reality of abuse in the church. Leaders must work to shift the culture on abuse by engaging the help of all adults in prevention and a culture of accountability. Leaders must reject a culture of silence on abuse and lead churches out of denial and into education for the sake of Jesus and the vulnerable who are at the heart of his Kingdom. In this training, we will shine a light on the reality of abuse and equip leaders to take the proactive steps that make the difference in preventing and responding to abuse in the local church.

RESPONSE: TEACHING/TRAINING

In this preconference session, we will focus on three key issues related to abuse:

- Part 1: Leaders Who Face Abuse in the Church

- Abuse as a Systemic Issue
- Why is Abuse such a Particularly Egregious Sin?
- The Prevalence of Abuse and Basic Dynamics
- Jesus, the Church, and Abuse

Part 2: Leaders Who Shift Church Culture on Abuse

- Reframing Power in the Church
- Confronting Denial and Myths
- Church Dynamics that Work against Prevention
- The Gaps in our Policies

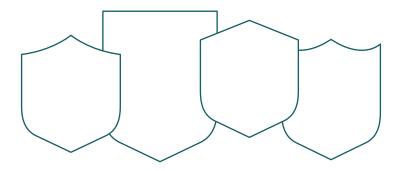
> Part 3: Leaders who Prevent and Respond Well to Abuse

- How Abuse Prevention Actually Works
- Reporting Abuse
- Trauma Informed Care for Victims
- Holding Abusers Accountable

CONCLUSION

As leaders in the EFCA, we provide the book and this training for the sake of loving and caring for those who have been abused, for the strengthening of our churches and the prevention of abuse, for the sake of the gospel of Jesus Christ, and for the honor and glory of the Lord. And as we live out the gospel in this way, it is important that others see this matters to the EFCA, and we pray it will result in giving glory to our Father who is in heaven (Matt. 5:13-16).

If you, dear sister, are one of the one in four, or if you, dear brother, are one of the one in six, please speak with someone from our Member Care team or someone you trust to begin to receive the healing and wholeness offered in the gospel of Jesus Christ.





REV. MIKE SLOAN

Director of Safeguarding Certification Program GRACE, Lynchburg, Virginia

Part 1: Leaders Who Face Abuse in the Church

PART 2: LEADERS WHO SHIFT CHURCH CULTURE ON ABUSE

PART 3: LEADERS WHO PREVENT AND RESPOND WELL TO ABUSE

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EFCA THEOLOGY PRECONFERENCE WOMEN AND MINISTRY MATTERS

Greg Strand

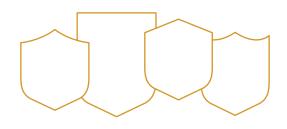
INTRODUCTION

In 1988, the EFCA Conference adopted *Steps Toward Credentialing*, which spelled out the kinds of credentials offered in the Free Church and delineated the expectations and process for obtaining each of the credentials. In the document, for those in qualifying ministries, both men and women can pursue the Certificate of Christian Ministry. The Certificate of Ordination is reserved for men.

WOMEN AND MINISTRY MATTER

It is fundamental and fundamentally true to affirm *women and ministry matter*. Both women and ministry matter! It is also important to focus on and discuss women and ministry matters, that is, matters associated with and related to the questions of women and ministry. This will be the focus of our session.

Some might wonder why we are addressing this again, since our 2012 Theology Conference addressed this topic under the title, "Understanding the Complementarian Position: Considering Implications and Exploring Practices in the Home and the Local Church." The reason it was addressed then is that many did not know this was the EFCA Conference approved position for ordination. Additionally, there had been various understandings not only of the position, but also of how the position is lived out and applied. We were committed to give a biblical exposition of our position so that we had a clearer sense of what it means, to affirm our EFCA position, and to guide conversation regarding application, giving expression to the various ways the position is lived out in the home and in our churches. Even though we addressed this topic biblically and theologically in 2012, there is much that has happened since 2012 that led us to believe it is important to have this discussion again. Our focus in 2012 was on the biblical and theological exposition and explanation of our complementarian position on ordination. With that as our foundation to our preconference, we will focus on how this truth is lived out in ministry in the context of the local church.



DOCTRINAL SURVEY

In the 2018 EFCA Doctrinal Survey, sent to all senior pastors of EFCA churches and all those credentialed in the EFCA, there were a couple of questions asked about "women in ministry in the local church." Although not exhaustive, these responses are an important data point reflecting "a select group of the EFCA, those most often responsible for biblical and doctrinal teaching in the local church in the EFCA."

Based on the survey results, including the many comments, we remain strongly complementarian, viz., "there ought to be some differences in ministry roles based on gender": complementarian (90.4%); egalitarian (8.2%); other, either undecided or in process (1.4%). Here is the summarizing comment:

The survey respondents strongly affirmed the complementarian position, including those who responded "other." In the comments written by those who checked "other," a majority affirmed there are "some differences in ministry roles." However, the comments also made clear how this commitment is specifically understood, delineated, and lived out in ministry is an important and necessary discussion to have. There is much more that can and should be done related to women in ministry, which can and should be done without compromising convictions. Additionally, there are some concerns with both functional egalitarianism and traditional complementarianism as this is lived out in ministry. In sum, it could be said we are both prescriptively complementarian, i.e., based on the Conference decision in 1988, and we are descriptively complementarian, i.e., it is the majority view of our

pastors and credentialed leaders as evidenced in the survey. Furthermore, the strong commitment and trend, including those who are younger, remain complementarian.

WOMEN AND MINISTRY MATTERS

As noted above, we are focusing on matters associated with and related to the questions of women and ministry. This is a family discussion, with no outside speakers. If our 2012 discussion focused primarily on the biblical and theological exposition of our Conference decision, our focus in this preconference session is a family discussion about living out the view practically in the context of a local church.

As stated in numerous comments in our doctrinal survey, many acknowledged the need of having a discussion, of having some guidance of how practically to apply and live out the complementarian position. While affirming the foundational principle of this position, there are various ways it is applied in local churches, without compromising convictions.

OUR FAMILY DISCUSSION

In our family discussion, it is important to remember these five matters.

First, though this will not be discussed since it was the focus of our 2012 Theology Conference, our discussion is grounded in the Conference's decision regarding the complementarian view as it relates to ordination.

Second, we acknowledge and recognize there is strong agreement on the principle, there are differences of opinion among our pastors and in our churches regarding application.

Third, we are committed to help pastors, ministers and leaders think through what the issues are and where the lines and limitations and pathways might be (this discussion is necessary for all who affirm "there ought to be some differences in ministry roles based on gender").

Fourth, we affirm women, we affirm women for ministries, and we affirm ministries for women, and in this context we seek to expand and broaden what can and should be encouraged and fostered in ministry, including leadership and teaching roles, without compromising convictions, on the one hand, and without unnecessarily limiting expressions of ministry, on the other.

Finally, as we engage in discussion, we will reflect love for God and love for others (Matt. 22:37-39). In fact, we will do this as we "give preference to one another," we "honor one another above yourselves," and we "outdo one another in showing honor" (Rom. 12:10). We pray that we will be led by the Spirit (Gal. 5:18), bearing the fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23), and exuding an aroma of Christ (2 Cor. 2:14-17). And based on our experience of living out this truth in our family discussion, might this be a model for how this can also be done in the context of the local church.

CONCLUSION

Might it be so, to the glory of God, for the honor of Christ, the Head of the church, for the spiritual vibrancy and spiritual well-being of local churches, and for our good.





WOMEN AND MINISTRY MATTERS

EFCA THEOLOGY CONFERENCE



A Biblical, Theological and Pastoral Response

GREG STRAND Executive Director of Theology & Credentialing Evangelical Free Church of America, Minneapolis, Minnesota

INTRODUCTION

When the EFCA Conference adopted our 2008 Statement of Faith (SOF), the EFCA Board of Directors (BOD) affirmed a "process for safeguarding our spiritual heritage." One aspect of this process was to receive an annual theology update. Another aspect was to conduct a doctrinal survey every five years. The first survey was conducted in 2013. It was a way the BOD sought intentionally to value and safeguard the vital role of the Bible, theology, and doctrine in the Christian life and the church for those in the EFCA.

Our second doctrinal survey was conducted at the end of 2018, with an assessment and evaluation completed in 2019. The survey was conducted for informational purposes, to discern a doctrinal "pulse" from a select group, those most often responsible for biblical and doctrinal teaching in the local church and in the EFCA. The 49-question survey was sent to all senior pastors and all those credentialed in the EFCA, which consisted of 3,000 individuals, with 1,509 responding, which represents 50.3%. This is an excellent response rate, especially remembering this 49-question survey takes about 20-30 minutes to complete. In addition to completing the survey, 8,341 comments were made by respondents.

Through the doctrinal survey we seek to determine how strongly our SOF is affirmed. Additionally, we are also interested to learn where there are doctrinal weaknesses or theological aberrations, how many doctrinal outliers there are and on what Articles and doctrines. This enables us to discern what issues need to be addressed and where instruction is needed, what biblical and theological issues and trends are affecting us, with possible trajectories, and what resources we should provide to retain our biblical and theological convictions and commitments to doctrinal fidelity and faithfulness.

DOCTRINAL SURVEY

For our Theology Conference, we are addressing and following up the 2018 Doctrinal Survey. Thanks be to God we remain strongly and thoroughly orthodox and evangelical in belief. We do not take that for granted these days. And yet, there are also some outliers, which is not completely surprising, even though it is still somewhat distressing. Our strong sense is that now is the time to address some of those issues with some outlier responses so that there is no incremental biblical or theological compromise against those matters which are of first importance.



After reading and evaluating the doctrinal survey, including all the comments, we made some general assessments.

- 1. We remain strongly committed to the essential doctrinal truths espoused in our SOF. It remains strong because of our unwavering commitment to the inerrancy, infallibility, authority, and sufficiency of the Scriptures.
- 2. We remain strongly committed to the outworking of the Christian faith on some of the major moral and social issues of the day.
- 3. We have a few doctrinal and moral outliers.
- 4. In addition to a strong commitment to biblical and doctrinal fidelity and faithfulness, there is also a strong commitment to our ethos, living with the "significance of silence," the two primary issues that describe the uniqueness of the EFCA.
- 5. Through the years we have addressed many of the doctrinal and moral issues in Theology Conferences and at EFCA One.
- 6. There remains an ongoing need to address the issues raised in the doctrinal survey, which will be somewhat accomplished through providing teachings and resources. This is one of the reasons for conducting the survey, to hear and learn from pastors, ministers and staff what resources they need in order to shepherd the people of God faithfully. It is both helpful and important to remember that *Evangelical Convictions* is the "theological exposition" of our SOF, so it is the best resource to learn about our SOF.
- 7. As an immediate response, the survey questions asked in the doctrinal survey are available so they can be asked of pastoral staff, elders, leaders, or possibly even members. Based on what is learned, pastors and/or elders may develop a teaching series to address areas of needed growth based on the specific results of the survey. Additionally, this Theology Conference will address some of the key doctrinal issues raised in the survey.



CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH

With our focus on the doctrinal survey, and with the assessment reflecting we remain strongly grounded in biblical and theological truth, we concluded most need to be reminded of these truths, or stated another way, these truths need to be reinforced in the lives and ministries of our pastors, ministers and leaders. Because the survey also revealed a few doctrinal outliers among us, it was important to restate these truths to address these issues now to prevent biblical and theological drift.

In the present day, there are many pressures pushing against these truths, with influences from progressive evangelicals and theological liberals, and sexual revolutionaries, and from the culture in general. There are temptations to soften, to concede, to accommodate, to capitulate, to become relevant, among many others. So we are in this day, contending for the faith once for all entrusted to the saints, thus the title of our conference: "Contending for the Faith — Seven Critical Contemporary Doctrinal Challenges: A Biblical, Theological, and Pastoral Response."

Our conference theme is guided by the words written by Jude in the first century: "Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints. For certain people have crept in unnoticed who long ago were designated for this condemnation, ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ" (vv. 3–4). Jude was eager to discuss the joys and glories of salvation, that which they shared because of the work of Christ and the application of that work by the Holy Spirit. And yet, even though it is always right and appropriate and timely to discuss the blessings we receive and experience in our salvation in Christ, there are times when other pressing issues must be addressed, which actually affect or undermine the truth and reality of salvation and all that entails. This is the historical context in which Jude lives and writes, and we also believe today is that day for us.

In addition to being exhorted to "contend for the faith" (v. 3), believers are also to "build yourselves up in your most holy faith" (v. 20). As pastors, ministers and leaders, we are entrusted with the "faith once for all entrusted to the saints." This is the truth, the gospel with which we have been entrusted. It is not ours to create or change. It is received and believed and affirmed and passed on. We also build ourselves up "in your most holy faith." While we engage in contending for and building up in the faith, we also extend "mercy to those who doubt" (v. 22) the truth, and we "save others by snatching them out of the fire" (vv. 23a).

SPEAKERS AND TOPICS

Not only is this conference a follow up to our doctrinal survey, it is also a time to contend for the faith, to be built up in the faith, and to be reminded of the importance of snatching from the fire those who doubt.

We are grateful to be able to gather with other EFCA pastors and leaders, and we are eager to learn from our excellent and eminently capable speakers, those with whom we will "contend for the faith once for all entrusted to the saints." As we consider titles, it is important we not only consider the title, which is somewhat general, but also the subtitle, as it becomes more specific, and which focuses on the particular issue for which we must content.

The Doctrine of God: The Trinity and Classical Theism — Fred Sanders

"The Doctrine of God" is affirmed in Article 1 of our SOF, along with the specific and unqualified affirmation of his eternal existence "in a loving unity of three equally divine Persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit." The doctrine of God is foundational to all of theology, and there are many issues raised today in relation to theology that challenge the biblical and historical understanding of God. Here are the issues addressed in this lecture: the doctrine of the Trinity, immanent and economic, simplicity, the eternal generation of the Son, the discussion and debate about the eternal functional subordination of the Son (EFSS)/ eternal relational authority-submission (ERAS), "the outward works of the Trinity are indivisible" (*opera trinitatis ad extra indivisa sunt*), and other ways the doctrine of God is being questioned, reinterpreted and/or denied today.

The Doctrine of the Scriptures: Authority, Clarity, and Sufficiency — Graham Cole

"The Doctrine of the Scriptures" is affirmed in Article 2 of our SOF, and in addition to affirming the inspiration and inerrancy of the Scriptures, we also affirm the "authority, clarity, and sufficiency" of the Scriptures. Although some affirm inerrancy today while speaking and living in a way that undermines its authority and sufficiency. Here are the issues addressed in this message: how we understand and affirm the two testaments and one Bible, how we move from the Bible to theology engaging in theological theology, how we respond to the notion of "pervasive interpretative pluralism," how it is that God speaks to

us today and the sufficiency of the Scriptures, how we identify and respond to a progressive evangelical hermeneutic, the new liberalism of the day, such that that which has previously been considered sinful is now reinterpreted to be considered approved, e.g., homosexuality and same-sex marriage. Is there such a thing as *status confessionis*, and does this new progressive evangelical hermeneutic and understanding of the Bible fall prey to the same conclusion and condemnation of the liberalism Machen condemned as another religion?

The Doctrine of Humanity: Imago Dei, Embodiment, Identity, and Human Sexuality — Gregg Allison

"The Doctrine of Humanity" is affirmed in Article 3 of our SOF, and it also emphasizes some of the key truths of what it means to be created in the image of God and the entailments that we are created beings, things like "the *imago Dei*, embodiment, identity, and human sexuality." Some of the major cultural pressure points are found pressing against this doctrine. Here are the issues addressed in this message: the image of God *(imago Dei)* and human dignity, what the image means for the body and soul and the intrinsic goodness of the body, the significance of being embodied, what this means for identity, what it means for human sexuality, what it means for racial issues, and how the fall has affected this, and as a result of the fall how these issues are manifested during the present day. How do we think about such matters and respond to them?

The Doctrine of Salvation: Penal Substitution — The Heart of the Atonement — Steve Wellum

"The Doctrine of Salvation" is affirmed in Article 5 of our SOF, and "penal substitution," or penal substitutionary atonement (PSA), is the "heart of the atonement." This is one of the key doctrines in which one's understanding of God will be expressed. Some pit God the Father over against God the Son, as if this is a form of divine child abuse. Here are the issues addressed in this message: why this doctrine is central to our understanding of God, why it is essential to God and his redemptive historical plan to redeem a people for himself, why it is necessary to the salvation of individuals, why PSA is central and essential to our understanding of the Scriptures, with PSA being at the heart of the atonement how we understand other truths of the atonement in relation to PSA, and how and why it is being questioned, reinterpreted and denied today.

The Doctrine of the Church: The People of God, Public Theology, and Politics — Thabiti Anyabwile and Jonathan Leeman

"The Doctrine of the Church" is affirmed in Article 7 of our SOF, and Christian Living, orthopraxy, is affirmed in Article 8 of our SOF, with the "people of God" picking up another image of the church of Jesus Christ, that we are not only the true church, but that entity finds expression and is manifest in local churches. As the people of God, we live our lives together as the people of God and in the world, being in but not of the world. One of the ways that is expressed is through our political engagement. Here are the issues addressed in this message: How is the mission of the church related to public theology, or engaging with culture, or to the State (and the relationship between the church and the State)? How does the individual Christian's responsibility reflect or parallel the church's responsibility? How do we move from orthodoxy to orthopraxy in this realm? Is it even possible to agree on foundational and fundamental truths about the people of God, the church, and that the people of God are salt and light in the world, and yet discuss and disagree on public theology, and engagement in the public and political realm? Since this will be a contentious election year, how should/might we lead the people of God in the churches where we pastor to think rightly about our role in the political process?

The Doctrine of Christ: The Exclusivity and Necessity of Jesus Christ — Harold Netland

"The Doctrine of Christ" is affirmed in Articles 4 and 5 of our SOF, and these important truths of Christ's "exclusivity", that is, salvation exclusively through the Lord Jesus Christ, and the "necessity" of believing in the Lord Jesus Christ in order to be saved are affirmed in a number of Articles in our SOF. What we affirm about Jesus' exclusivity and the necessity to believe in him are considered arrogant and spiteful in today's culture, as inclusivism, pluralism, relativism, and universalism are considered the new dogma, making Christians cultural heretics. Here are the issues addressed in this message: the exclusivity of Jesus Christ and the necessity of hearing and responding to the gospel of Jesus Christ, inclusivists who affirm exclusivity but deny necessity, why these truths are being questioned, softened, reinterpreted and/or denied, and the attraction of inclusivism and pluralism and its wide path, the theology of religions, and why these "options" are attractive to many today.

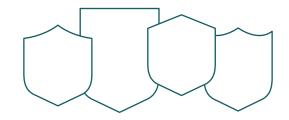
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The Doctrine of Hell: Eternal Conscious Punishment – D. A. Carson

"The Doctrine of Hell" is affirmed in Article 10 of our SOF, and specifically and explicitly so is "eternal conscious punishment." There are few doctrines that have experienced so great a shift since the rise of modern theology than the doctrine of eternal conscious punishment, and there is no doctrine more offensive to contemporary sensibilities than this truth. A person's understanding of this doctrine is often the corollary to other more central doctrines related to many other doctrinal truths such as God, Christ, sin, and salvation. In many ways, the biblical and historic doctrine of eternal conscious punishment stands for everything the contemporary culture rejects. Here are the issues addressed in this message: the truth of eternal conscious punishment, why it is essential, how it is organically connected to many other crucial doctrines, how it has moved from being affirmed as a cardinal doctrine to one that is just an option, and why it is being questioned, softened, reinterpreted and/or denied.

CONCLUSION

We give thanks to the Lord the EFCA remains strongly committed to biblical truth and doctrinal fidelity. We are thankful you are here to learn and grow. We pray we will be "built up in the faith," so that we are enabled/equipped to "contend for the faith," and we will be emboldened to speak and live this faith "once for all entrusted to the saints" and by this means help those who doubt and save others out of the fire.





DR. FRED SANDERS

Professor and Associate Dean of Torrey Honors, Biola University, La Mirada, California

The Doctrine of God: The Trinity and Classical Theism

DR. SANDERS' SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Dolezal, James. All That is in God: Evangelical Theology and the Challenge of Classical Christian Theism. Grand Rapids: Reformation Heritage, 2017.
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DR. GRAHAM COLE

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The Doctrine of the Scriptures: Authority, Clarity, and Sufficiency

DR. COLE'S SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Carson, D.A., ed. *The Enduring Authority of the Christian Scriptures.* Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2016.
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DR. GREGG ALLISON

Professor of Christian Theology, The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, and a Pastor of Sojourn Church East, Louisville, Kentucky

The Doctrine of Humanity: *Imago Dei*, Embodiment, Identity, and Human Sexuality

DR. ALLISON'S SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Allison, Gregg R. "Toward a Theology of Human Embodiment." *The Southern Baptist Journal of Theology* 13.2 (Summer 2009): 4-17.
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DR. STEPHEN WELLUM

Professor of Christian Theology, The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Kentucky and Editor, The Southern Baptist Journal of Theology

The Doctrine of Soteriology: Penal Substitution – The Heart of the Atonement

DR. WELLUM'S SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Beilby, James K. and Paul R. Eddy, eds. *The Nature of the Atonement: Four Views*. Spectrum Multiview Books. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Academic, 2006.
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REV. THABITI ANYABWILE

Pastor of Anacostia River Church, Washington, DC, Council member of The Gospel Coalition

DR. JONATHAN LEEMAN

Editorial Director for 9Marks series of books and 9Marks Journal, Washington, DC

The Doctrine of the Church: The People of God, Public Theology, and Politics Relation to the State

REV. ANYABWILE AND DR. LEEMAN'S SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

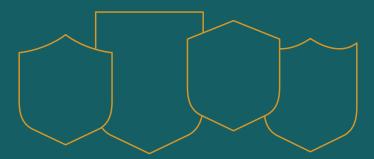
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What have you learned from the messages, how are you processing, and what questions remain or what issue(s) needs to be pursued further?

What are your greatest joys and/or challenges in your family and in the ministry?

How are you doing in the spiritual disciplines and living a life of holiness, a long and faithful obedience in the same direction?

What are major decisions before you this coming year, personally and in ministry?





DR. HAROLD NETLAND

Professor of Philosophy of Religion and Intercultural Studies, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, Deerfield, Illinois

The Doctrine of Christology: The Exclusivity and Necessity of Jesus Christ

DR. NETLAND'S SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

Edwards, James R. Is Jesus the Only Savior? Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2005.

Edwards provides a very helpful overview of the New Testament witness to the uniqueness of Jesus Christ as the only Lord and Savior. In so doing, he examines issues about the reliability of the NT, whether Jesus regarded himself as divine, and the way to affirm the exclusivity of Jesus as the only Savior in a world of religious diversity, skepticism, and religious pluralism.

Hurtado, Larry. Destroyer of the Gods: Early Christian Distinctiveness in the Roman World. Waco: Baylor University Press, 2016.

This is an excellent treatment by a leading NT scholar of the early Christian community's response to the many religious movements of the time. Hurtado clearly points out what was distinctive about the monotheism of the disciples of Jesus.

McDermott, Gerald R. and Harold A. Netland. *A Trinitarian Theology of Religions: An Evangelical Proposal.* New York: Oxford University Press, 2014.

This book provides an overview of contemporary perspectives in the theology of religions by focusing on the importance of a Trinitarian approach to the issues. The centrality of Christology and the importance of maintaining orthodox Christological commitments in the current debates is emphasized.

Netland, Harold A. Christianity and Religious Diversity: Clarifying Christian Commitments in a Globalizing Age. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2015.

How should we understand the concept "religion" today? How have modernization and globalization affected religious traditions? In what ways is "Jesus" today a global symbol? Can all religions be "true"? How should disciples of Jesus live in a world of religious pluralism? These are among the issues addressed in this volume.



DR. D.A. CARSON

Emeritus Professor New Testament, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, Deerfield, Illinois, and Founder and Theologian-At-Large of The Gospel Coalition

The Doctrine of Hell: Eternal Conscious Punishment

DR. CARSON'S SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

Carson, D. A. The Gagging of God, 371-404. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2002.

- Peterson, Robert A. *Hell on Trial: The Case for Eternal Punishment.* Phillipsburg: P&R, 1995.
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2021 EFCA THEOLOGY CONFERENCE

FEBRUARY 3-5, 2021

Trinity International University Deerfield, Illinois

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CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5

8:00 a.m. Registration – outside Melton Hall, Waybright Center

Abuse in the Church: A Gospel-Grounded and Godly-Guided Response — Melton Hall, Waybright Center

- 8:30–8:45 a.m. Welcome, Introductions, and Prayer Greg Strand
- 8:45-9:45 a.m. Part 1: Leaders Who Face Abuse in the Church Mike Sloan
- 9:45–10:00 a.m. Break
- 10:00–11:00 a.m. Part 2: Leaders Who Shift Church Culture on Abuse Mike Sloan
- 11:00–11:15 a.m. Break
- 11:15 a.m.-Noon Part 3: Leaders Who Prevent and Respond Well to Abuse — Mike Sloan
- Noon-1:30 p.m. Lunch Hawkins Dining Center Note: Conference moves to ATO Chapel (TIU)

Women and Ministry Matters - ATO Chapel

- 1:30–1:45 p.m. Welcome and introduction Greg Strand
- 1:45–2:45 p.m. Session 1
- 2:45-3:00 p.m. Break
- 3:00–4:00 p.m. Session 2
- 4:00–4:15 p.m. Break
- 4:15–5:15 p.m. Session 3
- 5:15–6:30 p.m. Dinner Hawkins Dining Center

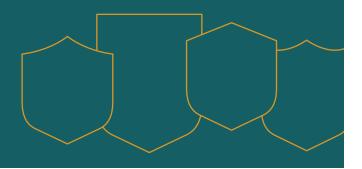
CONFERENCE SCHEDULE continued

Contending for the Faith — 7 Critical, Contemporary Doctrinal Challenges: A Biblical, Theological and Pastoral Response

6:30-6:45 p.m.	Scripture and worship
6:45-7:00 p.m.	Greeting — Nicholas Perrin
7:00–7:15 p.m.	Introduction — Greg Strand
7:15-8:30 p.m.	Teaching session 1 — The Doctrine of God: The Trinity and Classical Theism — Fred Sanders
8:30 p.m.	Dismiss with announcements for Thursday

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6

7:30-8:30 a.m.	TIU Alumni Breakfast — <i>Melton Hall</i>
8:30-9:00 a.m.	Scripture and worship — ATO Chapel
9:00–10:15 a.m.	Teaching session 2 — The Doctrine of the Scriptures: Authority, Clarity, and Sufficiency — Graham Cole
10:15–10:45 a.m.	Break
10:45-Noon	Teaching session 3 — The Doctrine of Humanity: <i>Imago Dei</i> , Embodiment, Identity, and Human Sexuality — Gregg Allison
Noon-1:30 p.m.	Lunch — Hawkins Dining Center
Noon-1:30 p.m.	Young Theologians Lunch – <i>Waybright Conference Room</i> (across ball from Melton)
1:30-1:45 p.m.	Scripture and worship
1:45-3:00 p.m.	Teaching session 4 — The Doctrine of Salvation: Penal Substitution — The Heart of the Atonement — Steve Wellum
3:00-3:30 p.m.	Break & Announcements



3:30-5:00 p.m.	Teaching session 5 — The Doctrine of the Church: The People of God, Public Theology, and Politics — Thabiti Anyabwile and Jonathan Leeman
5:00-5:30 p.m.	Fellowship Prayer and Share (your greatest joy and greatest challenge)
5:30-7:00 p.m.	Dinner (sponsored by EFCA Network) – Hawkins Dining Center
7:00-8:00 p.m.	EFCA Network Annual Meeting – ATO Chapel

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7

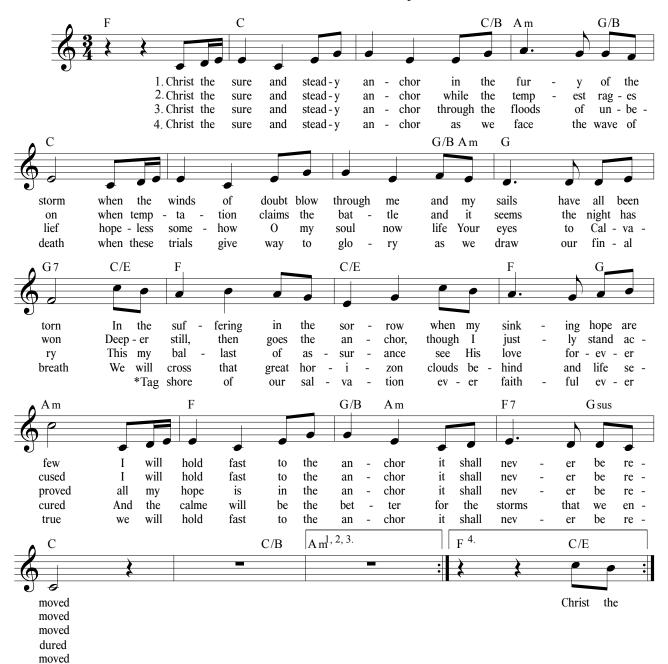
8:30-9:00 a.m.	Scripture and worship
9:00–10:15 a.m.	Teaching session 6 — The Doctrine of Christology: The Exclusivity and Necessity of Jesus Christ — Harold Netland
10:15-10:30 a.m.	Stretch Break
10:30–11:45 a.m.	Teaching session 7 — The Doctrine of Hell: Eternal Conscious Punishment — D.A. Carson
11:45 a.mNoon	Closing comments with book drawing (registered attendees only, must be present to win)
	Conference ends

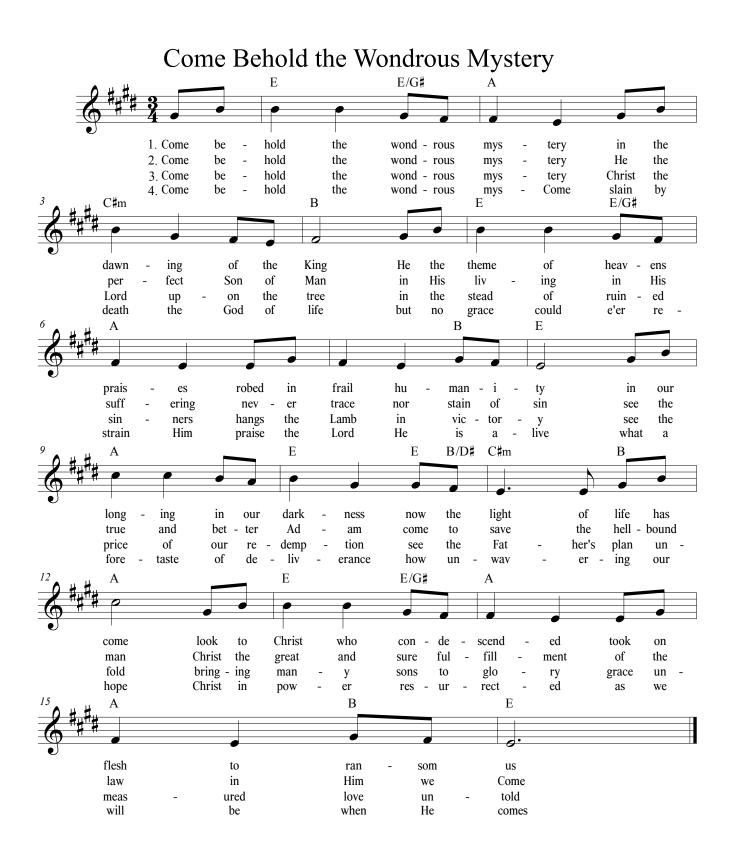


All Glory Be to Christ



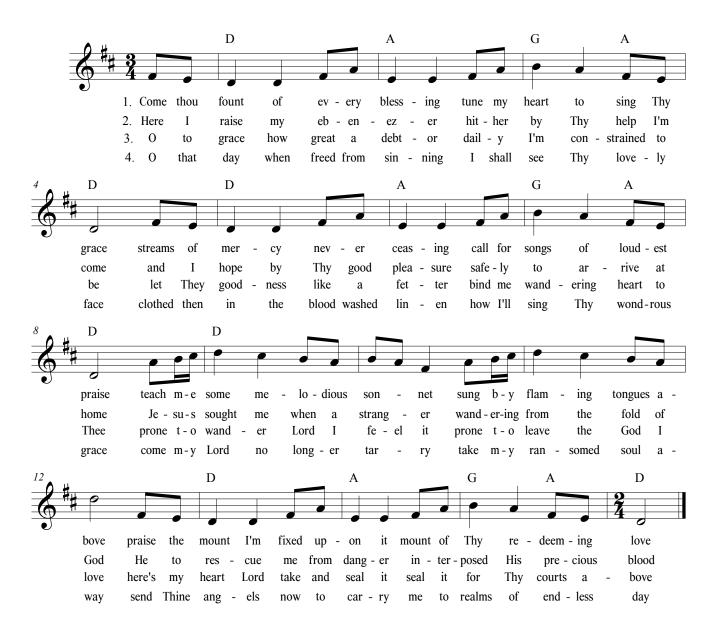
Christ the Sure and Steady Anchor





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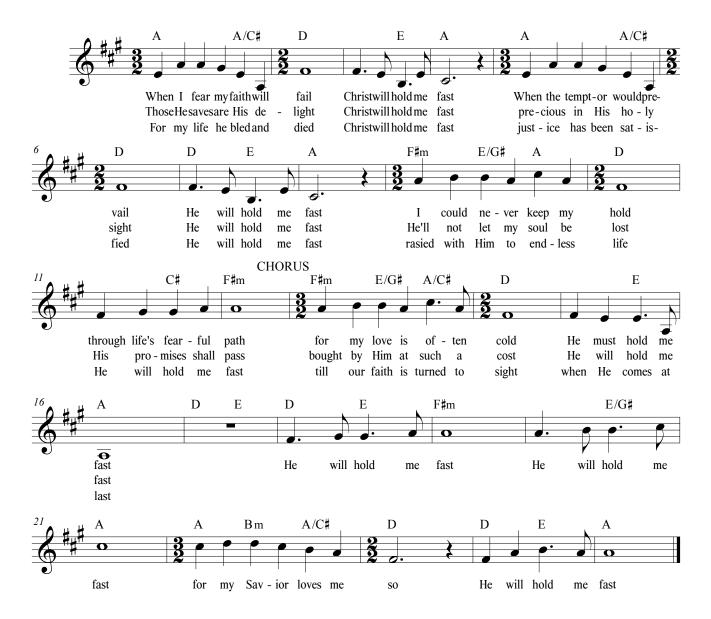
Come Thou Fount



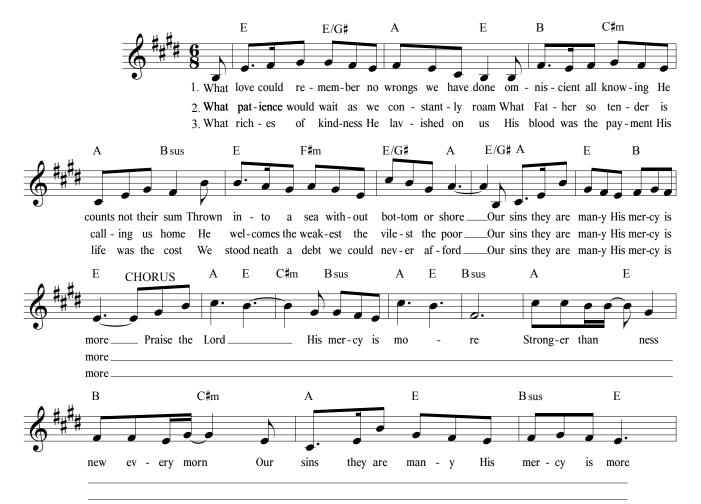
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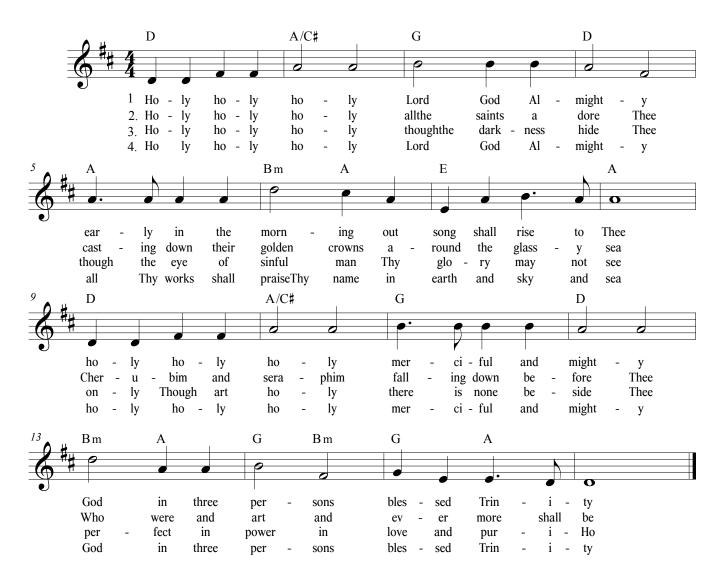
He Will Hold Me Fast



His Mercy Is More

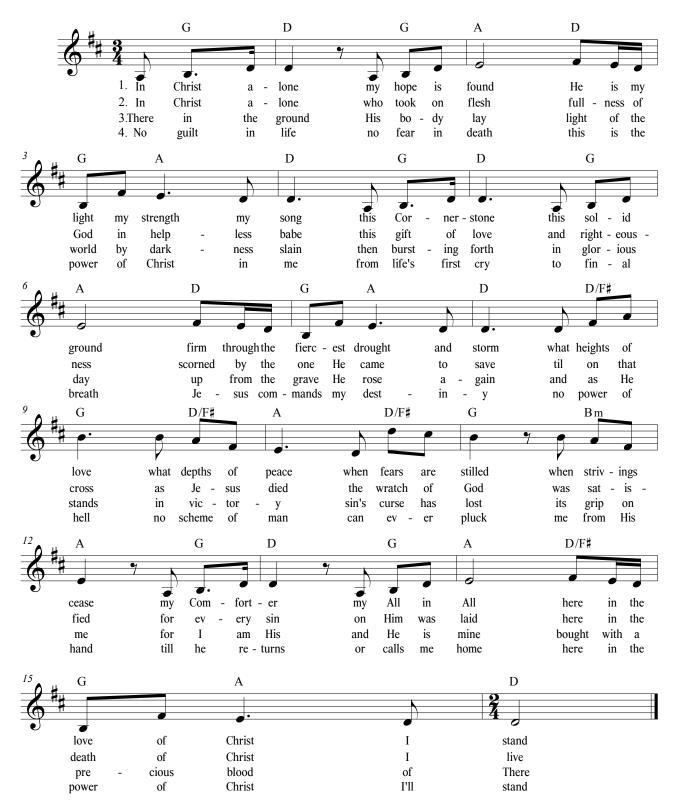


Holy Holy Holy



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In Christ Alone





O Praise the Name (Anastasis)

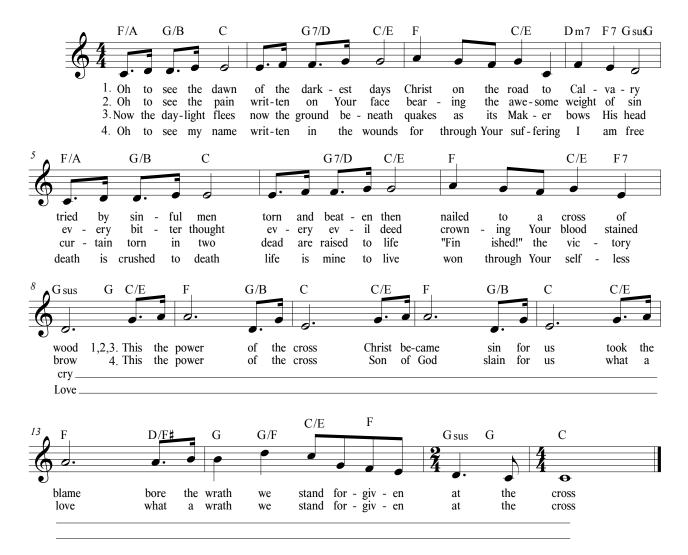


The Lord Is My Salvation

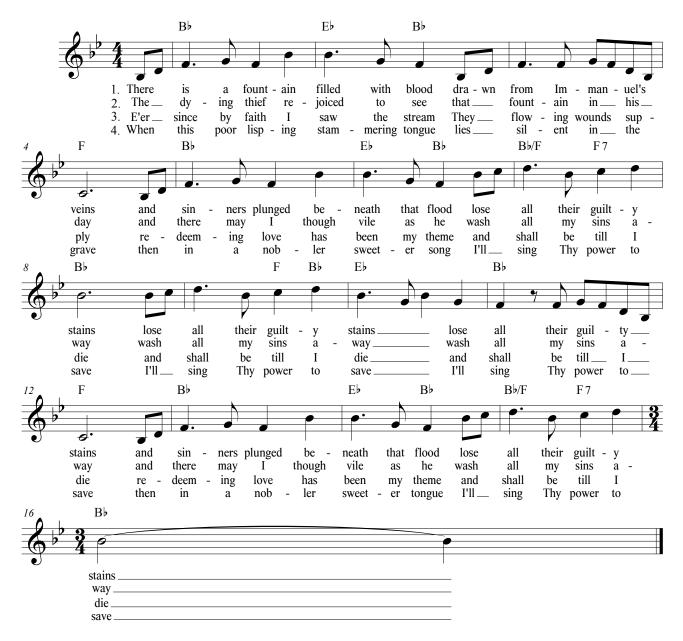


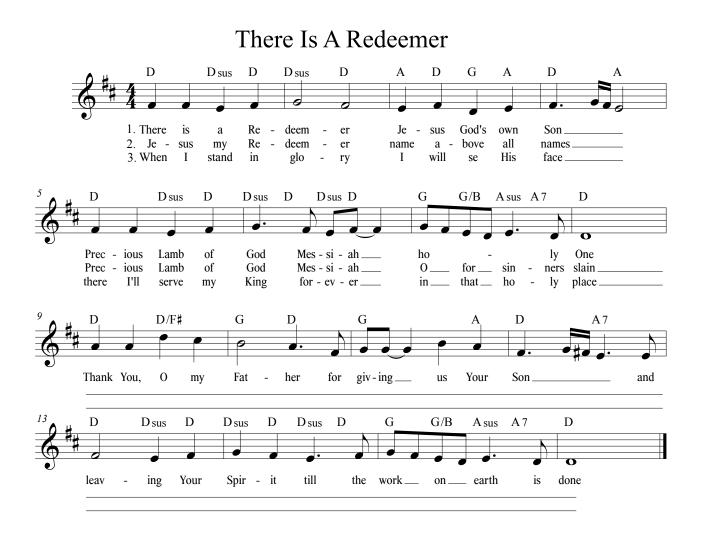
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The Power of the Cross



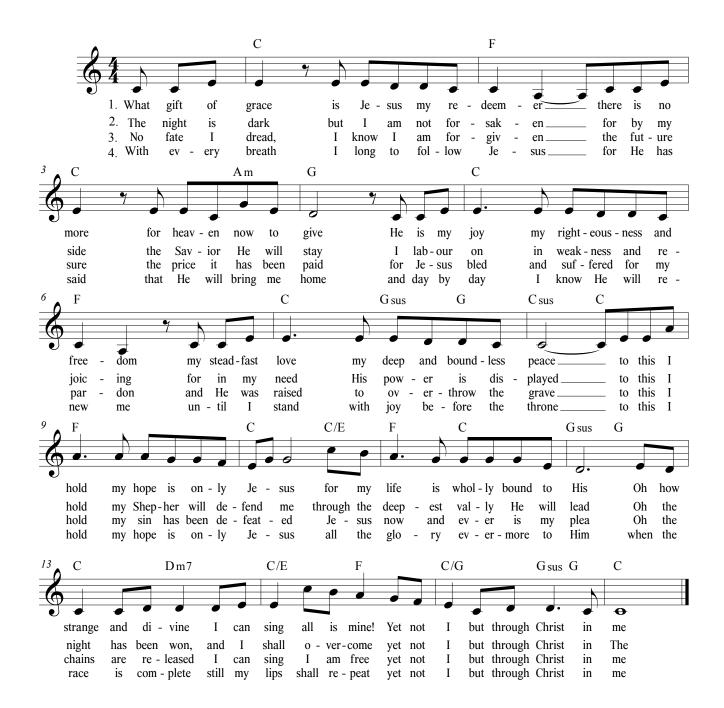
There Is A Fountain





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Yet Not I But Through Christ In Me



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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5

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	Abuse in the Church
8:30-8:45 a.m.	Welcome and introduction — Greg Strand
8:45-9:45 a.m.	Part 1
10:00-11:00 a.m.	Part 2
11:15 a.m.–Noon	Part 3
Noon-1:30 p.m.	Lunch — Hawkins Dining Center (Note: Conference moves to ATO Chapel)
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	FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7
8:30-9:00 a.m.	Scripture and worship
9:00–10:15 a.m.	Teaching session 6 – Harold Netland
10:30–11:45 a.m.	Teaching session $7 - D.A.$ Carson
11:45 a.m.–Noon	Closing comments with book drawing