



## 2018 EFCA Doctrinal Survey Questions

After participating in the doctrinal survey, many requested a copy of the list of questions. In response to this request, the Board of Directors is making the questions asked in the survey available. This survey can be used among pastoral and ministry staff, elders, leaders, or possibly even members. This survey may be a resource used by leaders to enable them to discover and discern what the members of their local church believe on these doctrinal matters, which are grounded in our Statement of Faith (SOF). Based on what is learned, pastors, ministry staff, and/or elders may develop a teaching series to address areas of needed growth based on the specific results of the survey.

In writing the survey, it is assumed respondents affirm the EFCA SOF. It is not necessary to have read the SOF in order to participate in the survey, but you may want to supplement the survey with a reading of the SOF, either before or after conducting the survey. The questions and structure of the survey were based on our SOF with a focus on the major doctrinal issues, including some matters of “significance of silence” (matters we will debate but not divide over), along with some additional contemporary theological issues of importance, consisting of ethical and moral matters. The survey was conducted anonymously, and each question provided opportunities for comments.

The doctrinal survey begins with question 7, since the first 6 questions focus on profile matters: (1) How long have you served in the EFCA? (2) In what ministry role do you serve? (3) What is your age? (4) Are you credentialed in the EFCA? (5) What is your ethnicity? (6) What region of the country do you serve? These questions are important for our denominational survey, though they are not as pertinent to the survey being conducted in the context of a local church, which is why they are not included. The numbers of the survey are followed, beginning with question 7, so if one desires to compare the results of the local church survey with the national doctrinal survey results, it will be easier to do. The [2018 EFCA Doctrinal Survey: Results, Assessments, and Comments](#) is available on the EFCA website.

### **Q7 Which of these statements best characterizes your view of the creation account in Genesis 1?**

- God created the world in six, literal days (whether or not there is a gap between Genesis 1:1 and 1:2).
- God created the world over a long period of time—the “days” of Genesis 1 represent “ages” of the earth.
- The days of Genesis 1 are a literary device to express theological truth and should not be used to provide a description of the actual process of creation.
- I don't have a settled view on this issue.
- Other (please specify)

### **Q8 How important is your view of the age of the earth to your theological framework?**

- Very important
- Somewhat important
- Not important

### **Q9 "Some forms of evolutionary creation are compatible with biblical teaching."**

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- No opinion

- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

**Q10 "The Son is eternally subordinate to the Father in the eternal relations in the Trinity."**

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- No opinion
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

**Q11 "The Bible is not authoritative when it touches on matters of history or science."**

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- No opinion
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

**Q12 How important is the doctrine of Adam and Eve as the progenitors of the entire human race?**

- Very important
- Somewhat important
- Not important

**Q13 How important is the historicity of Adam and Eve?**

- Very important
- Somewhat important
- Not important

**Q14 How important is the doctrine of original sin (we are "sinners by nature") in your theological framework?**

- Very important
- Somewhat important
- Not important

**Q15 "The Son of God is the first, highest, and greatest of all created beings."**

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- No opinion
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

**Q16 "Though other models can be used, an essential biblical understanding of the saving work of Christ is expressed by the penal substitutionary atonement model."**

- Strongly agree

- Agree
- No opinion
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

**Q17 As you consider the logical order of a believer's exercise of saving faith and the Spirit's work of regeneration, which best describes your belief?**

- Faith precedes regeneration (I believe and then I am regenerated).
- Regeneration precedes faith (I am regenerated and then I believe).
- These cannot be put in any logical order.

**Q18 Do you believe that those who have truly put their faith in Christ and have been regenerated by the Holy Spirit can lose their salvation?**

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

**Q19 Which of these would best characterize your position on what are called "miraculous gifts" (gifts of healing, prophecy, word of knowledge, tongues) of the Spirit?**

- These gifts ceased with the death of the Apostles or the completion of the New Testament canon.
- These gifts still exist, but I am skeptical of the ways they are often expressed, and I do not actively encourage their use.
- These gifts still exist; therefore I encourage our people to express them appropriately.
- Other (please specify)

**Q20 Is there new revelation from the Lord that is binding on the church and that has the same authority as Scripture?**

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

**Q21 Is all truth necessary for our salvation and spiritual life taught either explicitly or implicitly in Scripture?**

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

**Q22 Which best describes your position on the issue of women in ministry in the local church?**

- Egalitarian—there ought to be no differences in ministry roles based on gender.
- Complementarian—there ought to be some differences in ministry roles based on gender.
- Other (please specify)

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- Other (please specify)

**Q23 How important is this position to your overall theological framework?**

- Very important
- Somewhat important
- Not important

**Q24 How important is church membership?**

- Very important
- Somewhat important
- Not important

**Q25 Do you think baptism (of any sort) ought to be required for church membership?**

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

**Q26 Does your church require baptism (of any sort) for church membership?**

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

**Q27 Do you think baptism (of any sort) ought to be a required for participation in the Lord's Supper?**

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

**Q28 Does your church require baptism (of any sort) for participation in the Lord's**

**Supper?**

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

**Q29 What would best characterize your view of the Lord's Supper?**

- Zwinglian—The bread and the wine/juice are symbols of Christ's presence.
- Reformed—through the bread and the wine/juice Christ is present in a spiritual sense.
- Lutheran—Christ is present "in, with and under" the bread and the wine/juice.
- Other (please specify)

**Q30 Regarding church polity, which model best describes your understanding of congregationalism:**

- The church is governed by corporate discernment of God's will through the entire congregation on all matters.
- The church is governed by corporate congregational discernment of God's will led largely by the lead pastor.
- The church is governed by corporate congregational discernment of God's will led largely by a team of pastors/elders.
- The elders have the exclusive role of discerning God's will for the entire congregation.

**Q31 Which statement best explains your understanding of how compassion, justice and deeds of mercy relate to the gospel?**

- Compassion and justice are equated with the gospel.
- Compassion and justice are not the gospel but are a necessary outworking of the gospel.
- Compassion and justice have no relation to the gospel at all.
- I am not sure how they relate.

**Q32 How important do you think it is for your local church to reflect the racial/ethnic diversity of your community?**

- Very important
- Somewhat important
- Not important

**Q33 How important does your congregation think it is for your local church to reflect the racial/ethnic diversity of your community?**

- Very important
- Somewhat important
- Not important

**Q34 What would best describe your eschatological position?**

- Pre-tribulational premillennial
- Mid-tribulational premillennial
- Post-tribulational premillennial
- Other (please specify)

**Q35 How important is premillennialism in your theological framework?**

- Very important
- Somewhat important
- Not important

**Q36 Should the term "premillennial" be replaced by the term "glorious" in our Statement of Faith?**

- Yes
- No
- No opinion

**Q37 How important is the doctrine of "eternal conscious punishment" in your theological framework?**

- Very important
- Somewhat important
- Not important

**Q38 Which view best represents your own with regard to the eternal destiny of those who have never heard the gospel message— Can a competent adult be saved apart from an explicit knowledge of Jesus Christ?**

- Church Exclusivism – “No, outside the church there is no salvation.”
- Gospel Exclusivism – “No, they must hear the gospel and trust Christ to be saved.”
- Special Revelation Exclusivism – “No, unless God chooses to send them special revelation in an extraordinary way – by a
  - direct revelation from the Lord, dream, vision, miracle, or angelic message.”
- Agnosticism– “We cannot know for certain the answer to this question.”
- General Revelation Inclusivism – “Yes, they can respond to God through seeing enough of who he is in general revelation.”
- World Religions Inclusivism – “Yes, they can respond to God through general revelation or their religion, since their religion
  - contains truth from general revelation and possibly remnants of special revelation.”
- Postmortem Evangelism – “Yes, those who have never heard the gospel will have an opportunity to trust Christ after death.”
- Universalism – “Yes, everyone will ultimately be saved.”

**Q39 Do you agree with the Resolution on Human Sexuality and the Covenant of Marriage, that “God created human beings uniquely in His image as male and female, and He has designed marriage to be a covenantal relationship between one man and one woman.”**

- Yes
- No

**Q40 What best describes your position on divorce and remarriage for a Christian believer:**

- No divorce or remarriage is permitted.
- If divorce under any circumstance, no remarriage is permitted.
- If divorce on grounds of the spouse's infidelity or desertion, remarriage is permitted.
- If divorce on some grounds other than the spouse's infidelity or desertion, remarriage is permitted.
- If divorce on any grounds, remarriage is permitted.

**Q41 Would your answer to the question above be different if either the divorce or remarriage occurred before a person's conversion?**

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

**Q42 "Sex outside of the marriage covenant between a man and a woman is acceptable."**

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- No opinion
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

**Q43 Do you believe homosexual behavior is always contrary to the teaching of Scripture?**

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

**Q44 Do you think the church should recognize legally constituted "marriages" of same-sex couples as real marriages in the sight of God and in the life of the church?**

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

**Q45 Abortion is a sin, the taking of a human life created in the image of God.**

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

**Q46 How important to your congregation is the matter of creation care?**

- Very important
- Somewhat important
- Not important

**Q47 The EFCA commitment to live and minister within the “significance of silence” framework (we will debate but not divide over certain nonessential doctrinal matters) is a strength.**

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- No opinion
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

**Q48 What are two or three of the most important/critical biblical and theological issues to address in the next five years?**

**Q49 Who are some of the theological/pastoral writers that you find particularly helpful or who have had the greatest impact on your thinking?**