



## 2023 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 and moral 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 most questions 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 [2023 EFCA Doctrinal Survey: Results, Assessments, and Comments](#) document 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 What is your view of this statement: "Some forms of evolutionary creation are compatible with biblical teaching."**

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

**Q10 What is your view of this statement: "The Son is eternally subordinate to the Father in the eternal relations in the Trinity."**

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

**Q11 Do you affirm that God the Son is eternally begotten/generated of God the Father?**

- Yes
- No
- No opinion

**Q12 What is your view of this statement: "The Bible is not authoritative when it touches on matters of history or science."**

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

**Q13 How important is the doctrine of Adam and Eve as the progenitors of the entire human race?**

- Very important
- Somewhat important
- Not important

**Q14 How important is the historicity of Adam and Eve?**

- Very important
- Somewhat important
- Not important

**Q15 How important is the doctrine of original sin (we are "sinners by nature") in your theological framework?**

- Very important
- Somewhat important
- Not important

**Q16 What is your view of this statement: "The Son of God is the first, highest, and greatest of all created beings."**

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

**Q17 What is your view of this statement: "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

**Q18 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.

**Q19 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

**Q20 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)

**Q21 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

**Q22 Is all truth necessary for our salvation and spiritual life taught either explicitly or implicitly in Scripture?**

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

**Q23 Which best describes your position on the issue of women in ministry in the local church?**

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

**Q24 How important is this position to your overall theological framework?**

- Very important
- Somewhat important
- Not important

**Q25 How important is church membership?**

- Very important
- Somewhat important
- Not important

**Q26 Do you think baptism (of any sort) ought to be required for church membership?**

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

**Q27 Does your church require baptism (of any sort) for church membership?**

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

**Q28 Do you think baptism (of any sort) ought to be a required for participation in the Lord's Supper?**

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

**Q29 Does your church require baptism (of any sort) for participation in the Lord's Supper?**

- Yes
- No

- Don't know

**Q30 What would best characterize your view of the Lord's Supper?**

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

**Q31 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.

**Q32 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.

**Q33 What is your view of this statement: "We do *not* believe that political means can establish the kingdom of God, *but* we do believe that God has appointed governing authorities to do good and that, for citizens in Christ's kingdom, King Jesus' rule and reign transcends all other citizenships and partisan ideologies and transforms how we live in the world" ([Where We Stand in the EFCA: Denials and Affirmations](#) [2023]).**

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

**Q34 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

**Q35 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

**Q36 What would best describe your millennial position?**

- Amillennial
- Dispensational Premillennial
- Historic Premillennial
- Postmillennial
- Other (please specify)

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

- Very important
- Somewhat important
- Not important (please specify)

**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?**

- “No, outside the church there is no salvation” (Church Exclusivism).
- “No, they must hear the gospel and trust Christ to be saved” (Gospel 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” (Special Revelation Exclusivism).
- “We cannot know for certain the answer to this question” (Agnosticism).
- “Yes, they can respond to God through seeing enough of who he is in general revelation” (General Revelation 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” (World Religions Inclusivism).
- “Yes, those who have never heard the gospel will have an opportunity to trust Christ after death” (Postmortem Evangelism).
- “Yes, everyone will ultimately be saved” (Universalism).

**Q39 Do you agree with the [Resolution on Human Sexuality and the Covenant of Marriage \(2017\)](#), 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 Is abuse ever grounds for divorce and remarriage for a Christian believer?**

- Yes  
 No  
 Don't know

**Q42 Would your answer to the two questions above be different if either the divorce or remarriage occurred before a person's conversion?**

- Yes  
 No  
 Don't know

**Q43 What is your view of this statement: "Sex outside of the marriage covenant between a man and a woman is acceptable."**

- Strongly agree  
 Agree  
 No opinion  
 Disagree  
 Strongly disagree

**Q44 Do you believe homosexual behavior is always contrary to the teaching of Scripture?**

- Yes  
 No  
 Don't know

**Q45 What is your view of this statement: "We do *not* believe that a person's biological sex should be separated from their self-perception as a man or a woman nor that the body should be altered when it does not conform to that self-perception, *but* we do believe that some people experience a distressing struggle between these two and that we must treat those who struggle in this way with love and compassion as we seek to help them, with the truth and power of the gospel, toward the wholeness of a biologically-sexed identity grounded in God's "very good" design in creation as male and female" ([Where We Stand in the EFCA: Denials and Affirmations](#) [2023]).**

- Strongly agree  
 Agree  
 No opinion  
 Disagree  
 Strongly disagree

**Q46 Do you agree with this statement: "Abortion is a sin, the taking of a human life created in the image of God."**

- Yes  
 No

- Don't know

**Q47 How important to your congregation is the matter of creation care?**

- Very important
- Somewhat important
- Not important

**Q48 What is your view of this statement: “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

**Q49 What are two or three of the most important/critical biblical and theological issues for the EFCA to address in the next five years?**

**Q50 Who are two or three theological/pastoral writers that you find particularly helpful or who have had the greatest impact on your thinking?**