

## Article 8<sup>1</sup>

### *Christian Living*

8. We believe that God's justifying grace must not be separated from His sanctifying power and purpose. God commands us to love Him supremely and others sacrificially, and to live out our faith with care for one another, compassion toward the poor and justice for the oppressed. With God's Word, the Spirit's power and fervent prayer in Christ's name, we are to combat the spiritual forces of evil. In obedience to Christ's commission, we are to make disciples among all people, always bearing witness to the gospel in word and deed.

There is no parallel article in our present Statement of Faith (1950).

- I. Introduction
  
- II. Logical flow of this article with no parallel in our 1950 Statement of Faith
  - A. This follows the biblical narrative, the unfolding plan of God's redemption.
  - B. It follows theologically and logically in that the work of Christ applied by the Holy Spirit creates a new community that is marked by a new way of believing and living.
  - C. This emphasizes that the gospel has power to change lives, and we believed that something of the nature of that transformed life should be included in our Statement of Faith.
  - D. Though there is no exact parallel, this article does expand what is stated at the conclusion of article 4 in our 1950 Statement of Faith: ". . . and empower the believer for godly living and service."
  - E. This is an important correction to much of evangelicalism, including the Free Church. With our right and important emphasis on justification by faith, which is a biblical truth, we have neglected this doctrine of sanctification and the responsibility to the church and the world it demands, which is also a biblical truth.

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<sup>1</sup> Adapted from "EFCA Statement of Faith: Article 7," by Greg Strand, Director of Biblical Theology and Credentialing. <http://www.efca.org/files/document/office-of-the-president/sof-proposed-revision-article-8.pdf>.

- F. This emphasis is actually part of our history/heritage as evidenced in the 1912 Norwegian-Danish Association Statement of Faith. Here is the concluding article:  
 XII. We believe that the sole duty of the Christian Church is to proclaim the Gospel to the whole world, and to assist charitable institutions, to work for righteousness and temperance, for unity and cooperation with all believers, and for peace among all people and nations on the whole earth.”

### Questions for Discussion:

- Statements of Faith are written in a specific historical context. Why is it important to include this article at this time in this Statement of Faith (adopted June 2008)?
- How do “God’s justifying grace” and “His sanctifying power and purpose” relate? How are they different? What does the expression “must not be separated” mean? What are ways they are wrongly separated?

This statement is not intended to demand either a Reformed or Wesleyan understanding of sanctification. Rather, it simply affirms that the God who justifies us also has power to sanctify us and that is an essential part of his saving purpose in our lives.

- “God commands us to love Him supremely and others sacrificially.” Is this a command we either embrace abstractly as true, or does it have implications to our lives? Or is it both?

This is simply a restatement of the Great Commandment and its companion (Mark 12:29-31). Just as Jesus “went around doing good” (Acts 10:38), so should we (John 20:21), loving not just our friends (Galatians 6:9-10), but our enemies as well (Matthew 5:43-48). On sacrificial love, cf. John 13:34; 1 John 3:16; Luke 10:25-37.

- We are justified by “God’s grace through faith alone in Christ alone.” But this faith is an active, living faith. Saving faith is the root while living faith is the flower. This living faith takes expression as we “care for one another” in the body of Christ, show “compassion toward the poor and justice for the oppressed.” What does this mean today? How will this bear out in our lives, in the life of the church? What is the weakness in the liberal church? What has been the weakness in the evangelical church?

“With care for one another” reflect the special emphasis given in the New Testament to our responsibility toward fellow believers. The expression “one another” ought to bring to mind the many “one anothers” of life together in the body of Christ.

“Compassion toward the poor and justice for the oppressed” are strong biblical themes that have too often received little emphasis in evangelical circles. This does not supplant or replace the gospel, but rather is one important aspect of outworking of the true biblical gospel as we live out our faith in the world. This statement implies no particular political agenda. How we are to fulfill this biblical mandate must be worked out in fellowship with one another.

- The “spiritual forces of evil” are acknowledged as real, and as believers, we are to combat them. What are the means with which we are to engage in this combat? Why is the plural “we” important to remember? Please note the spiritual disciplines used and the Trinitarian reference: God’s Word, the Spirit’s power, and fervent prayer in Christ’s name. In addition, what does the reference to Christ’s “victorious resurrection” (article 5) add?

The reality of the Christian’s battle against forces of evil, both within and without, is acknowledged here. This statement captures the struggle of the Christian life, as well as the powerful resources at our disposal. In its context, following the statement on the church (and in the use of the first person plural), it should be assumed that our engagement in the world has a corporate as well as an individual dimension. Our fellowship with one another in the body of Christ is one of our essential resources in the spiritual battle in which we are engaged.

Nothing is specifically said in this statement about “institutional evil,” but this statement allows for an understanding of the “spiritual forces of evil” at work in social, cultural, and institutional ways.

- In Christ’s Great Commission, He exhorts us “to make disciples among all people.” Why is this underlying truth important to remember in this article? What does it mean if we are obeying this command, especially the “all people” part? How are we coming short?

Here we affirm the missionary mandate as a priority and an integral part of the gospel. God’s gospel is for the world, and we have been given a commission to take it to everyone. This statement makes explicit the proper concern of all Christians to seek to reach “all people” (the use of “among” here requires that “all people” be understood to refer not only to all individuals but also to all groups of people). This missionary mandate includes the process of discipleship as well as evangelism.

- As we “make disciples” we are always to bear “witness to the gospel.” Why is it that this command never grows old? How does this relate to Jesus’ ministry and the ministry of the early church?

Our witness to the gospel is to be verbal and non-verbal, for who we are and what we do is to reflect the message we bring.

- Some today downplay the need for gospel proclamation, but rather emphasize living out the gospel. Why does this come short? Why is it essential to bear “witness to the gospel in word and deed? With the emphasis on “always,” why is “the gospel” the critical thing to remember?

### III. Article 8 – Christian Living

- A. We believe God’s justifying grace must not be separated from His sanctifying power and purpose (Matthew 7:17-18; 12:33, 35; Hebrews 11:6; Ephesians 2:10; 1 Corinthians 10:31; Colossians 3:17, 23; 2 Thessalonians 2:13; 5:23; 2 Corinthians 5:17; 1 John 2:29; 3:9; 5:18; 2 Corinthians 3:18; Titus 3:5; 1 Corinthians 6:11, 14; 1 Peter 1:15; Philippians 2:12-13; Hebrews 12:1, 14; Romans 5; 2 Timothy 1:9; James 2:17; 1 Peter 2:24; 2 Peter 1:3-11).

Matthew 7:17-18 (ESV)

<sup>17</sup> So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. <sup>18</sup> A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit.<sup>2</sup>

Matthew 12:33, 35 (ESV)

<sup>33</sup> “Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or make the tree bad and its fruit bad, for the tree is known by its fruit. . . <sup>35</sup> The good person out of his good treasure brings forth good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure brings forth evil.

Hebrews 11:6 (ESV)

<sup>6</sup> And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

Ephesians 2:10 (ESV)

<sup>10</sup> For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

1 Corinthians 10:31 (ESV)

<sup>31</sup> So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

Colossians 3:17, 23 (ESV)

<sup>17</sup> And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. . . <sup>23</sup> Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men,

2 Thessalonians 2:13 (ESV)

<sup>13</sup> But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because

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<sup>2</sup> All Scripture taken from *The Holy Bible : English Standard Version*. Wheaton : Standard Bible Society, 2001

God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth.

1 Thessalonians 5:23 (ESV)

<sup>23</sup> Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:17 (ESV)

<sup>17</sup> Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

1 John 2:29 (ESV)

<sup>29</sup> If you know that he is righteous, you may be sure that everyone who practices righteousness has been born of him.

1 John 3:9 (ESV)

<sup>9</sup> No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him, and he cannot keep on sinning because he has been born of God.

1 John 5:18 (ESV)

<sup>18</sup> We know that everyone who has been born of God does not keep on sinning, but he who was born of God protects him, and the evil one does not touch him.

2 Corinthians 3:18 (ESV)

<sup>18</sup> And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

Titus 3:5 (ESV)

<sup>5</sup> he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit,

1 Corinthians 6:11 (ESV)

<sup>11</sup> And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

Romans 6:11, 14 (ESV)

<sup>11</sup> So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. . . <sup>14</sup> For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

1 Peter 1:15 (ESV)

<sup>15</sup> but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct,

Philippians 2:12-13 (ESV)

<sup>12</sup> Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, <sup>13</sup> for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Hebrews 12:1, 14 (ESV)

<sup>1</sup> Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, . . . <sup>14</sup> Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.

Romans 6:2 (ESV)

<sup>2</sup> By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it?

2 Timothy 1:9 (ESV)

<sup>9</sup> who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began,

James 2:17 (ESV)

<sup>17</sup> So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

1 Peter 2:24 (ESV)

<sup>24</sup> He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.

2 Peter 1:3-11 (ESV)

<sup>3</sup> His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, <sup>4</sup> by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire. <sup>5</sup> For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, <sup>6</sup> and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, <sup>7</sup> and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. <sup>8</sup> For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup> For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins. <sup>10</sup> Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to make your calling and election sure, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. <sup>11</sup> For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

B. We believe God commands us to love Him supremely and others sacrificially  
(Deuteronomy 6:5; Leviticus 19:18; Matthew 22:37-39; Mark 12:30; Luke 10:27).

Deuteronomy 6:5 (ESV)

<sup>5</sup> You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

Leviticus 19:18 (ESV)

<sup>18</sup> You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.

Matthew 22:37-39 (ESV)

<sup>37</sup> And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. <sup>38</sup> This is the great and first commandment. <sup>39</sup> And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

Mark 12:30 (ESV)

<sup>30</sup> And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’

Luke 10:27 (ESV)

<sup>27</sup> And he answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.”

C. We believe that, in loving God supremely and others sacrificially, we are to live out our faith with care for one another (Romans 12:10; 14:13; 15:7, 14; Galatians 5:26; Ephesians 4:32; 1 Thessalonians 3:12; 5:11, 15; Hebrews 10:24-25; 1 Peter 4:9), compassion toward the poor (Deuteronomy 15:11; Psalm 82:3, 4; 140:12; Proverbs 14:21, 31; 19:17; 22:9, 16, 22, 23; 28:8; 29:7; 31:8, 9; Jeremiah 22:16; Galatians 2:10; James 1:27) and justice for the oppressed (Exodus 23:6; Leviticus 19:15; Psalm 82:3, 4; 140:12; Proverbs 29:7; 31:9; Isaiah 1:17; Jeremiah 9:24; Micah 6:8; Zechariah 7:9, 10; Matthew 23:23; Luke 4:18).

Romans 12:10 (ESV)

<sup>10</sup> Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.

Romans 14:13 (ESV)

<sup>13</sup> Therefore let us not pass judgment on one another any longer, but rather decide never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of a brother.

Romans 15:7, 14 (ESV)

<sup>7</sup> Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. . . . <sup>14</sup> I myself am satisfied about you, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able to instruct one another.

Galatians 5:26 (ESV)

<sup>26</sup> Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

Ephesians 4:32 (ESV)

<sup>32</sup> Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

1 Thessalonians 3:12 (ESV)

<sup>12</sup> and may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you,

1 Thessalonians 5:11, 15 (ESV)

<sup>11</sup> Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing. . . . <sup>15</sup> See that no one repays anyone evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to everyone.

Hebrews 10:24-25 (ESV)

<sup>24</sup> And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, <sup>25</sup> not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

1 Peter 4:9 (ESV)

<sup>9</sup> Show hospitality to one another without grumbling.

Deuteronomy 15:11 (ESV)

<sup>11</sup> For there will never cease to be poor in the land. Therefore I command you, ‘You shall open wide your hand to your brother, to the needy and to the poor, in your land.’

Psalms 82:3-4 (ESV)

<sup>3</sup> Give justice to the weak and the fatherless; maintain the right of the afflicted and the destitute.

<sup>4</sup> Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.”

Psalms 140:12 (ESV)

<sup>12</sup> I know that the LORD will maintain the cause of the afflicted, and will execute justice for the needy.

Proverbs 14:21, 31 (ESV)

<sup>21</sup> Whoever despises his neighbor is a sinner, but blessed is he who is generous to the poor. . . .

<sup>31</sup> Whoever oppresses a poor man insults his Maker, but he who is generous to the needy honors him.

Proverbs 19:17 (ESV)

<sup>17</sup> Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the LORD, and he will repay him for his deed.

Proverbs 22:9, 16, 22-23 (ESV)

<sup>9</sup> Whoever has a bountiful eye will be blessed, for he shares his bread with the poor. . . . <sup>16</sup>

Whoever oppresses the poor to increase his own wealth, or gives to the rich, will only come to poverty. . . . <sup>22</sup> Do not rob the poor, because he is poor, or crush the afflicted at the gate, <sup>23</sup> for the LORD will plead their cause and rob of life those who rob them.

Proverbs 28:8 (ESV)

<sup>8</sup> Whoever multiplies his wealth by interest and profit gathers it for him who is generous to the poor.

Proverbs 29:7 (ESV)

<sup>7</sup> A righteous man knows the rights of the poor; a wicked man does not understand such knowledge.

Proverbs 31:8-9 (ESV)

<sup>8</sup> Open your mouth for the mute, for the rights of all who are destitute. <sup>9</sup> Open your mouth, judge righteously, defend the rights of the poor and needy.

Jeremiah 22:16 (ESV)

<sup>16</sup> He judged the cause of the poor and needy; then it was well. Is not this to know me? declares the LORD.

Galatians 2:10 (ESV)

<sup>10</sup> Only, they asked us to remember the poor, the very thing I was eager to do.

James 1:27 (ESV)

<sup>27</sup> Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

Exodus 23:6 (ESV)

<sup>6</sup> “You shall not pervert the justice due to your poor in his lawsuit.

Leviticus 19:15 (ESV)

<sup>15</sup> “You shall do no injustice in court. You shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great, but in righteousness shall you judge your neighbor.

Psalms 82:3-4 (ESV)

<sup>3</sup> Give justice to the weak and the fatherless; maintain the right of the afflicted and the destitute. <sup>4</sup> Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.”

Psalms 140:12 (ESV)

<sup>12</sup> I know that the LORD will maintain the cause of the afflicted, and will execute justice for the needy.

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<sup>7</sup> A righteous man knows the rights of the poor; a wicked man does not understand such knowledge.

Proverbs 31:9 (ESV)

<sup>9</sup> Open your mouth, judge righteously, defend the rights of the poor and needy.

Isaiah 1:17 (ESV)

<sup>17</sup> learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow's cause.

Jeremiah 9:24 (ESV)

<sup>24</sup> but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the LORD.”

Micah 6:8 (ESV)

<sup>8</sup> He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Zechariah 7:9-10 (ESV)

<sup>9</sup> “Thus says the LORD of hosts, Render true judgments, show kindness and mercy to one another, <sup>10</sup> do not oppress the widow, the fatherless, the sojourner, or the poor, and let none of you devise evil against another in your heart.”

Matthew 23:23 (ESV)

<sup>23</sup> “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others.

Luke 4:18 (ESV)

<sup>18</sup> “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed,

D. We believe that with God's Word, the Spirit's power, and fervent prayer in Christ's name (Ephesians 6:10-18), we (Hebrews 3:13; 10:25), are to combat the spiritual forces of evil (2 Corinthians 10:3-5; Ephesians 6:11, 12; 2 Timothy 4:7; 1 John 5:3-4).

Ephesians 6:10-18 (ESV)

<sup>10</sup> Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. <sup>11</sup> Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. <sup>12</sup> For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. <sup>13</sup> Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. <sup>14</sup> Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, <sup>15</sup> and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. <sup>16</sup> In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; <sup>17</sup> and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, <sup>18</sup> praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,

Hebrews 3:13 (ESV)

<sup>13</sup> But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called “today,” that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

Hebrews 10:25 (ESV)

<sup>25</sup> not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 (ESV)

<sup>3</sup> For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. <sup>4</sup> For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. <sup>5</sup> We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ,

Ephesians 6:11-12 (ESV)

<sup>11</sup> Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. <sup>12</sup> For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

2 Timothy 4:7 (ESV)

<sup>7</sup> I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

1 John 5:3-4 (ESV)

<sup>3</sup> For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. <sup>4</sup> For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.

E. We believe that, in obedience to Christ’s commission, we are to make disciples among all people (Matthew 28:19; John 20:21; Revelation 7:9).

Matthew 28:19 (ESV)

<sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

John 20:31 (ESV)

<sup>31</sup> but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

Revelation 7:9 (ESV)

<sup>9</sup> After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands,

F. We believe that as we make disciples, we are always bearing witness to the gospel (Acts 1:8) in word and deed (Matthew 5:13-16).

Acts 1:8 (ESV)

<sup>8</sup>But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

Matthew 5:13-16 (ESV)

<sup>13</sup>“You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people’s feet. <sup>14</sup>“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup>Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. <sup>16</sup>In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Summarizing connection to the gospel: *“God’s gospel compels us to Christ-like living and witness to the world.”*

- IV. Specific ways the Article on the doctrine of Christian Living has been strengthened, or new issues addressed.
- Justifying grace and sanctifying power and purpose
  - Great Commandment, Great Commission
  - Individual and corporate engagement in combating the spiritual forces of evil, which Christ overcame on the cross
  - Witness to the gospel in word and deed
- V. Importance of reaffirming the biblical/doctrinal truths of Christian Living today (which also carries with it denials)
- Justification and sanctification are components of salvation, and they cannot be separated, which is happening in many evangelical circles, pitting one against another
  - Life together is emphasized such that the Christian life is to be lived in community, over against many in the broader evangelical community that attempt to be lone ranger Christians

- We are to care for others, remember the one another commands of Scripture, beginning with one's own life and family, but not ending there. There is a larger family, this new community whom we are accountable and responsible, and then the broader world
- True faith has implication—it is mental, but it has other entailments