

Preamble & Article 1¹

The Evangelical Free Church of America is an association of autonomous churches united around these theological convictions:

God

1. We believe in one God, Creator of all things, holy, infinitely perfect, and eternally existing in a loving unity of three equally divine Persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Having limitless knowledge and sovereign power, God has graciously purposed from eternity to redeem a people for Himself and to make all things new for His own glory.
2. We believe in one God, Creator of all things, infinitely perfect and eternally existing in three persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

I. Introduction

A. W. Tozer – “The most important thing about you is what you believe about God, because what you believe about God determines what you believe about everything else.”

What God does flows out of who God is. His actions are determined by his character. His purpose to redeem and restore flows out of his essential nature as holy love.

Cover the highlights

Use the outline as a study guide to deepen your understanding

II. The Preamble

- A. Keep the essentials in the SOF – while autonomy is an organizing principle, it is not a doctrinal distinctive.
- B. Identifies the EFCA as an association. We are interdependent, not independent.
- C. Moves autonomy from article 10 to the preamble.
- D. Congregational polity will still be our organizing structure, which is guaranteed by our Articles of Incorporation.

¹ Adapted from “EFCA Statement of Faith: Preamble and Article 1,” by Greg Strand, Director of Biblical Theology and Credentialing

III. Headings

- A. Identify the article.
- B. Capture the flow of salvation history.

IV. Change of order in Articles 1 and 2

- A. This is how the Bible begins.
- B. God is not dependent on the Bible for his existence.
- C. God existed before he spoke the world into being, and the Bible which is the written record of his “speech.”
- D. This follows a biblical theology rather than a systematic theology format.
- E. Since this follows a gospel structure in its framework, the gospel begins with God.

V. “We believe . . .”

- A. This is the heart of a SOF.
- B. It is not just rational, but is also intended to be truth to which we assent and truly believe.

VI. Article 1 – God

God

We believe in one God, Creator of all things, holy, infinitely perfect, and eternally existing in a loving unity of three equally divine Persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Having limitless knowledge and sovereign power, God has graciously purposed from eternity to redeem a people for Himself and to make all things new for His own glory.

Discussion questions:

- What does it mean that God is the Creator of all things? What does this affirm? What does it deny?
- What does it mean that God is holy? How is he unique in his holiness? What are some implications towards his creation and creatures of his holiness?
- What does it mean that God is infinitely perfect? What does this mean for God? What about for us?

He never has and never will lack anything. It also means that he does not grow or change for he is unchangeable.

- What does it mean that there is “one God” who eternally existed in a loving unity”? What is the significance of the Trinity in creation? What about redemption? How does this belief in the Trinity differ from Islam, one of the growing religions of the world today?

The Trinity is the one doctrine that distinguishes Christianity from all other religions. The statement on the Trinity goes back to the Council of Nicea in A.D.325, which affirmed the doctrine of the Trinity. The statement affirms that each person of the Trinity is equally God. These three are one in nature and essence.

- What does it mean that God has limitless knowledge and sovereign power? Why is that important? How does this position differ with that of open theism, which believes God has limited what he knows?

We affirm that God can and does know the future of free choices of human beings and that nothing is outside of his sovereign will.

- What does it mean that God has graciously purposed from eternity to redeem a people for himself? What does this mean and what are the implications for our lives? What is the importance of the reference to a corporate people? How does this view of God's purpose in redemption differ from many in evangelicalism?

God created with a purpose and he redeems for a purpose.

- What does it mean that God will “make all things new for his own glory?” What does God's glory mean? Why is it right that he would only do things for his glory, whereas for us it would be so wrong?

God's work in creation and redemption is for his own renown. This puts God and his work at the center of everything, and anything that would displace him would be a chief act of treason. As you examine your life, is it about God in all his fullness, or is it about you?

God's purpose goes beyond salvation and includes a restoration of creation itself in a new heaven and a new earth.

A. We believe in one God (Deuteronomy 6:4; Mark 12:29)

Deuteronomy 6:4 (ESV)

⁴“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.²

Mark 12:29 (ESV)

²⁹ Jesus answered, “The most important is, ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.

F. We believe God eternally exists in a loving unity of three equally divine persons.

1. God exists eternally (Psalm 33:11; 102: 25-27; 115:3; Daniel 4:34-35; John 5:26; Acts 17:24-25).

Psalm 33:11 (ESV)

¹¹The counsel of the LORD stands forever, the plans of his heart to all generations.

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

Psalm 102:25-27 (ESV)

²⁵ Of old you laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. ²⁶ They will perish, but you will remain; they will all wear out like a garment. You will change them like a robe, and they will pass away, ²⁷ but you are the same, and your years have no end.

Psalm 115:3 (ESV)

³ Our God is in the heavens; he does all that he pleases.

Daniel 4:34-35 (ESV)

³⁴ At the end of the days I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my reason returned to me, and I blessed the Most High, and praised and honored him who lives forever, for his dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom endures from generation to generation; ³⁵ all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, and he does according to his will among the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay his hand or say to him, "What have you done?"

John 5:26 (ESV)

²⁶ For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself.

Acts 17:24-25 (ESV)

²⁴ The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, ²⁵ nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything.

2. God exists in a loving unity (John 3:3-5; 17:24; 1 John 4:8, 16).

John 3:3-5 (ESV)

³ Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." ⁴ Nicodemus said to him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" ⁵ Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.

John 17:24 (ESV)

²⁴ Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

1 John 4:8, 16 (ESV)

⁸ Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. . . ¹⁶ So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

3. God exists in three equally divine Persons (John 17:11; Matthew 3:16-17; 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14; 1 Peter 1:2)

John 17:11 (ESV)

¹¹ And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one.

Matthew 3:16-17 (ESV)

¹⁶ And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; ¹⁷ and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

Matthew 28:19 (ESV)

¹⁹ 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,

2 Corinthians 13:14 (ESV)

¹⁴ The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

1 Peter 1:2 (ESV)

² according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood: May grace and peace be multiplied to you.

- a) Father (Deuteronomy 32:6; Matthew 6:6; Romans 8:15; 1 Corinthians 8:6)

Deuteronomy 32:6 (ESV)

⁶ Do you thus repay the LORD, you foolish and senseless people? Is not he your father, who created you, who made you and established you?

Matthew 6:6 (ESV)

⁶ But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

Romans 8:15 (ESV)

¹⁵ For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!”

1 Corinthians 8:6 (ESV)

⁶ yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

b) Son (Matthew 3:17; John 1:14; 3:16; Galatians 4:4; Hebrews 1:5)

Matthew 3:17 (ESV)

¹⁷ and behold, a voice from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”

John 1:14 (ESV)

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

John 3:16 (ESV)

¹⁶ “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

Galatians 4:4 (ESV)

⁴ But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law,

Hebrews 1:5 (ESV)

⁵ For to which of the angels did God ever say, “You are my Son, today I have begotten you”? Or again, “I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son”?

c) Holy Spirit (John 14:16, 17, 26; 15:26; 16:7-15; Romans 8:9, 26; Galatians 4:6).

John 14:16, 17, 26 (ESV)

¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, ¹⁷ even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. . . ²⁶ But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.

John 15:26 (ESV)

²⁶“But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me.

John 16:7-15 (ESV)

⁷Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. ⁸ And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: ⁹ concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; ¹⁰ concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; ¹¹ concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged. ¹²“I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. ¹³ When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. ¹⁴ He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. ¹⁵ All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

Romans 8:9, 26 (ESV)

⁹ You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. . . ²⁶ Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.

Galatians 4:6 (ESV)

⁶ And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!”

G. We believe God, in all his fullness, is the Creator of all things (Genesis 1:1; Psalm 33:6; John 1:1; Colossians 1:15-17; Hebrews 11:3).

Genesis 1:1 (ESV)

¹ In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

Psalm 33:6 (ESV)

⁶ By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, and by the breath of his mouth all their host.

John 1:1 (ESV)

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Colossians 1:15-17 (ESV)

¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶ For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. ¹⁷ And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

Hebrews 11:3 (ESV)

³ By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.

H. We believe God is holy, love, infinitely perfect, eternally existing, has limitless knowledge and sovereign power.

1. Holy (Exodus 15:11; Isaiah 6:3; 57:15)

Exodus 15:11 (ESV)

¹¹ “Who is like you, O LORD, among the gods? Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders?”

Isaiah 6:3 (ESV)

³ And one called to another and said: “Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!”

Isaiah 57:15 (ESV)

¹⁵ For thus says the One who is high and lifted up, who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: “I dwell in the high and holy place, and also with him who is of a contrite and lowly spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly, and to revive the heart of the contrite.

2. Love (John 3:35; 17:24; 1 John 4:8, 16)

John 3:35 (ESV)

³⁵ The Father loves the Son and has given all things into his hand.

John 17:24 (ESV)

²⁴ Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

1 John 4:8-16 (ESV)

⁸ Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. . . ¹⁶ So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

3. Eternally existing (Psalm 33:11; 102:25-27; 115:3; Daniel 4:34-35; John 5:26; Acts 17:24-25)

Psalm 33:11 (ESV)

¹¹ The counsel of the LORD stands forever, the plans of his heart to all generations.

Psalm 102:25-27 (ESV)

²⁵ Of old you laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. ²⁶ They will perish, but you will remain; they will all wear out like a garment. You will change them like a robe, and they will pass away, ²⁷ but you are the same, and your years have no end.

Psalm 115:3 (ESV)

³ Our God is in the heavens; he does all that he pleases.

Daniel 4:34-35 (ESV)

³⁴ At the end of the days I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my reason returned to me, and I blessed the Most High, and praised and honored him who lives forever, for his dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom endures from generation to generation; ³⁵ all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, and he does according to his will among the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay his hand or say to him, "What have you done?"

John 5:26 (ESV)

²⁶ For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself.

Acts 17:24-25 (ESV)

²⁴ The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, ²⁵ nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything.

4. Infinitely perfect (Deuteronomy 32:4; Job 1:7-10; Psalm 18:30; 50:2; 90:2; 145:3; Matthew 5:48)

Deuteronomy 32:4 (ESV)

⁴ "The Rock, his work is perfect, for all his ways are justice. A God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and upright is he.

Job 1:7-10 (ESV)

⁷The LORD said to Satan, “From where have you come?” Satan answered the LORD and said, “From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it.”

⁸And the LORD said to Satan, “Have you considered my servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil?” ⁹Then Satan answered the LORD and said, “Does Job fear God for no reason? ¹⁰Have you not put a hedge around him and his house and all that he has, on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land.

Psalms 18:30 (ESV)

³⁰This God—his way is perfect; the word of the LORD proves true; he is a shield for all those who take refuge in him.

Psalms 50:2 (ESV)

²Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth.

Psalms 90:2 (ESV)

²Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

Psalms 145:3 (ESV)

³Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable.

Matthew 5:48 (ESV)

⁴⁸You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

5. Limitless knowledge (Psalm 139:1-16; 147:5; Isaiah 46:10; John 21:17)

Psalm 139:1-16 (ESV)

¹ TO THE CHOIRMASTER. A PSALM OF DAVID. O LORD, you have searched me and known me! ² You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar. ³ You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways. ⁴ Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O LORD, you know it altogether. ⁵ You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. ⁶ Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high; I cannot attain it. ⁷ Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence? ⁸ If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there! ⁹ If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, ¹⁰ even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me. ¹¹ If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light about me be night," ¹² even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is bright as the day, for darkness is as light with you. ¹³ For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. ¹⁴ I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. ¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. ¹⁶ Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them.

Psalm 147:5 (ESV)

⁵ Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; his understanding is beyond measure.

Isaiah 46:10 (ESV)

¹⁰ declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose,'

John 21:17 (ESV)

¹⁷ He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" and he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep.

6. Sovereign power (Jeremiah 32:17; Ephesians 1:11; Romans 8:28; 2 Corinthians 6:18; Ephesians 3:20; Revelation 1:8)

Jeremiah 32:17 (ESV)

¹⁷ ‘Ah, Lord GOD! It is you who have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and by your outstretched arm! Nothing is too hard for you.

Ephesians 1:11 (ESV)

¹¹ In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will,

Romans 8:28 (ESV)

²⁸ And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

2 Corinthians 6:18 (ESV)

¹⁸ and I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty.”

Ephesians 3:20 (ESV)

²⁰ Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us,

Revelation 1:18 (ESV)

¹⁸ and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades.

- I. We believe God has graciously purposed from eternity to redeem a people for himself (1 Corinthians 2:7; Ephesians 1:11; 3:10, 11; 2 Timothy 1:9; Titus 1:2; 1 Peter 1:20; Revelation 13:8).

1 Corinthians 2:7 (ESV)

⁷ But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory.

Ephesians 1:11 (ESV)

¹¹ In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will,

Ephesians 3:10-11 (ESV)

¹⁰ so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹ This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord,

2 Timothy 1:9 (ESV)

⁹ 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,

Titus 1:2 (ESV)

² in hope of eternal life, which God, who never lies, promised before the ages began

1 Peter 1:20 (ESV)

²⁰ He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you

Revelation 13:8 (ESV)

⁸ and all who dwell on earth will worship it, everyone whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain.

- J. We believe God will make all things new (Matthew 19:28; Acts 3:21; Romans 8:19-21; Revelation 21, 22).

Matthew 19:28 (ESV)

²⁸ Jesus said to them, “Truly, I say to you, in the new world, when the Son of Man will sit on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

Acts 3:21 (ESV)

²¹ whom heaven must receive until the time for restoring all the things about which God spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets long ago.

Romans 8:19-21 (ESV)

¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.

- K. We believe God does everything for his own glory (Psalm 19:1-2; Isaiah 43:7; Jeremiah 13:11; Colossians 1:15-23; Revelation 4:11; 5:9-14).

Psalm 19:1-2 (ESV)

¹TO THE CHOIRMASTER. A PSALM OF DAVID. The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork. ²Day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge.

Isaiah 43:7 (ESV)

⁷everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.”

Jeremiah 13:11 (ESV)

¹¹For as the loincloth clings to the waist of a man, so I made the whole house of Israel and the whole house of Judah cling to me, declares the LORD, that they might be for me a people, a name, a praise, and a glory, but they would not listen.

Colossians 1:15-23 (ESV)

¹⁵He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. ¹⁷And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. ¹⁹For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross. ²¹And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, ²²he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, ²³if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.

Revelation 4:11 (ESV)

¹¹“Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.”

Revelation 5:9-14 (ESV)

⁹ And they sang a new song, saying, “Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, ¹⁰ and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth.” ¹¹ Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, ¹² saying with a loud voice, “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!” ¹³ And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying, “To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!” ¹⁴ And the four living creatures said, “Amen!” and the elders fell down and worshiped.

Summarizing connection to the gospel: *“God’s gospel originates in and expresses the wondrous perfections of the eternal, triune God.”*

VII. Specific ways the Article on the doctrine of God has been strengthened, or new issues addressed.

- Holy, this attribute is important to emphasize in conjunction with his love
- Eternally existing in a loving unity of three equally divine persons, which means that God is complete in himself, he is not absolutely contingent on anyone or anything other than himself.
- Limitless knowledge and sovereign power, which addresses God’s exhaustive foreknowledge over against open theism.
- Graciously purposed from eternity to redeem a people for himself
- Will make all things new
- God-centered

VIII. Importance of reaffirming the biblical/doctrinal truths of God today (which also carries with it denials)

- Creator – this is over against naturalism
- Holy and loving – both of these attributes are to be held in union not in opposition
- Trinity – this is central to the Christian faith, and is critical to know as one engages Islam
- Limitless knowledge and sovereign power – open theism
- Redeem a people for himself – purpose of our existence
- Make all things new – physicality, which is over against material-immaterial dualism
- For his own glory – God-centeredness over against man-centeredness