

We Believe: Article 1 – God Sunday: 9/18/2023 – Mark 12:28-31 – Pastor Lenard Tavernelli

“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.”

Overview:

This week Pastor Lenard introduced us to Article One of our statement of faith: God. Lenard introduced us to the idea of creeds and confessions. These documents serve as summaries that point to the essentials of the faith from scripture. Our statement of faith serves a similar purpose that informs us and others what we believe. This first article helps us answer the question of who our God is and begins to answer many of the “why” questions we have about ourselves and the world God has placed us in. Proper knowledge (or Doctrine) of who God is leads to godly living, proper worship, and a truthful witness.

Outline:

1. The gospel is the expression of God’s essential nature.
 - a. God is one
 - b. God is creator of all things.
 - i. **6 Convictions:**
 - I. that God is the Creator of all things out of nothing (ex nihilo).
 - II. that God pronounced his creation “very good.”
 - III. that God created with order and purpose.
 - IV. That God is the sovereign ruler over all creation which, by his personal and particular providence, he sustains.
 - V. that God created the first human begins—the historical Adam and Eve—uniquely in his image.
 - VI. that through their sin all humanity along with this created order is now fallen.
 - c. God is holy and infinitely perfect.
 - d. God is eternal.
 - e. God is love
 - f. God is triune.
 2. The gospel is the outworking of God’s eternal purpose.
 - a. God acts according to his limitless knowledge and sovereign power.
 - b. God acts to accomplish his eternal purpose: to redeem a people for himself and to make all things new.
 - c. God acts always and only for his own glory.
- Our doctrine of God leads to godly living and love for others.
 - Our doctrine of God leads to worshiping God rightly.
 - Our doctrine of God leads to truthful witness.

Corroborating Texts

Isaiah 46:9, Deut 6:4-5, John 10:30, Genesis 1:1, Revelation 4:11, John 1:1-3, Hebrews 3, Isaiah 6:3, Lev 19:2, Romans 11:34-36, Psalm 90:2, John 3:16, Romans 5:8, Eph 1:3-10&11, 2 Tim 1:9, 2 Corinthians 5:21, Titus 2:14, Rev 5:9-10, Eph 3:9-11, Romans 11:33-36

Discussion Questions

1. Creeds, Confessions, and Statements of faith can inform our faith, they can also unify or divide.
 - a. Have you ever considered our statement of faith as an item to study personally?
 - b. How does our statement of faith seek to unify? In what ways can it divide us from other groups?
2. God is “holy.” What does it mean that God is holy? How is he unique in his holiness?
 - a. What are some implications towards his creation and creatures of his holiness?ⁱⁱ
3. God is triune. What scripture supports this attribute of God?
4. Pastor Lenard showed us how proper doctrine of God will lead to godly living, love for others, proper worship, and a true witness. What can you do to grow in your understanding of the doctrine of God?
5. Was there anything else that stood out in the sermon?

Article 1 with references: God

1. We believe in one God (Dt. 6:4; Mk. 12:29), Creator of all things (Gen. 1:1; Ps. 33:6; Jn. 1:3; Col. 1:15-17; Heb. 11:3), holy (Ex. 15:11; Isa. 6:3; 57:15), infinitely perfect (Dt. 32:4; Job 1:7-10; Ps. 18:30; 50:2; 90:2; 145:3; Matt. 5:48), and eternally existing (Ps. 33:11; 102:25-27; 115:3; Dan. 4:34-35; Jn. 5:26; Acts 17:24-25) in a loving unity (Jn. 3:35; 17:24; 1 Jn. 4:8,16) of three equally divine Persons (Jn. 17:11; Matt. 3:16-17; 28:19; 2 Cor. 13:14; 1 Pet. 1:2): the Father (Dt. 32:6; Mt. 6:6; Rom. 8:15; 1 Cor. 8:6), the Son (Matt.3:17; Jn. 1:14; 3:16; Gal. 4:4; Heb. 1:5), and the Holy Spirit (Jn. 14:16, 17, 26; 15:26; 16:7-15; Rom. 8:9, 26; Gal. 4:6). Having limitless knowledge (Ps. 139:1-16; 147:5; Isa. 46:10; Jn. 21:17) and sovereign power (Jer. 32:17; Eph. 1:11; Rm. 8:28; 2 Cor. 6:18; Eph. 3:20; Rev. 1:8), God has graciously purposed from eternity to redeem a people for Himself (1 Cor. 2:7; Eph. 1:11; 3:10,11; 2 Tim. 1:9; Tit. 1:2; 1 Pet. 1:20; Rev. 13:8) and to make all things new (Matt. 19:28; Acts 3:21; Rom. 8:19-21; Rev. 21,22) for His own glory (Ps. 19:1-2; Isa. 43:7; Jer. 13:11; Col. 1:15-23; Rev. 4:11; 5:9- 14).

GATHER – GROW - PRACTICE - GO

ⁱ EFCA. Evangelical Convictions. Free Church Publications.

ⁱⁱ <https://helps.efca.org/resources/statement-of-faith-teaching-notes-article-1>