

There are three main questions that need to be answered:

1. **Why do we need it?**
2. **How do we get it?**
3. **What does it mean?**

"We believe that God created Adam and Eve in His image, but they sinned when tempted by Satan. In union with Adam, human beings are sinners by nature and by choice, alienated from God, and under His wrath. Only through God's saving work in Jesus Christ can we be rescued, reconciled and renewed."

Article 3, EFCA Statement of Faith

1. Why do we need it?

a. Humanity was created in God's image.

i. We are a unique creation, classified above all other forms of life.

1. Genesis 1:27 – "So God created man in his own image; in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them."

ii. To be created in God's image means that we bear His likeness in:

1. Thought (intellectual capacity and reason)
2. Emotion (feelings)
3. Moral Accountability & Conscience (Genesis 3:22; Romans 2:14-16, 3:19)
4. Spirituality
5. Eternal Life (Ecclesiastes 3:11)
6. Will
7. Maleness & Femaleness (Genesis 1:27; Ephesians 5:22-33)
8. Relational Depth (John 17:20-23)
9. Authority/Dominion (Genesis 1:28)

b. Humanity sinned.

i. Adam and Eve were given freedom to choose whether or not they would obey God, and they chose their own way rather than God's (cf. Genesis 2:16-17; 3:1-6)

ii. Adam and Eve represented all people as our earthly human parents. As a result, sin became a part of the human race and is now inherited by all people.

1. Romans 5:12 – “Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned.”

c. As a result of sin, humanity is lost _____.

i. Everyone is born _____ a sinner, even before we commit any personal act of sin. (Psalm 51:5; Romans 5:12)

ii. We are not sinful _____ because we sin, we sin _____, because we are sinful _____.

iii. Sin is any thought _____, word _____, or deed _____ which does not measure up to the holy character of God. (Romans 3:23)

iv. The consequence of sin is separation _____ from God. The image of God in humanity is distorted _____ because of sin. And the relationship between sinful humanity and the rest of creation is disrupted _____.

1. Isaiah 59:2 – “But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.”

2. Romans 3:23 – “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”

3. Romans 6:23 – “For the wages of sin is death...”

4. Hebrews 9:27 – “Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment.”

5. Ecclesiastes 7:29 – “...God made man upright, but they have sought out many schemes.”

6. Genesis 3:8-24

7. 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9 – “This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels. He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power.”

v. It is obvious then, that we are in desperate need of salvation!

2. How do we get it?

"We believe that Jesus Christ, as our representative and substitute, shed His blood on the cross as the perfect, all-sufficient sacrifice for our sins. His atoning death and victorious resurrection constitute the only ground for salvation."

Article 5, EFCA Statement of Faith

- d.** The *only ground* of our salvation is the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- i.** These two historical facts are the essence of the gospel.
- 1.** 1 Corinthians 15:1-4 – “Now, brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you,...that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.”
- ii.** Jesus died as our representative and substitute, to pay the penalty for our sins.
- 1.** Matthew 4:1-11; Mark 1:12-13; Luke 4:1-13; Hebrews 2:18; 1 Peter 2:22
- 2.** Romans 5:18-19 – “Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. For as by the one man’s disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man’s obedience the many will be made righteous.”
- 3.** 1 Peter 3:18 – “For Christ suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit.”
- 4.** 1 Peter 2:24 – “He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sin and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.”
- 5.** 2 Corinthians 5:14-15 – “For Christ’s love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.”
- iii.** Jesus’ blood, shed on the cross, was the only perfect, all-sufficient sacrifice to make atonement for our sins.

1. Leviticus 17:11; Matthew 26:28; Hebrews 9:11-10:1, 10:18-22; 1 Peter 1:18-19; Revelation 12:10-11
2. 1 Corinthians 5:7 – “Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. For Christ, our Passover Lamb, has been sacrificed.”
3. Isaiah 53:5-7 – “But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth.”

iv. Jesus rose again and is alive today.

1. Hebrews 2:14-15 – “Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery.”
2. Romans 10:9 – “That if you confess with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.”

v. Jesus is the only way to be saved.

1. John 14:6 – “Jesus answered, ‘I am the way and the truth and life. No one comes to the Father except through me.’”
2. Acts 4:12 – “Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.”
3. Romans 4:23-25 – “But the words ‘it was counted to him’ were not written for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.”

e. *All who believe* in Jesus will be saved.

i. No amount of good _____ deeds _____ can help.
(Otherwise the death and resurrection of Jesus would be unnecessary).

1. Ephesians 2:8-10 – “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”

2. Galatians 2:20-21 – “I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!”

a. Examples of good deeds: _____

b. Good deeds are the necessary result _____ of salvation; they are not the necessary requirement _____ of salvation, (James 2:14-16).

Faith + Nothing = Salvation + Deeds

ii. It is a matter of God’s grace _____ (unmerited favor).
(Ephesians 2:8-9)

iii. To believe _____ is the only requirement to be saved.

a. Ephesians 2:8-9

b. John 3:16

c. Acts 16:30-31, “...’what must I do to be saved?’ They replied, ‘Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household.’”

1. To *believe* in Jesus means more than _____:

a. “believing in God” (intellectually reasoning that a supreme being exists)

b. understanding the gospel

c. agreeing that the gospel is true.

- i. James 2:19** – “You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder.”

2. To *believe* in Jesus means to:

a. Receive _____ - Jesus as your own personal Savior.

- i. John 1:12** – “Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.”

b. Recognize _____ - Jesus as “Lord” (Master, Boss, Ultimate Authority, Commander in Chief) of your life.

- i. Romans 10:9** – “That if you confess with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord’ and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.”

- ii. Romans 6:4, 11, 14, 17-18** – “We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life...So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus...For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace...But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness.”

c. Repent _____ - (turn) from your sins to Jesus.

- i. Acts 20:21** – “...they must turn to God in repentance and have faith in our Lord, Jesus.”

3. What does salvation mean?

f. He saved _____ us (past)

i. **Election:** God chose _____ us before we chose Him. (predestination)

1. Ephesians 1:4-5 – “For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will.”

2. John 15:16 – “You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit—fruit that will last.”

ii. **Justification:** God declared us not _____ guilty _____ when we believed in Christ.

1. Romans 5:1 – “Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ...”

iii. **Imputation:** God placed our sin upon Jesus and placed his righteousness _____ and obedience upon us.

1. 2 Corinthians 5:21 – “For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”

iv. **Expiation & Propitiation:** God was satisfied _____ with the death of Christ for our sins, and His anger was turned away.

1. Isaiah 53:10-11 – “Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the Lord shall prosper in his hand. Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities.”

2. 1 John 4:10 – “In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.”

v. **Redemption:** God set us free _____ from the bondage and consequences of our sin by the paying the ransom (the blood of Christ) of our debt.

1. Galatians 3:13 – “Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: ‘Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree.’”
2. Application: God has purchased you with the blood of Jesus. He now has the rights to your life. He owns you. (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)

vi. Reconciliation: God is at peace _____ with us though our sin once alienated us from Him.

1. 2 Corinthians 5:18-19 – “All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.”

vii. Regeneration: God gave us new _____ life _____, causing us to be “born again.”

1. Titus 3:5 – “He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit.

viii. Adoption: God receives us in Christ as his children, we are co-heirs with Christ, and have received the “mark” of God’s family (the indwelling Holy Spirit).

1. Romans 8:14-17 – “For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. 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!’ The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.”

g. He is saving _____ us (present)

i. Sanctification: God is making us holy _____; setting us apart as His people.

1. 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5 – “It is God’s will that you should be sanctified...”

2. Romans 12:1 – “I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.”

h. He will _____ save _____ us (future)

i. **Glorification:** God will make us perfect _____ when we see Him in heaven.

1. Romans 8:29-30 – “For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.”

2. 1 John 3:2 – “Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.”

Summary:

- In the past, God saved me from the penalty _____ of sin.
- In the present, God is saving me from the power _____ of sin.
- In the future, God will save me from the presence _____ of sin.

For this reason, We speak of our salvation as “already, but not yet.”

→ It is both a present reality, and a future to be realized. ←