

One God, Creator of all things:

"What comes into our minds when we think about God is **the most important thing about us.**" -A.W. Tozer, The Knowledge of the Holy.

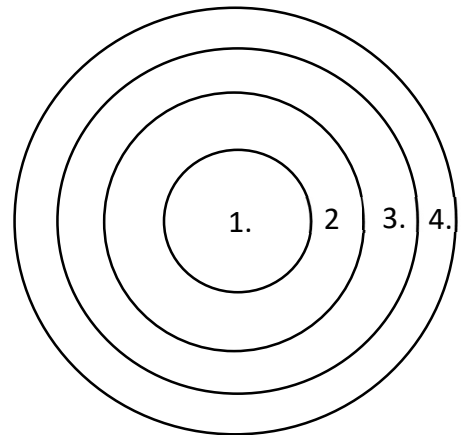
"Orthodoxy, or right opinion, is, at best, a very slender part of religion. Though right tempers cannot subsist without right opinions, yet right opinions may subsist without right tempers. **There may be a right opinion of God without either love or one right temper toward Him.** Satan is a proof of this." -John Wesley, quoted in The Pursuit of God by A.W. Tozer.

Article 1 of the EFCA Doctrinal Statement

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.

Theological Prioritization

1. **Absolutes:** Essential to the faith
2. **Convictions:** Essential to close fellowship between churches
3. **Opinions:** Non-essential
4. **Questions:** Fun to think about



The Bible claims God created everything.

¹ In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. ² The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. ³ And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. ⁴ And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness...⁷ And God made the expanse and separated the waters that were under the expanse from the waters that were above the expanse. And it was so. ⁸ And God called the expanse Heaven. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day. - Genesis 1:1-4, 7-8 (ESV)

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. - John 1:1-3 (ESV)

¹² I made the earth and created man on it; it was my hands that stretched out the heavens, and I commanded all their host. - Isaiah 45:12 (ESV)

"If it could be demonstrated that any complex organ existed, which could not possibly have been formed by numerous, successive, slight modifications, **my theory would absolutely break down.** But I can find no such case." -Charles Darwin

How did the complex process of life begin? Natural selection has no explanation for life coming into being.

Genesis account of creation

Who wrote Genesis? _____

Who was the original audience of Genesis? _____

What questions would the original audience have been asking?

What emphasis do we see in the creation account?

33 times God “did something” in Genesis 1:1-2:3; no other “god” is named;

“The customary Egyptian myth of creation (found, for example, in the dedication ritual of a royal pyramid or in the Book of the Dead) relates that before the creation there was a watery void, accompanied by darkness, formlessness, and invisibility. That watery chaos bore the name Nun, “the great god who came into being by himself ... the father of the gods.” The void subsides, leaving a primordial mound of earth with the creator god Atum (“totality”) upon it. Atum brings into being the rest of the universe and assigns places and functions to its parts. In a detail similar to the Mesopotamian myths, the air god Shu separates heaven-earth by lifting the sky goddess Nut from the earth god Geb and placing himself between the two.” -Walter Elwell and Philip Wesley Comfort In the Tyndale Bible Dictionary.

Youth Earth Creationism: by God in six literal 24-hour periods

Old Earth Creationism: by God over a longer period of time

Theistic Evolution: by God using the process of evolution to create

Naturalistic Evolution: by natural processes over a long period of time

1. **Absolutes**: Essential to the faith: That the God of the Bible is the Creator of the universe.
2. **Convictions**: Essential to close fellowship between churches
3. **Opinions**: Non-essential : The manner in which and time-frame in which God created.
4. **Questions**: Fun to think about