

Series: This We Believe...So What?

EFCC Statement of Faith – Article 8

- **God's gospel compels us to Christ-like living and witness to the world.**
- *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.*

Nov 4, 2018 – Good Neighbors, Good News

1 Peter 2:9-12; 3:13-16

Integrity Matters

Can you think of a recent occasion in the news when integrity became a major issue?

If integrity means being whole and undivided, how would this apply toward our words and actions? Our private and public life?

Showing a Difference

Peter was writing to a group of Christians who were scattered far and wide, in danger of losing their identity.

2:9-10 – Peter reminds them of their identity and purpose. How do these words connect the church with Abraham and Israel?

2:11-12 – In light of their identity, purpose and situation, what does Peter call the church to do? Why?

Looking at the example situations in 2:13-3:12, do any relate to you? Do you ever find yourself in a situation that is hostile to your Christian identity?

Telling Why

Though Christians can expect to face opposition, they are encouraged to not fear, but revere Christ as Lord, and continue to do good, even when treated badly.

Christians are also called to “be ready with an answer for their hope.” In light of the previous verses, why might people be asking questions?

Not Alone

If living as a Christian in a non-Christian setting sounds difficult, there is good news – we don't have to be alone!

This week – consider how you can find opportunities to meet other Christians for mutual encouragement in the times and places of your week.