

A Brief History of the Evangelical Free Church of America and its Doctrines

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1. Where do denominations come from?

2. After the beginnings of the reformation, denominations come from:

- ☐ Uniting to achieve common goals with combined resources.
- ☐ Church splits over doctrine, e.g. protestant reformation
- ☐ Cultic “revelation”
- ☐ etc.

3. Churches are “planted” by:

- ☐ Church planting by other churches for Gospel outreach
- ☐ Church splits over doctrine
- ☐ Church splits over organizational and/or emotional issues
- ☐ Church plants by individuals such as with inner city “storefront” churches

4. All Souls Day eve
October 31st 1517

5. After Luther (1483-1546)⁶

- ☐ Zwingli 1484-1531
- ☐ Bucher 1491-1551
- ☐ Melanchthon 1497-1560
- ☐ Calvin 1509-1564
- ☐ Beza 1519-1605
- ☐ Puritans and Separatists
- ☐ Cranmer 1489-1556
- ☐ on-and-on to the Pietist Movement within the “Lutherans”

6. Consternation within the ranks of the early reformers

- ☐ Communion

- ❓ Sacraments
- ❓ Predestination
- ❓ Reconciliation with Catholicism
- ❓ and many more minor points

7. Reformers to Protestants

At the Diet of Speyer in 1529 “a row of evangelical princes stood their ground and resisted” legislation to prohibit the advance of the reformation, “following the example of their great teacher, Luther. Their brave protest gave history the word ‘Protestantism’”⁶

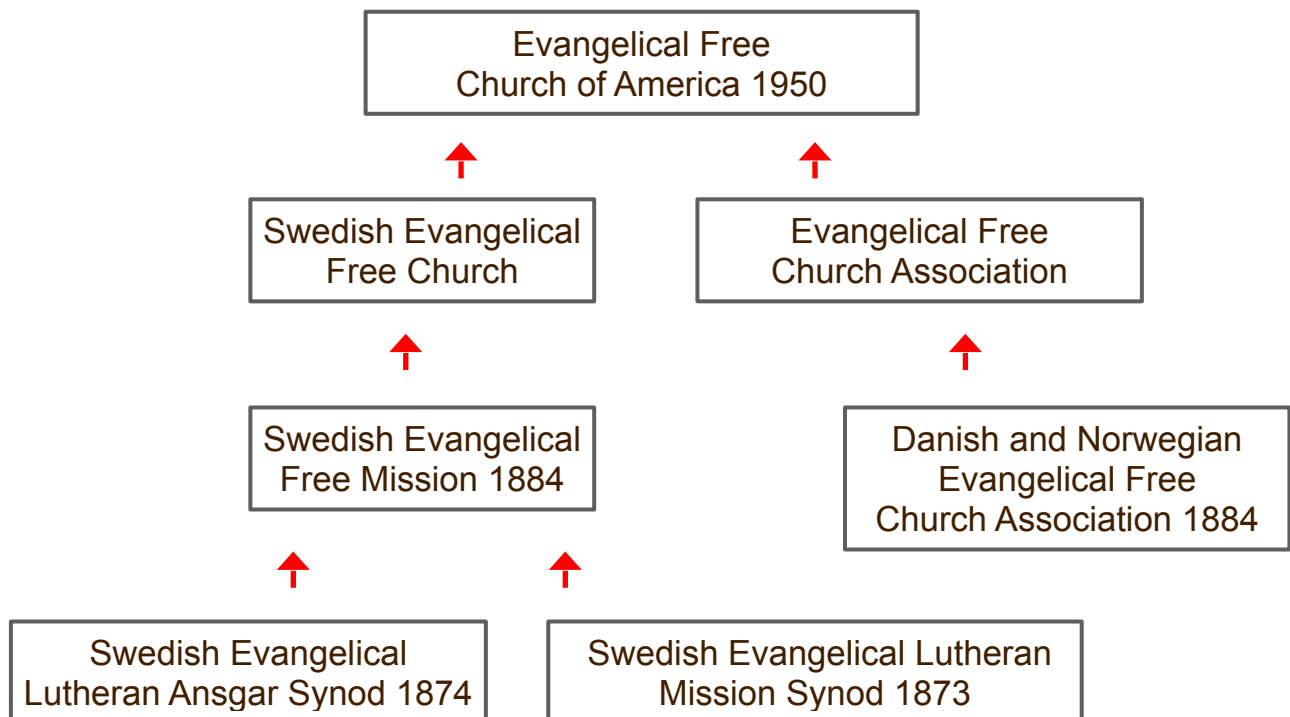
8. Origins of the EFCA

9. Pietist Revivals (19th century)⁵

Pietism, also known as **Pietistic Lutheranism**, was/is a movement within Lutheranism that combines its emphasis on biblical doctrine with an emphasis on individual piety and living a holy Christian life.

Pietistic Lutherans emphasize(d) following "biblical divine commands of believers to live a holy life and to strive for holy living, or sanctification".

10. E-Free (EFCA) history^{3,4,5}



11. The recent EFCA numbers

? 2023

- 1,600 congregations
- Members?
- 17 districts

? 2012

- 1,470 congregations
- 357,186 members

? 2011

- 550 missionaries in
- 80 countries

? 1980

- 700 churches
- 100,000 members
- 16 Districts in the US and Canada

12. EFCA Church Doctrines

1. God
2. The Bible
3. The Human Condition
4. Jesus Christ
5. The Work of Christ
6. The Holy Spirit
7. The Church
8. Christian Living
9. Christ's Return
10. Response and Eternal Destiny

13. God (EFCA Doctrine 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.**

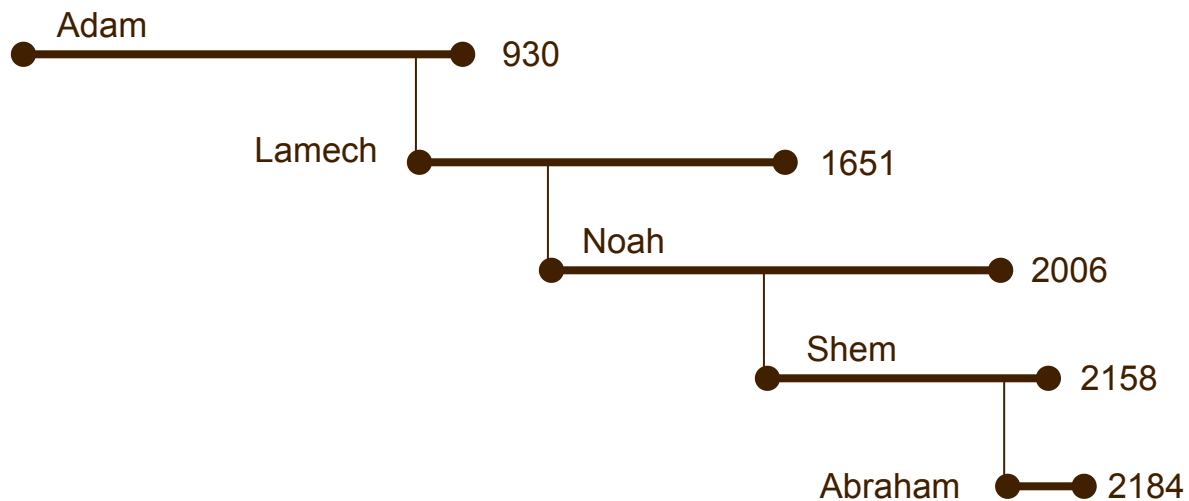
14. Gen1:1 ¶ In the beginning, God created...

John 1:1 ¶ 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. 4 In him was life, and the life was the light of men. —ESV

15. The Bible (EFCA Doctrine 2)

We believe that God has spoken in the Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, through the words of human authors. As the verbally inspired Word of God, **the Bible is without error in the original writings**, the complete revelation of His will for salvation, and the ultimate authority by which every realm of human knowledge and endeavor should be judged. Therefore, it is to be believed in all that it teaches, obeyed in all that it requires, and trusted in all that it promises.

16. Oral Communication



17. Origin of the Bible

- ? 66 books
- ? ~ 42 writers
- ? ~1600 years to write from the Pentateuch to Revelation
- ? 1,000 years to complete the OT from the Pentateuch to Malachi
- ? 300 years to collate and finalize the canon of the NT

18. 2 Tim 3:16,17

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work. --ESV

All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work. --NLT

omnis scriptura divinitus inspirata et utilis ad docendum ad arguendum ad corrigendum ad erudiendum in iustitia ut perfectus sit homo Dei ad omne opus bonum instructus. -- Vulgate

19. The Human Condition (EFCA Doctrine 3)

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.**

20. Rom 3:19-23

¶ Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God.

20 For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

21 But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—

22 the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. **For there is no distinction:**

23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, --ESV

21. Jesus Christ (EFCA Doctrine 4)

We believe that Jesus Christ is God incarnate, fully God and fully man, one Person in two natures. Jesus—Israel's promised Messiah—was conceived through the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He lived a sinless life, was crucified under Pontius Pilate, arose bodily from the dead, ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father as our High Priest and Advocate

22. Rom 3:24-26

Yet God, with undeserved kindness, declares that we are righteous. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins.

25 For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood. This sacrifice shows that God was being fair when he held back and did not punish those who sinned in times past,

26 for he was looking ahead and including them in what he would do in this present time. God did this to demonstrate his righteousness, for he himself is fair and just, and he declares sinners to be right in his sight when they believe in Jesus. --NLT

23. References

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6. “Eerdmans’ Handbook to the History of Christianity”, Tim Dowley, Wm B. Eerdmans Publishing Co, Grand Rapids, MI, USA, 1977