

Evangelical Free

Evangelical Free Church of America

- 370,000 members across 1,500 churches
- Formed in 1950 as an association of churches
- Branched off from Lutheranism in the US in the 17th century – Scandinavian roots (Sweden, Norway, and Denmark)
- Fleeing the state church; hence the name “Free”
- Faith in Christ Fellowship, Oak Grove, with thanks to Pastor John Jones
- 18 in Kansas City and the surrounding communities
- Grace Evangelical Free Church – w/thanks to Pastor Paul Langmade

Material Principle

LCMS

- Justification by grace through faith in Jesus Christ

EFCA

- Focus on the life of Christ and becoming like Him
 - Following and Obedience
 - “To Know Him and Make Him Known” – Grace’s mission statement
 - “Sharing the Hope of Eternal Life while building Christ-Centered Lives” – Faith’s mission statement

Formal Principle

LCMS

- Scripture (OT and NT)

EFCA

- Scripture (OT and NT)
 - Hold to Sola Scriptura
- “Sound Christian doctrine must be coupled with dynamic Christian experience.” – EFCA brochure

God

LCMS

- Biblical Trinity

EFCA

- Biblical Trinity

The Person of Jesus

LCMS

- Incarnation
- Both God and man

EFCA

- Incarnation
- Both God and man

The Work of Jesus

LCMS

- Redemption
- Reconciliation
- Vicarious Satisfaction/Atonement
- Savior

EFCA

- Redemption
- Reconciliation
- Vicarious Satisfaction/Atonement
- Savior

Doctrine of Man

LCMS

- Fallen sinners in need of redemption, of salvation
- Original sin
- Bondage of the Will
- Total depravity

EFCA

- Fallen sinners in need of redemption, of salvation
- Original sin
- Bondage of the Will
- Total depravity

Salvation/Justification

LCMS

- Ephesians 2:8-9
- Grace Alone
- Faith Alone

EFCA

- Some decision theology
 - Altar calls – not all churches
 - A “born again experience”
- “We are justified by ‘God’s grace through faith alone in Christ alone.’ But this faith is an active, living faith. Saving faith is the root while living faith is the flower.” – EFCA membership manual

Sacraments

LCMS

- A means of grace
- Commanded by Christ
- With a visible element
 - Baptism
 - Lord's Supper
 - Absolution

EFCA

- Ordinances
- Symbols
 - Baptism
 - Lord's Supper
- No term for it, but they hold immediate grace

Assurance

LCMS

- Points you to the means of grace:
 - Baptism
 - Lord's Supper
 - Absolution
- Not based on you or your works, but on God and what He has done for you.

EFCA

- 1 John 5:11-13
- Examine the heart to see if they're in the faith
- "Who do you say that I am?"
- What has Jesus done for you?

Church and Ministry

LCMS

- Church as the Body of Christ
- Visible and invisible church
- Marks of the Church – Preaching and the sacraments
- One divinely instituted office – the Preaching Office or the Office of the Keys
- Auxiliary offices are rooted in the Office

EFCA

- Church as the Body of Christ
- Mixture of Congregational and Presbyter polity – governed by congregation, led by elders
- Also have deacons

Last Things

LCMS

- Life after Death
- Bodily Resurrection
- Amillennial

EFCA

- Life after Death
- Bodily Resurrection
- Premillennial
 - Some amillennial

Current Cultural Topics

LCMS

- Role of Women in the Church
- Age of the earth
- Abortion
- In Vitro Fertilization
- Cohabitation
- Same-sex Marriage

EFCA

- Role of Women in the Church
- Age of the earth
- Abortion
- In Vitro Fertilization
- Cohabitation
- Same-sex Marriage

Miscellaneous

EFCA