

Join us in being  
on mission with  
God!

### OUR VISION

To continually mature and grow as a united body of Jesus-imitators who live out God's greatest commandment to "Love" by exalting God and serving one another, and His greatest commission to "Go" by reaching into and shaping our local, regional, and global communities.

### Core Values

Truth  
Love  
Community



## “Radical Religion”

*Romans 5:6*

### Getting Started

*After an introductory time, discuss the following questions in your group or class.*

- Q. Think of some churches you have been involved in. (Do not include Harvest.) If you had to define some of the most important goals or values in those churches as measured by what they actually do, what would be some of the top pursuits? (Hint: Consider things like balancing the budget, empowering missions, caring for the indigent, etc.)

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The Evangelical Free Church recognizes that it is easy to become sidetracked into efforts or issues that may have some value, but are not central to the mandate Jesus gave the church. This week's study will concentrate on the principles that are at the core of Christ's expectations for the church.

### Thinking about our mission

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.

1. Our statement of faith argues that both justification and sanctification are important. We are not to focus on one and ignore the other. Justification is commonly viewed as having a right standing before God through Christ. What other ways would you describe what changes when God justifies us?

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2. How would you define the concept of sanctification?

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3. What is your role in sanctification? What is God's role?

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**Mat. 22:38**  
Love your  
neighbor as  
yourself.

4. What would be missing in the life of a Christian who understood justification, but not sanctification?

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5. According to 1 Corinthians 6:11, when did justification take place for the Corinthian believers?

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6. What does the expression “must not be separated” mean? What are ways they are wrongly separated in parts of the church today?

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7. “God commands us to love Him supremely and others sacrificially.” List some characteristics of a person who was growing in their ability to love God above all else. How might you see that reflected in his or her life?

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8. Some Christians are very “religious” in their vocabulary, dress, or mannerisms. But that doesn’t necessarily mean they love God supremely. (The Pharisees, for example, were models of fasting and long prayers.) What separates the person who loves God deeply from the person who is primarily religious?

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9. Part of the process of growing in sanctification is linked to the way a Christian treats other Christians. The Bible identifies some of these responsibilities as “one another” commands. Look at the verses below and identify some of these commands: (Note: Some verses may contain more than 1 command. Others may repeat similar ideas somewhat.)

Mark 9:50 \_\_\_\_\_

John 13:34 \_\_\_\_\_

Romans 12:10 \_\_\_\_\_

Romans 12:16 \_\_\_\_\_

Romans 14:13 \_\_\_\_\_

Romans 14:19 \_\_\_\_\_

Romans 15:7 \_\_\_\_\_

Romans 15:14 \_\_\_\_\_

Romans 16:16 \_\_\_\_\_

Galatians 5:13 \_\_\_\_\_

Galatians 5:26 (negative) \_\_\_\_\_

**Real Christianity in a Confused World: June 14-August 16, 2009**

Ephesians 4:2 \_\_\_\_\_

Ephesians 4:32 \_\_\_\_\_

Philippians 2:3 \_\_\_\_\_

Colossians 3:9 (negative) \_\_\_\_\_

Colossians 3:13 \_\_\_\_\_

1 Thessalonians 4:18 \_\_\_\_\_

1 Thessalonians 5:11 \_\_\_\_\_

1 Thessalonians 5:13 \_\_\_\_\_

Hebrews 3:13 \_\_\_\_\_

Hebrews 10:24 \_\_\_\_\_

James 5:16 \_\_\_\_\_

1 Peter 4:9-10 \_\_\_\_\_

1 Peter 5:5 \_\_\_\_\_

10. As you look at the list you compiled, which of the “one another” commands do you think Christians do most consistently?

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11. Which of the commands in the list do you think we tend to overlook or forget about? Why do you think they do not readily capture our attention?

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The call to be increasingly transformed through sanctification impacts our relationships in the church. It also impacts our relationships outside of the church. **James 1:27** states, “Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.”

12. Why do you think the Bible repeatedly emphasizes compassionate care for the orphans and widows? What was their role in the culture of the Old and New Testament?

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13. What are some of the needs of widows in the church body today that God expects us to meet as a compassionate community? What guidelines does the Bible give in 1 Timothy 5:8-15?

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**Mat. 22:37**  
Love the Lord your  
God with all your  
heart and with all  
your soul and with  
all your mind.





Reaching Up and Reaching Out

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14. Our statement speaks of the "poor and oppressed." Who would most fit into this classification today?

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15. Some church traditions focus on helping impoverished people, but feel it is inappropriate to give them spiritual truth in the process. How should the evangelical church deal with both the body and the soul of those whom God calls us to touch with compassion and truth?

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16. The "spiritual forces of evil" are real. As believers, we are to combat them. What are the means with which we are to engage in this combat? Why is the plural "we" important to remember?

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17. In Christ's Great Commission, He exhorts us "to make disciples among all people." Why do you think the Bible focuses on *disciples* rather than *converts*? How does that shape our mission?

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18. What do you think Jesus adds, "teaching them to obey all I have commanded you." How might you measure this goal?

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19. Some today downplay the need for gospel proclamation, but rather emphasize living out the gospel. Why does this come short? Why is it essential to bear "witness to the gospel in word and deed?" With the emphasis on "always," why is the gospel a critical thing to remember?

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