

The most significant danger to the 'church' today is from within.

Matthew 24:9-14

Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for my name's sake.

And they many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another.

And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray.

And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold.

But the one who endures to the end will be saved.

And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

Political Polarization

Political Polarization
Hateful Isolation

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Rejection of Authority

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Denial of Truth

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Denial of Truth
Breakdown of Trust

Political Polarization
Hateful Isolation
Rejection of Authority
Denial of Truth
Breakdown of Trust
Coldness of Heart

Trinity Bible Church

Lack of Shepherding

Trinity Bible Church

Lack of Shepherding

Watering down the Church

Trinity Bible Church

Lack of Shepherding
Watering down the Church
Skewing the Image of God

Trinity Bible Church

Lack of Shepherding
Watering down the Church
Skewing the Image of God
Forgetting Heaven and Hell

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Having no fear of God

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Drifting from the Word of God

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...paves the way for violating the sanctity of the gospel and God's calling for the church.



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Jude

Three horizontal red lines are positioned behind the word 'Jude', extending across the width of the text.

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To *contend* with skill and commitment in opposing whatever is not of the faith (God's *persuasion*), the content of faith that is God's warranty, certifying that the revelation He in-birthed will come to pass.

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The abandonment or renunciation of religious or political belief.

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The act of denying, rejecting, diminishing or purposefully altering core and clear biblical truths that make historical Christianity distinctive in itself, distinctive from the world, and distinctive as revelatory norms.

Who are these apostates?

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⁴ For certain people have crept in unnoticed who long ago were designated for this condemnation, ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.

⁵ Now I want to remind you, although you once fully knew it, that Jesus, who saved a people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe.

⁶ And the angels who did not stay within their own position of authority, but left their proper dwelling, He has kept in eternal chains under gloomy darkness until the judgment of the great day—

⁷ just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities, which likewise indulged in sexual immorality and pursued unnatural desire, serve as an example by undergoing a punishment of eternal fire.

- ¹⁶ These are grumblers, malcontents, following their own sinful desires; they are loud-mouthed boasters, showing favoritism to gain advantage.
- ¹⁷ But you must remember, beloved, the predictions of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- ¹⁸ They said to you,
“In the last time there will be scoffers, following their own ungodly passions.”

¹⁹ It is these who cause divisions, worldly people, devoid of the Spirit.

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Acts 20:28-30 Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which He obtained with His own blood. I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them.

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II Timothy 4:3-4 For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.

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II Peter 2:1-3 But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction. And many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of truth will be blasphemed. And in their greed they will exploit you with false words. Their condemnation from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.

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II Peter 3:3-4 Knowing this first of all, that scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own sinful desires. They will say,
“Where is the promise of his coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things are continuing as they were from the beginning of creation.”

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What do apostates do?

¹⁰ But these people blaspheme all that they do not understand, and they are destroyed by all that they, like unreasoning animals, understand instinctively.

¹¹ Woe to them!

-For they walked in the way of Cain

-and abandoned themselves for the sake of gain to Balaam's error

-and perished in Korah's rebellion.

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...who rejected the God given authority He had delegated to others

What are apostates similar to?

Metaphors for Apostates:

12 These are hidden reefs at your love feasts, as they feast with you without fear, shepherds feeding themselves;

waterless clouds, swept along by winds; fruitless trees in late autumn, twice dead, uprooted;

13 wild waves of the sea, casting up the foam of their own shame; wandering stars, for whom the gloom of utter darkness has been reserved forever.

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13 wild waves of the sea, casting up the foam of their own shame; wandering stars, for whom the gloom of utter darkness has been reserved forever.

...they are directionless and unreliable with their shameless behavior

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²⁰ But you, beloved,

- ***building*** yourselves up in your most holy faith

- and ***praying*** in the Holy Spirit,

²¹ - ***keep(ing)*** yourselves in the love of God,

-***waiting*** for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life.

²² -And have mercy on those who doubt;

²³ -save others by snatching them out of the fire;

-to others show mercy with fear, hating even the garment stained by the flesh.

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So...therefore...what now?

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7 commands to believers...



Contend for the faith.
v.3

**Know what
the Bible says.**

v.7

EFCA Statement of Faith

The Evangelical Free Church of America is an association of autonomous churches united around these theological convictions:

- 1. God**—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.
- 2. The Bible**— 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.
- 3. The Human Condition**— 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.
- 4. Jesus Christ**— 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.
- 5. The Work of Christ**— We believe that Jesus Christ, as our representative and substitute, shed His blood on the cross as the perfect, all-sufficient sacrifice for our sins. His atoning death and victorious resurrection constitute the only ground for salvation.
- 6. The Holy Spirit**— We believe that the Holy Spirit, in all that He does, glorifies the Lord Jesus Christ. He convicts the world of its guilt. He regenerates sinners, and in Him they are baptized into union with Christ and adopted as heirs in the family of God. He also indwells, illuminates, guides, equips and empowers believers for Christ-like living and service.
- 7. The Church**— We believe that the true church comprises all who have been justified by God's grace through faith alone in Christ alone. They are united by the Holy Spirit in the body of Christ, of which He is the Head. The true church is manifest in local churches, whose membership should be composed only of believers. The Lord Jesus mandated two ordinances, baptism and the Lord's Supper, which visibly and tangibly express the gospel. Though they are not the means of salvation, when celebrated by the church in genuine faith, these ordinances confirm and nourish the believer.
- 8. Christian Living**— 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.
- 9. Christ's Return**— We believe in the personal, bodily and glorious return of our Lord Jesus Christ. The coming of Christ, at a time known only to God, demands constant expectancy and, as our blessed hope, motivates the believer to godly living, sacrificial service and energetic mission.
- 10. Response and Eternal Destiny**— We believe that God commands everyone everywhere to believe the gospel by turning to Him in repentance and receiving the Lord Jesus Christ. We believe that God will raise the dead bodily and judge the world, assigning the unbeliever to condemnation and eternal conscious punishment and the believer to eternal blessedness and joy with the Lord in the new heaven and the new earth, to the praise of His glorious grace. Amen.

8 Points of Progressive Christianity:

By calling themselves progressive Christians, they mean they are Christians who...

1. Believe that following the path of **the teacher Jesus** can lead to healing and wholeness, a mystical connection to "God," as well as an awareness and experience of not only the Sacred, but the Oneness and Unity of all life;
2. Affirm that the teachings of Jesus provide but one of many ways to experience "God," the Sacredness, Oneness and Unity of life; and that we can draw from diverse sources of wisdom, including Earth, in our spiritual journey;
3. Seek and create community that is inclusive of ALL people, including but not limited to:
 - Conventional Christians and questioning skeptics,
 - Believers and agnostics,
 - Those of all races, cultures, and nationalities
 - Those of all sexual orientations and all gender identities,
 - Those of all classes and abilities,
 - Those historically marginalized,
 - All creatures and plant life;
4. Know that the way we behave towards one another and Earth is the fullest expression of what we believe, therefore we vow to walk as Jesus might have walked in this world with radical compassion, inclusion, and bravery to confront and positively change the injustices we experience as well as those we see others experiencing;
5. Find grace in the search for understanding and believe there is more value in questioning with an open mind and open heart, than in absolutes or dogma;
6. Work toward peace and justice among all people and all life on Earth;
7. Protect and restore the integrity of our Earth and all of Creation;
8. Commit to a path of life-long learning, compassion, and selfless love on this journey toward a personally authentic and meaningful faith.

8 Points of Progressive Christianity:

By calling themselves progressive Christians, they mean they are Christians who...

“Progressive Christianity is inherently always evolving and progressing. Please take these lightly but seriously. They are not dogma, they are simply a starting point to establish conversations and a foundation of values and beliefs that we have observed Progressive Christians generally share.”

Center for Progressive Christianity

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Center for Progressive Christianity

**Make a priority
of growing
in your faith.**

v.20



**Pray in sync with
the Holy Spirit
v.20**

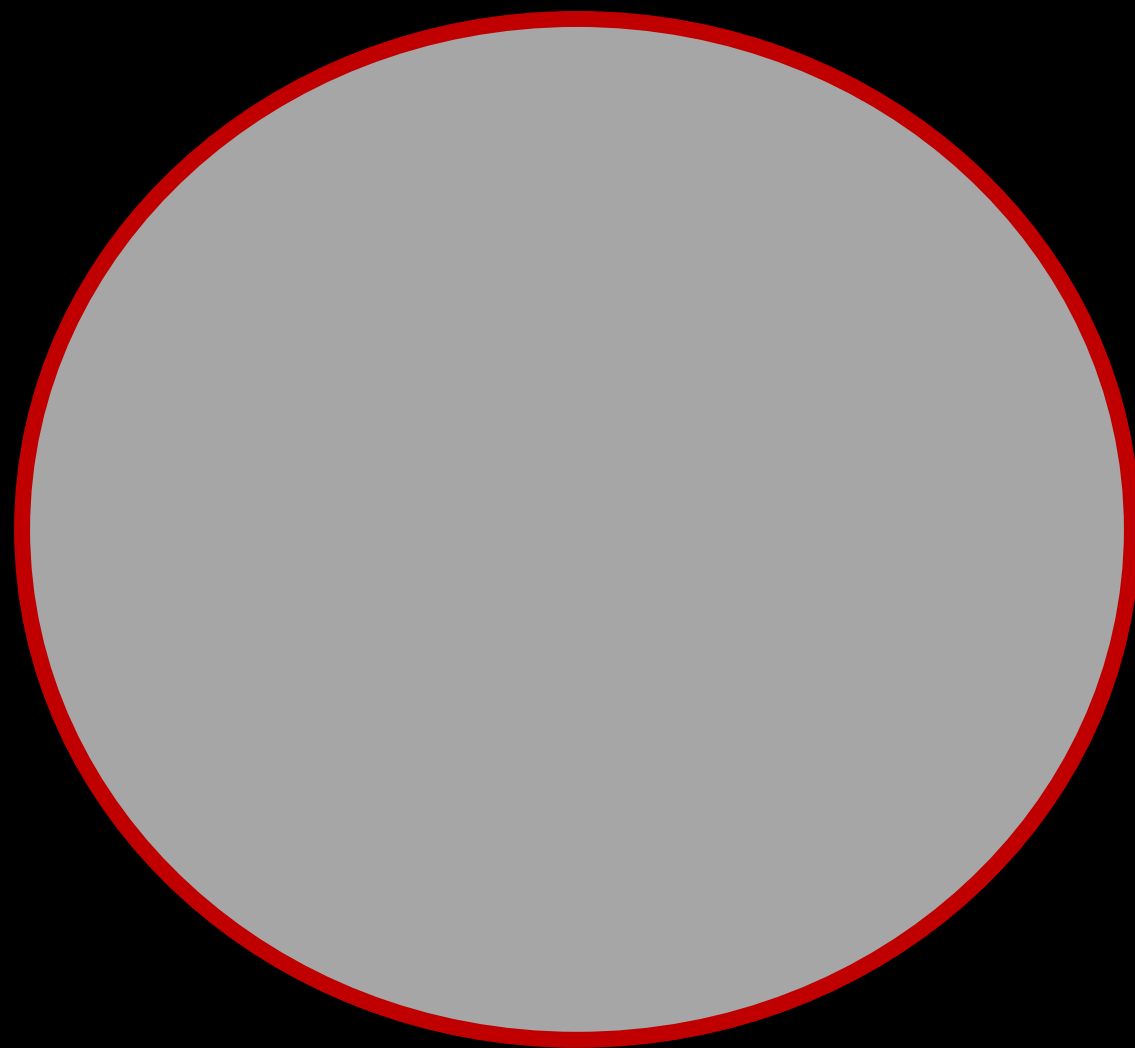
**Stand close to the
God who loves
you most.**

v.21

**Be on the lookout
for God's mercy
in your life.**

v.21

**Show mercy to
doubting believers;
give a helping hand
to unbelievers;
and cautiously show
mercy to the corrupt.
v.22-23**



Benediction
(a blessing)

Benediction

(a blessing)

verse 1b To those who are called, beloved in God the Father,
and kept for Jesus Christ:

verse 2 May mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you.