

Study Questions for *The E.C. Link*

CHAPTER 1 YOUR LINK TO GOD'S MOVEMENT

1. What attitudes and actions of the early leaders of the Evangelical Association are applicable to the Church of today? How can you reflect the passion and purpose of these leaders in your life?
2. What lessons (positive and negative) can be learned from the way the participants handled the schism of the Evangelical Association and subsequent reunion in the twentieth century?
3. How is the contemporary Evangelical Congregational Church like the Evangelical Association and the United Evangelical Church? How is it different?
4. Jacob Albright and the early Evangelicals literally spoke the language (German) of the people to whom they ministered. They understood their hearers and were culturally relevant in their sharing of the Gospel. Do we “speak the language” of our culture? In other words, are we being culturally relevant in our sharing of the Gospel? Explain.

CHAPTER 2 YOUR LINK TO A UNIFIED FAITH

1. What is a contemporary Christian's responsibility toward the laws of the Old Testament? You might like to compare these Scriptures: Matthew 5:17-48 and Matthew 22:34-40.
2. Read Matthew 22:40. According to Jesus, upon what two commands are “the entire law and all the demands of the prophets” based? What did Jesus mean by saying the “entire law” is based in them?
3. How can you use the Lord's prayer as a pattern for your own prayers? How can it be helpful in your prayer life?
4. What benefits might there be in reciting the Apostles' Creed in worship with other believers?
5. Look up definitions for the word “believe” in a good dictionary. Which definition best fits a Christian's attitude and understanding when they begin the Creed with the words, “I believe?” Explain your answer.
6. Why is it important to have doctrinal standards like the 25 Articles of Faith?
7. The theme of salvation is addressed in many of the 25 Articles of Faith. Which ones? Why do you think this is the case? What does this say about the passion and mission of the Evangelical Congregational Church?
8. What are the two sacraments practiced in the Evangelical Congregational Church? What is their importance to our Christian walk?
9. After studying the Articles of Faith, what would you consider to be the doctrinal distinctives of the Evangelical Congregational Church? How are we like other denominations? How do we differ?
10. Are any of the Articles of Faith difficult to understand? Try rewriting some of them in contemporary language.

CHAPTER 3 YOUR LINK TO A RICHER EXPERIENCE

1. Explain the “pathway to salvation” in your own words. Pray for God to provide an opportunity for you to explain it to someone this coming week.
2. Consider the “pathways to freedom” described in this chapter. How are these effective ways to grow in your relationship with God? Choose one “pathway” you have not been using and make it a part of your spiritual formation this week.
3. What practical step(s) can you take today to nurture your personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ?
4. In what practical ways can you live out your faith in your family and in your local church?

CHAPTER 4 YOUR LINK TO GOD'S LARGER VISION

1. “The purpose of the Evangelical Congregational Church is to know Christ and to make him known.” How are you seeking to know Christ? How are you making Him known?
2. Is “passion for Christ” one of your core values? How do you express it?
3. What are some practical ways to nurture compassion for the lost if we are not terribly “compassionate?” How can we express our concern and compassion for the lost?
4. How do you view your role in ministry in your local church? How are you serving God and serving others?
5. What does it mean to be “culturally sensitive?” How are you being “culturally sensitive?” How is your local church doing it?
6. In what ways are you networking with others in your local church? With other Evangelical Congregational Churches? With churches outside the E.C. family?

CHAPTER 5 YOUR LINK TO GOD'S EXPANDING MISSION

1. It has been said, “The sun never sets on Evangelical Congregational missions.” Explain why this is true.
2. What does it mean to be a “world Christian?” What steps can you take today toward becoming a world Christian? How can you do it without leaving home?
3. A “missional church” shapes its ministry around God’s mission of making disciples. How might doing so change typical ideas of what it means “to be” and “to do” church?
4. Church planting has been shown to be one of the most effective ways of carrying out effective evangelism. Why do you think this is true? What challenges do established churches have in gospel outreach that “new” ones do not?
5. What are the risks of church planting? Why is it worth paying the price to become a church-planting church?
6. What part can your church play in planting churches? What role are you willing to assume in making the E.C. Church a church-planting movement?