

## **An Ancient Faith- "Classical Christianity"**

What is the Ancient Faith... Orthodox Christianity is the Ancient Christian Faith. It's Orthodox, but not Jewish. It's Catholic, but not Roman. It's Evangelical, but not Protestant. It's not denominational, it's pre-denominational. It means we are the body of Christ to be lived in holy communion with each other.

First, in the 21st century we see that many denominations have changed their views about God, family, marriage and gender: how "God" made us in his image. These changes were made because of America's political correctness and "Cultural Influences." This has been the downfall of every Nation that has not "Obeyed" God's Laws and followed the Holy Scriptures. The ICCEC Communion has and remains faithful to biblical worship and Scripture. We love our brothers and sisters, but remain faithful to God and his Scripture. That said...if you are still reading this, you believe that the Scripture once delivered has never changed. Like St Lerin's you would be at home here at Emmaus Abbey Church in Knoxville and a part of our world-wide ICCEC Communion of churches.

*Emmaus Abbey Church* is considered an independent Anglican "Communion" of CEC churches. We do not claim to be Catholic or Protestant. We have not added or taken away from scripture or tradition. Our worship is joyful and visitors say all the time...We love your worship and singing, we love the beauty of your worship. In fact, its theology is deeply rooted in classical Christianity. We are not apart of any other Anglican church body. We love those who have become mis-directed, but we are not a part of the Episcopal Church USA or Church of England. We do not add doctrine, nor subtract from doctrine as some denominations or Churches have done, nor are we bound by unmovable traditions of the church. We know that tradition has changed over the centuries, but the Bible does not! We seek to

know God through his "Word, Spirit and Sacrament."

As a Christian church, we intentionally cross denominational lines and have no religious ethnic or cultural hangups about being Greek, Russian, Filipino, Hispanic, Puerto Rican, Italian, German, or any other Nationality. We believe God died for every ones sins and everyone is welcome to worship with us, John 3:16. We are a mixed group of Christians coming from many Christian backgrounds such as, Baptist, Lutheran, Methodist, Presbyterian PCA, Nazarene, Pentecostal, Anglican, catholic, and orthodox Christian faiths. Many denominations have fallen away from the faith and are coming home to the Charismatic Episcopal Church, a conservative Bible believing communion of churches.

When Jesus called his twelve disciples, he laid hands on them, ordaining them into the gospel ministry. "The Great Commission." This is the affirmation of the early churches episcopal accountability of its deacons, presbyters and bishops (1 Tim). That's why we have episcopal in our name, because we have Bishops, overseers of our churches we are accountable too under the direction of the Holy Spirit. Emmaus Abbey is a part of the International Communion of Charismatic Episcopal Church (ICCEC) a world-wide communion of orthodox evangelical churches. We are overseas in many countries. Our churches in America are under the Charismatic Episcopal Church North America (CECNA). Our Bishops have full Apostolic succession and we are fully an Ancient Faith Future Church maintaining the teachings of the early church called classical Christianity.

An Orthodox Evangelical Christian is a disciple of Christ who seeks to base all of his/her religious beliefs and practices upon the Holy Scripture itself. Those who profess Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior, are baptized and join the body of Christ can partake in holy communion and live in holy community with us. In

order to be an Ancient Future Church, the church, must embrace the teachings of the the New Testament and the Lord Jesus Christ. He or she is neither Catholic nor Protestant and rejects any and all Catholic and Protestant traditions that are inconsistent with or contrary to the New Testament, no matter how deeply-entrenched these traditions may have become. His or her overriding goal is to be true to Christ and true to the New Testament.

Convergence Worship: "Three Streams" We are Charismatic (God's Spirit), Evangelical (God's Word) and Sacramental (God's Prevenient Grace). In other words we are Orthodox...

When we say we are evangelical orthodox Christians, we mean that we hold to the classical Christian faith "once for all delivered to the saints" (St Lerins) handed down and preserved for us by our spiritual fathers in the Church, who struggled for the truth of Christ even unto death. This faith, referred to in Church History as the "Orthodox Faith" is the faith of the apostles, the faith of the fathers, the faith which has established our Creation here on earth.

Many when they hear the word "Evangelical Orthodox" in a religious context immediately think of some ethnic Orthodox church in Greece, Russia, or America, or even Judaism. I remember attending these services when I returned from serving in military and felt very out of place because I was an American, not of another ethnic group. We at Emmaus Abbey do not hold to any cultural or ethnic distinctions in order to be a part of our fellowship. We leave nothing out of God's worship, we honor the Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. When the "Spirit" infuses the believer, he/she is equipped for worship, service and to disciple others. The Christian is said to have (Charisma: the Spirit) to do the work he/she is called to do, we are messengers of the "Word of God." Sacraments are graces God gives to those to empower them to worship God and

draw people to God's message. Orthodox Christianity is the Ancient Christian Faith. It's Orthodox, but not Jewish. It's Catholic, but not Roman. It's Evangelical, but not Protestant. It's not denominational, it's pre-denominational. All are welcome.

The word "Orthodox" (ortho-right | doxa-teaching) right teaching...is properly used as a descriptive adjective for the Christian Faith, for Christians who adhere to this faith, and for CEC Bishops who rightly divide the word of truth. The classical Faith of the Apostles has been preserved and upheld through the Seven Ecumenical Councils of the Church.