



## **e4 Theological Distinctives**

**Purpose:** e4 is a partnership of churches together for growth. We share particular theological distinctives. These distinctives inform our culture and ethos, and they guide the tone and teaching at e4 events. Even so, e4 desires to foster an environment that includes a broader diversity of churches. Churches who do not share some e4 distinctives can still participate as full partners. This document aims to provide clarity in these distinctions.

### **e4 Doctrinal Essentials\*:**

*We believe the following doctrines are essential to the Christian faith and/or the unity of our partnership. e4 partners must embrace them:*

- The eternal Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: Creating, Saving, Indwelling
- The inspired truth of the Scripture as originally given
- The incarnation, divinity, resurrection, ascension, and return of Jesus
- The pervasive effect of sin and inability of humanity to save ourselves
- Salvation by grace through faith in Jesus and his substitutionary death
- The forming of God's people, the Church, as a vehicle for the Kingdom

\*our full statement of faith can be found in the e4 bylaws

### **e4 Doctrinal Distinctives:**

*The following will be assumed at e4 events and make up the theological culture of the partnership. A church which does not fully embrace the distinctives below may still function as an e4 partner under the provision that they submit to e4's conviction here and not teach otherwise in e4 settings. For more clarity on each distinctive, please see our summary papers.*

- Reformed theological framework of salvation
- Baptism for believers as a symbol of new life
- Continuist view of the Spiritual gifts
- The governance of the local church by a plurality of male elders
  - (Even though this distinctive is not a doctrinal essential, we believe it's wise to refrain from entering into full partnership with those who hold different convictions about polity and leadership for the sake of clarity, expectations, and loving respect.)

### **e4 Doctrinal Ancillaries:**

*e4 recognizes that there are many other doctrines that do not require our theological unity, even as they are important to discuss, study, and act upon individually. Within these doctrines, we give room to freely agree and disagree by not taking an official e4 position. (The following list is by way of example but by no means comprehensive):*

- Views on how and in what timeframe God created the universe
- Spectrum of different types of spiritual warfare
- Amillennial vs. historic premillennial eschatology
- God and government, including political paradigms