



FOREST LAKES DISTRICT

EFCA

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Preparing For a DBOMS Oral Defense

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In the pursuit of a Ministry License in the EFCA, the Paper Requirement guidelines state that “you must demonstrate theological understanding and alignment with the EFCA,” and “interact faithfully with the text of the Bible.” Regarding the Certificate of Ordination, you must not only show these proficiencies but “also demonstrate an acceptable level of theological mastery.”

Not only must your paper reflect these marks, but they must be evident during the oral defense where during the interview, a candidate must recall and verbalize from memory answers to the questions asked and provide from memory appropriate biblical references. While you may refer to your paper and a Bible, it is expected that for the most part you will not have to do that.

The following provides some suggestions which may be helpful as you prepare for your Oral Defense.

1. Writing the Credential Paper is a major part of preparing for the defense. Since you are required to read *Evangelical Convictions* (2nd Edition), read each chapter carefully and use it as your base for writing the paper.
2. Attend a DBOMS meeting if at all possible to capture the dynamic of the meeting and to hear first hand the questions being asked and the answers given.
3. The DBOMS members seek to encourage candidates and not to be harsh and try to have any trick questions. That being said, they are commissioned to uphold the marks mentioned in the opening paragraph. Each EFCA credentialed person needs to accurately divide the Word of Truth as they shepherd the flock entrusted to them. May we all continue to grow in grace and truth.
4. Determine how proficient you are in answering the questions in the Guidelines and other theological issues and providing key biblical texts to support your answers. If you find you need to spend time studying and actually committing to memory your answers, determine how you can best do that. Some candidates have created flashcards for the

answers and biblical support to each question presented in the Paper Guidelines. They have regularly reviewed these and even found someone to quiz them using the cards.

Here is a suggestive list of terms you need to know and support from Scripture with a couple of verses or passages:

| | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Atonement | Justification |
| Adoption | New Creation |
| Baptism of the Holy Spirit | Omniscient |
| Blood Sacrifice | Omnipotent |
| Born again | Omnipresent |
| Canon of Scripture | Perspicuity of Scripture |
| Clarity of Scripture | Propitiation |
| Covenant | Reconciliation |
| Declared righteous | Redemption |
| Expiation | Regeneration |
| Faith credited as righteousness | Righteousness |
| Filling of the Holy Spirit | Salvation |
| Forgiven | Sanctification |
| General Revelation | Saving faith |
| Glorification | Sealed by the Holy Spirit |
| Grace | Special Revelation |
| Illumination | Sufficiency of Scripture |
| Indwelling of the Holy Spirit | Verbally inspired |
| Inerrancy | Union with Christ/Adam |
| Infallible | |

5. Consider these comments (used by permission) made to a candidate by a DBOMS encouraging further study:

- Making sure that you emphasize both personal sin and Jesus as Savior in any gospel discussions
- Being able to locate Scriptures which assert the Deity of all three members of the Trinity
- Knowing four-five “proofs” of canonicity—how we got our 66 books and “proofs” that these books are indeed Scripture
- Knowing theological terms cold: propitiation, expiation, regeneration, adoption, justification, glorification, atonement, etc.
- Having a firm understanding of where Jesus went between His death and His resurrection (with Scriptures)
- Knowing specific roles for each member of the Trinity and Scripture to support these roles
- Knowing the biblical fate of the unevangelized and Scriptures to support your view
- Having a solid grasp on the end-times with Scriptures to support your view
- Supporting either egalitarianism or complementarianism from Scripture (rather than based upon preferences.
- Have solid Scriptural citations for each of your positions