

THE ETERNAL LIFE CONFERENCE (ELC)

Request: “I have heard you teach about the Eternal Life Conference (ELC), but I am still unclear about it. Could you do a study just on it?”

Let me begin by giving you a simple definition of the ELC. “The ELC was a heavenly convocation held among the members of the Godhead to lay out the Plan of God as recorded in the Word of God.”

(1 Pet.1:20-21) For He was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but has appeared in these last times for the sake of you who through Him are believers in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

We will study our lesson text by the following four homiletical points:

- Foreknown Christ
- Foundation Before the foundation of the world
- Future Appeared in these last times for the sake you
- Faith Through Him are believers in God

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| We will study FIVE aspects of the doctrine of Eternal life Conference (ELC) |
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(Deut.29:29) “The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our sons forever, that we may observe all the words of the law.”

1. The Godhead was the council for the ELC and the unity of their essence is the source of its success

The Godhead is one in essence yet distinct in function in the plan of God (John 10:30; 17:5, 24; Eph.4:4-6; 1 Cor.12:4-6).

- Sovereignty and Omnipresence called and attended ELC and backs the plan of God.
- Omniscience was the origin and source of the Plan of God.
- Omnipotence, Immutability, and Veracity guarantee the Plan of God.
- Justice and Righteousness establish the faith grace program of the Plan of God.
- Love, Eternal Life and Holiness offer grace salvation to all mankind through the second member of the Godhead (Son of God, Christ).

(Heb.4:3) “For we who have believed enter the rest, just as He has said, ‘As I swore in My wrath, they shall not enter My rest,’ although His works were finished from the foundation of the world.”

2. The ELC established the way the Plan of God operates in the life of believers throughout human history.

The Plan of God à Divine Decrees à The Directive Will of God à The Believer’s Faith Cycle.

An event in a Believer’s life can pass from impossible to possible or to never in the Plan of God. Let me mention three examples.

- **Mary’s** miraculous conception (Luke 1:34-35, 38) – unthinkable, impossible.
- **Elizabeth’s** barrenness (Luke 1:36-37) – nothing impossible with God (Gen.18:14) [Sarah].

- **Paul's** thorn in flesh (2 Cor.12:7-10) – implored the Lord three times – “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.”

3. It was decreed at the ELC that all three members of the Godhead would be subordinate to the Plan of God

- **God the Son**
 - (John 4:34) “My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to accomplish His work.”
- **God the Father**
 - (John 8:38) “I speak the things which I have seen with My Father; therefore you also do the things which you heard from My Father.”
- **God the Holy Spirit**
 - (John 16:13) “But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come.”

They will never act independent or in opposition to each other or to The Plan of God (Matt.26:39, 42).

What does this say to you about your role in the plan of God?

(Rom.12:2) “And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.”

4. It was decreed at the ELC that God the Son would be the only visible manifestation of the invisible members of the Godhead (John 3:13-17; 4:24; 6:32-33, 62; 7:33; 14:12, 28; 17:5, 24; 20:17).

(Col.1:15-17) “And He is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of all creation. For by Him all things were created, both in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities – all things have been created by Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.” (Heb.1:3)

(Acts 1:11) “They also said, ‘Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven.’ [Angelic Message]

5. It was decreed at the ELC that the Plan of God would be centered in the person and work of Jesus Christ for the salvation of the entire world.

(1 John 2:2; 3:5) “And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world.”

(Heb.9:26) “Otherwise, he would have needed to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now once at the consummation of the ages He has been manifested to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.”

(Eph.1:4-5) “Just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will.” (Eph.1:10-11; 3:11-13)

(John 17:24) “Father, I desire that they also, whom You have given Me, be with Me where I am, so that they may see My glory which You have given Me, for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.”