What is an evangelical Christian?

Two things evangelicalism is not:

1. **Evangelicalism is not a recent innovation**

2. **Evangelicalism is not a deviation from orthodoxy**

'The faith, once entrusted to the saints' (Jude 3)

1. <u>The revelation of God</u>

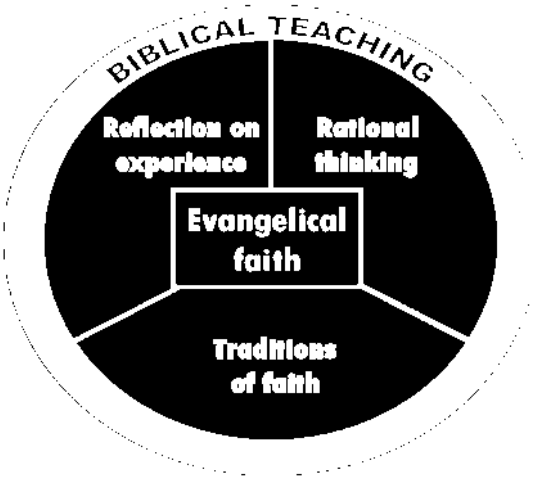
The final and full authority of Scripture

'All Scripture is God-breathed' (2 Timothy 3.16)

'The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being' (Hebrews 1.3)

Scripture's final authority





Scripture's full authority (= *every bit of it* has final authority over us)

Which of the authorities here other than the Bible do you think you are most prone to making your final authority?

2. <u>The cross of Christ</u>

Justification by grace alone, through faith alone, in the substitutionary work of Christ alone

Galatians 6:14 'God forbid that I should boast of anything but the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ'.

<u>Penal substitution</u>

Galatians 3.13 'Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree"'

Justification

'We are justified freely by his grace' (Romans 3.24)

'we have been justified by his blood' (Romans 5.9)

'For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from observing the law' (Romans 3.28)

Why might we think that an empty cross is a good symbol for Christianity?

Why is it hard to hold to the evangelical distinctives so far discussed?

3. The ministry of the Holy Spirit

Regeneration, assurance, ongoing repentance, church, mission, hope

Regeneration

'You should not be surprised at my saying, "you must be born again"' (John 3.7)

Assurance

'The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children' (Romans 8.16)

Ongoing repentance

'For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live' (Romans 8.13)

Church
Read Ephesians 4.3. What do Christians have?

Mission
Read John 7.37-39. Why must we make mission a priority?

Hope
Read Romans 8.23-25. What are we waiting for? Why's it worth waiting for? What's the wait like? How should we wait?

What have you found most helpful in this study on evangelicalism?

Two objections, two exhortations

Philippians 1.27-30

Further reading

Rock Solid - 12 gospel truths to live by	Tim Thornborough & Trevor Archer
The Briefing (Feb 1995)	Mark Thompson
http://matthiasmedia.com/briefing/1995/02/	
Christ the Controversialist	John Stott
Evangelical Truth	John Stott
History of Evangelicalism	Barclay
UCCF Doctrinal Basis	