

Christian Endeavour Principles

1. Confession of Christ
Romans 10:9
2. Service for Christ
John 12:26
3. Loyalty to Christ's Church
Romans 12:4,5
4. Fellowship with Christ's people
1 John 1:3,7

Christian Endeavour Key Chapter:
Romans 12

Christian Endeavour Key Verse:
Romans 12:1

Christian Endeavour Motto:
For Christ and His Church



The Christian Endeavour Pledge

Trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ for strength,
I promise Him that I will strive to do whatever
He would have me do;
I will make it the rule of my life to pray and to
read the Bible every day;
I will support the work and worship of my
church in every way possible;
I will seek to bring others to Christ;
And so far as I know how, throughout my
whole life, I will endeavour to lead a Christian
life.

...



Entschieden für Christus (E.C.) - Committed to Christ

EC is the abbreviation of "Entschieden für Christus" which literally means "committed to Christ". The German EC holds the same principles as the worldwide Christian Endeavour (CE) movement.



The goal of CE is to lead children and young people to a personal decision for Jesus Christ and give support and guidance for their lives. In CE groups, young people are trained to lead a committed Christian life. They are challenged to faithful involvement in missionary and social services.

Christian Endeavour - How it all began

Christian Endeavour (CE) was founded in Portland, Maine, in 1881 by Canadian born Dr. Francis E. Clark at the Williston Congregational Church.

Dr. Clark saw that there were many opportunities for youth to “hear” the Word of God, but few for young people to learn to “do”. CE simply started as a way to train young people to become leaders within the local church.



For years, Dr. Clark agonized over the church’s inability to interest young people in the cause of Christ and sought a way to keep them in the church. He faced huge hurdles. Teens (called children in Clark’s day) weren’t considered serious enough to make the same commitment to Christ as adults. A misguided belief about how to nurture children made the experience of church unpleasant for young people. Church and Christian commitment happily ended after Sunday dinner. but on February 2, 1881, Clark made a bold move and took the cause directly to them. Modifying the ‘Temperance Pledge’ – a commitment not to do things – he crafted a pledge which listed all the things the young Christian would do to apply Christianity. It was only two pages long.

The 57 young people of the Williston Congregational Church of Portland, Maine, were stunned by the level of commitment Pastor Clark asked of them. This meant a real sacrifice of time and energy. They would actually have to live the Christian life. They weren’t sure they could do it (neither was Clark’s own wife Harriet), but with encouragement from the Sunday school teacher, William Pennel, every single young person signed the new Endeavour Pledge. The results were astonishing. The young people took ownership of their faith. They led Bible studies, professed their faith publicly, and applied Christianity to every area of their lives.

Churches with Endeavour Societies grew, the ranks of mission organizations swelled, and youth-initiated causes circled the globe. These empowered young leaders would not accept the diminishing returns of former generations. Instead, they surged forward to the leading edge of societal development, becoming the masters of new communication technologies and new philosophies for nurturing young people. The early Endeavourers reversed the common teachings of the Church on young people and launched what is now called ‘youth ministry.’ Now, nearly every youth ministry organization today can be linked to Christian Endeavour either in history, method, or both. Historians agree the CE is the father of modern youth ministry.

At the 25th anniversary of Christian Endeavour, there were 67,000 societies worldwide, 4,000,000 members, and the first Christian youth movement was in full swing. By the time of Dr. Clark’s death, CE had already trained millions who went on to lead the cause of Christ in the church, in politics, business, and philanthropy. Clark recruited young people, challenged them to lead the cause of Christ, and changed his world.

The simplicity of the CE message and mission was and continues to be effective. By remaining as a Christ-centered and Bible-based ministry, Christian Endeavour has helped countless thousands of young people to put their faith to action. Many of the youth who have been exposed to the message have gone on to become leaders in churches, Christian organizations, and secular institutions throughout the globe.

Since the formation of the first Endeavour Society, CE has spread around the world and has been a blessing to millions of young people. Today, CE can be found in over 60 nations worldwide. While new youth ministry models have come and gone, the CE mindset remains true and effective in local churches who believe young people are called by God to lead the cause of Jesus Christ today.