



# **Christian Faith Fellowship**

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**- We are not a perfect church**

**-We are not a perfect people**

**-We are here because we know we need  
God's help and He has provided this help  
through Jesus Christ our Lord!**

**CFF exists to Know Christ and to make Him  
Known!**

## **Living the Faith**

- Are you spending at least 5 minutes a day at least 5 days a week reading your Bible?**
- Have you shared your conversion story/or a God story?**
- Are you hearing what the Spirit is saying?**
- Did you spend some alone time with God this week?**

- **Last weeks message was on Love**
- **Viewing our false interpretation of love vs. what God has taught us AND demonstrated!**

### **John 9:2-3**

**2 His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” 3 “Neither this man nor his parents sinned,” said Jesus, “but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him.”**

- **We view everything as reward/punishment**

- **The disciples viewed this situation as a punishment/reward scenario... obviously somebody did something wrong somewhere because this guy is living in a bad place (blindness)!**
- **God's word clearly teaches us that Love is not a result of the current situation or feelings – Love is there regardless of circumstances!**

- Our understanding of love is often “how I feel” or “what I get in return”**
- God teaches Love is a commitment and an action toward others! It is given in hope of a response but it is offered BEFORE the hoped for response!**
- Love is NOT withdrawn when the hoped for response does not come!**
- The problem we have with this is we want to hold people accountable to receive our love! (Earn it/ deserve it)**

- **The necessary next step in our process of learning to love is tied to our final action step from last week:**
- ***“Who do you need to set free from your expectations and simply demonstrate God’s love to?”***
- **We will look at another verse from last week and then look at the verses to help us with the next step in learning to love!**

## **Romans 5:8**

**8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.**

**- Love in Action! Not deserved, not earned, not in reaction to, BUT offered in HOPE OF!**

**- This Love is the foundation of our relationship with God and is the foundation of forgiveness!**

**The very foundation of forgiveness is this Love – something offered in hope of (but not demanded) a response!**

**John 3:16-18**

**16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world ...**

**... through him. 18 Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.**

- Through God's offering of Love we have the opportunity for forgiveness!**
- God's forgiveness is offered & can't be earned nor is it deserved!**

**As we recall our ‘demands’ for someone to receive our love we must once again reassess our understanding of love and forgiveness demonstrated by God!**

**- Let’s look together at the Lord’s Prayer.**

**Matthew 6:7-13**

**7 And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. 8 Do not be like..**

**them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. 9 “This, then, is how you should pray: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, 10 your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. 11 Give us today our daily bread. 12 And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. 13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.””**

**- In all the Lord's prayer teaches us- Jesus brought out 1 item to emphasize afterwards!**  
**14 For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.**

**- God's forgiveness is offered unconditionally just as His love is offered unconditionally!**

- **God has the exact same expectation for you and I that He has modeled for us - unconditional love / forgiveness!**
- **This is a non-negotiable item!**
- **As we offer it – it will be offered to us...**  
**what do we hold against people? What have we drawn the line at?**
- **Who/What have you NOT forgiven?**
- **We must forgive them or we bind ourselves!**

**- This forgiveness is not “I forgive but...” it is UNCONDITIONAL!**

**Matthew 18: 21-22**

**21 Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?”**

**22 Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.**

## **Action Steps**

- **Have you received God's UNCONDITIONAL love / forgiveness for your sin / failure?**
- **Who have you CONDITIONALLY forgiven?  
Today you must Unconditionally forgive and release!**
- **The first step in this is to seek forgiveness for your unforgiveness! (God knows your pain and reason for your holding this!)**