



Christian Faith Fellowship

- 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 sharing your story, fanning into flame your faith. The personal acceptance of our part in growing or maturing in our faith!**
- **The messages the 2 weeks prior to that were on love and forgiveness... Loving the unlovable and forgiving those who have wronged us!**
- **Each of these 3 messages has to do with growing in our faith/maturing as a believer.**

- **One of the things that has caused the decline of the church in America (in my opinion) is the lack of mature believers... we accept Christ as our Savior and we don't grow much past that infant stage of faith!**
- **The problem is that this infant stage of faith is still all about us... when the full stature of a mature faith is about others (i.e. love).**
- **We will look at the core verses that we have chosen for CFF (reminding staff every meeting)**

Ephesians 4:11-16

11 So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, 12 to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up 13 until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. 14 Then we

will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. 15 Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. 16 From him the whole body, joined and held together by

every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

- Christ Himself has appointed those in ministry leadership to equip the believers in DOING the ministry – till we all grow in the faith and mature as the body of Christ!

- Here is the issue we have dealt with in the church over the past several decades:

- Pastors have been employed to “do the ministry”**
 - they are the ones we need to pray for our needs, visit us in the hospital, counsel us in our crisis, etc. This is not biblical!**
- We must begin to function as the body of Christ & not as a group of self-centered babies.**
- Pastors have promoted this wrong model because of our own lack of assurance of who we are in Christ, as we want to feel needed!**

- **This immaturity issue in ALL believers has kept the church paralyzed as we attempt to meet our own needs and not see the bigger picture God has planned for us in equipping and serving!**
- **We have this very issue being addressed in the early church as it formed in the book of Acts.**

Acts 6:1-5

1 In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenistic Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. *(with growth there are real challenges to be addressed!)* 2 So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, “It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God...

in order to wait on tables. 3 Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them 4 and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word.” 5 This proposal pleased the whole group...

- This section is wrongfully termed the birth of “lay-ministry”... it is simply MINISTRY!!!

- We are called to serve, to love, to forgive, to be the hands and feet of Christ to a lost and dying world around us!**
- The root of sin is the ‘self’ issue we are struggling against in our battle to grow in the faith and become a mature believer!**
- Let’s look in Acts again to see the results of the structure of ministry that was adopted by the early church...**

Acts 6:5-7

5 This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose...(7 guys)... 6 They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. 7 So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.

-Results: Rapid growth of the faith in the city!

Action Steps

- **Have you been self-centered and immature in your faith – expecting service rather than serving?**
- **In what way are you currently serving (doing ministry)?**
- **Is there a part of your service that is still self-centered (ego/self driven)?**
- **When is the last time you shared your story?**