



# **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?**

## **John 9:1-2**

**1 As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. 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...**

- **For some reason humanity has long believed if anything bad happens or something goes wrong with us – God is either mad at us or we have sinned!**
- **The entire book of Job is written to dispel this belief and yet – here are the disciples asking Jesus this very same question... the question that many – even here in this church – still believe today!!!**
- **Even though Jesus addressed it here: “*Neither this man nor his parents sinned...*”**

**- We must renounce this lie from the enemy and understand that things happen to sinner and believer alike in this world – both good and bad – and it has nothing to do with a relationship or lack of one with God!**

**Matthew 5:45b-48**

**45 ...He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. 46 If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax**

**Collectors doing that? 47 And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? 48 Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.**

**- If everything was healed and every issue worked out for the believer – everyone would become a believer! BUT they wouldn't become a believer to have a relationship with God - they would believe for their own personal benefit alone!**

**- The challenge Jesus brings in Matthew 5 goes right to the heart of this issue:**

**Matthew 5:43-45**

**43 You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ 44 But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good...**

- **The issue that we are dealing with is a “love issue”...**
- **Our gross misunderstanding of what love is lies at the heart of the issue.**
- **We often interpret love as “how I feel” or “what I get in return”**
- **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!**

- **This has huge implications on our relationships with people as well as with God!**
- **So let's deal with the God issue first...**
- **Since we have chosen to follow God and have a relationship with Him we tend to believe He has an obligation to answer our prayers as we ask them...**
- **This idea lends itself to “if you love me this is what you should do for me...” which is actually self-centeredness, not love!**

## Romans 5:7-8

**7 Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. 8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.**

**- Again we find the heart of the issue**

**HUMANITY'S measuring of worthiness and God's demonstration of TRUE LOVE – unconditional!**

**- Love not as a reaction too but offered first!!!**

- Looking back at the first verses and the disciples reactions to the blind man “...who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”**
- We tend to see troubles/difficulties as some type of punishment etc.**
- Now, love does have an expectation... Love requires us to conduct ourselves in the same manner!**
- We are called to receive God’s love and then to live God’s love! Unconditionally!**

- The problem we have with this is we want to hold people accountable to receive our love!**
- Earn it... deserve it... All the while we didn't earn or deserve God's love for us!**

## **Action Steps**

- **Are you holding God accountable for unanswered prayers? Situations in your life?**
- **Are you holding yourself accountable for unanswered prayers? Situations in your life?**
- **What lie have you believed that is crippling your faith?**
- **Who do you need to set free from your expectations and simply demonstrate God's love to?**