



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 with a non-believer?**
- **Are you hearing what the Spirit is saying?**
- **Did you spend some alone time with God this week?**

Ephesians 4 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.

- **It is understood in the Bible as we are born into the family of God through Faith in Jesus Christ – we need to mature or grow in the faith**
- **2 Weeks ago I used the stages of human development to talk about our spiritual maturity: Infancy, Toddler, Childhood, Adolescence, Adult**
- **It is God’s plan for us to grow and mature... have you identified what spiritual stage of maturity you are in?**

- **If you teach a child red is blue – the child will believe red is blue...until that child reaches a stage of understanding and can make the distinction of what blue is in the world and then can change its mind to align with what is truth!**
- **The longer we remain in infancy/childhood, the more susceptible we are to false teachings and scheming deception!**

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.

- **We are told clearly we all have a place in the body of Christ.**
- **The part of the body, as a whole, that is doing the work of the Kingdom!**
- **Remember verse 13 ... *to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up***
- **It does not say we wait until we are fully mature to do the works of the kingdom!**
- **What are you doing as His body?**

17 So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. 18 They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. 19 Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, and they are full of greed...

**20 That, however, is not the way of life you learned
21 when you heard about Christ and were taught
in him in accordance with the truth that is in
Jesus.**

- Those of us that have been born again have a
NEW LIFE!**
- I USED to live for ME! Lust-More-Better-Self-
centered, etc. The NEW LIFE no longer lives by
these fleshly desires but by the Spirit that leads
into the ways of righteousness & holiness!**

22 You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; 23 to be made new in the attitude of your minds; 24 and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

- We learned growing up in sin that we are weak, defeated, susceptible, driven by the flesh etc.**

Therefore, we need our minds transformed with the New Life of victory that Christ has provided!

- **These verses are challenging us to LIVE CHANGED = NEW LIFE!!**

25 Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body. 26 “In your anger do not sin”: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, 27 and do not give the devil a foothold.

- **NEW LIFE = behavioral change... relationship change... respecting others... DON'T give the devil any room to work in your life!!!!**

28 Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need. 29 Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. 30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

31 Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. 32 Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

- This is not a check list for you to go by and now know that you are “Mature” these are things that someone MADE NEW does, lives by, and behaves like!!**
- Are you struggling in any of these areas?**

- **Are you struggling in any of these areas? (tearing people down, unwholesome talk, rage, anger, unforgiveness... etc.)**
- **Can you see how new you really are in reading this section?**
- **Can you see how mature or immature you are?**
- **Can you identify how the old life, the old mind, is still dominating behavior in some areas of your life?**
- **Can you see where you need renewal?**
- **Remember - Maturing is a process!!!**