



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!**

Announcements

- **KidzXP: Starts Today at 10:30! Check in downstairs.**
- **Ladies Coffee: This Tuesday @ 6 p.m. in the Cafe**
- **Chosen: Ladies Retreat Sep 23-24 flyer in lobby**
- **Salvation Sunday: Sep 25 (Who is God calling?)**
- **Blessing of the Bikers 11: October 9 – shirt orders will be available by Wednesday.**

Living the Faith

- **Have you spent at least 5 minutes a day at least 5 days this week reading your Bible?**
- **Have you shared your conversion story/or a God story with a non-believer this week?**
- **Are you praying about “Who” for Salvation Sunday September 25?**
- **Are you hearing what the Spirit is saying?**
- **Did you spend some alone time with God this week?**

- A Pharisee (Separated one) was a member of a Jewish sect, known for their strict observance of the traditions & Laws... BUT - in Jesus time of ministry He continuously warned about their self-righteousness & superior mindset.
- They appeared to be righteous & walking with God but their heart & actions out of the public eye proved otherwise!
- Jesus continuously challenged their walk & their self-righteousness. The name Pharisee became synonymous with hypocrite largely because of Jesus own declarations against them.
- It was the Pharisees who led the crucifixion of Christ.

Luke 12:1-3 1 Meanwhile, the crowds grew until thousands were milling about and stepping on each other. Jesus turned first to his disciples and warned them, “Beware of the yeast of the Pharisees—their hypocrisy. 2 The time is coming when everything that is covered up will be revealed, and all that is secret will be made known to all. 3 Whatever you have said in the dark will be heard in the light, and what you have whispered behind closed doors will be shouted from the housetops for all to hear!

- Please understand when we read this, Jesus uses the hypocrisy of the Pharisees to teach a lesson to His followers!!
- He is not saying only the Pharisees words will be made public – Jesus said: *“The time is coming when everything that is covered up will be revealed, and all that is secret will be made known to all.”*
- The reason Jesus targets the Pharisees is BECAUSE of their front to be following God while their hearts did not follow Him in truth!! = hypocrite

- Before we move on... have your conversations this week been acceptable enough to be made public?
- Have you gossiped? Told lies? Stretched the truth for your advantage? Shared a truth for the destruction of another?
- Have you worshipped God and condemned those around you all in the same breath?
- Friends – one of the biggest complaints against the church today is that the people are hypocrites... we say one thing and do another...

- If we are challenged on something our first reaction is usually to attempt to justify our actions!
- We project on others their shortcomings and validate ourselves because we aren't "as bad" as them...
- If we proclaim to be a Christian – we are proclaiming to be a follower of Christ's teachings... a disciple of Christ... therefore, our lives should prove this proclamation & be a witness to His teaching!
- The call to the church today is to truly own our title "Christian" and live a Christian life before God! (Man will attempt to always find fault)

Luke 12:4-5

4“Dear friends, don’t be afraid of those who want to kill your body; they cannot do any more to you after that. 5 But I’ll tell you whom to fear. Fear God, who has the power to kill you and then throw you into hell. Yes, he’s the one to fear.

- We do so much and work so hard for the approval of people and there is 1 and only 1 that we need to make sure our life is approved by!
- People will always talk... God knows the truth!

- How is it that we care more about what people think about us than we would what God thinks about us?
- Are you willing to compromise your faith to “fit in” or to “have someone’s approval” the whole while knowing that this is something God does not approve of in your life?
- There is a drive inside of us that wants acceptance, approval, belonging, to matter - There is only 1 place those needs are met - They are met in the fullness of God and the surrender of ourselves to Him!

Luke 12:6-9 6 “What is the price of five sparrows—two copper coins? Yet God does not forget a single one of them. 7 And the very hairs on your head are all numbered. So don’t be afraid; you are more valuable to God than a whole flock of sparrows. 8 “I tell you the truth, everyone who acknowledges me publicly here on earth, the Son of Man will also acknowledge in the presence of God’s angels. 9 But anyone who denies me here on earth will be denied before God’s angels.

■ It’s not just a denial of words...But in living the truth!

- How does your life publicly acknowledge Jesus?
- Do you change how Christian you are based on where you are? (friends, family, school, work, church, etc.)
- Let me remind you of the statement Jesus made:
“The time is coming when everything that is covered up will be revealed, and all that is secret will be made known to all.”
- The Pharisees did not intend to be hypocrites... they actually thought they were righteous!!
- Hypocrites think they are the right ones... So, the examining of ourselves before God is critical!

- Being willing to look at ourselves from God's perspective
- Being willing to surrender and change any offenses that God points out in our lives no matter how we desire to justify them!
- A key here may be to examine the things you want to justify... there's probably a reason!

James 1:22 *But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves.*

1 Peter 1:23-2:3 23 For you have been born again, but not to a life that will quickly end. Your new life will last forever because it comes from the eternal, living word of God. 24 As the Scriptures say, “People are like grass; their beauty is like a flower in the field. The grass withers and the flower fades. 25 But the word of the Lord remains forever.” And that word is the Good News that was preached to you. **(chapter 2)** 1 So get rid of all evil behavior. Be done with all deceit, hypocrisy, jealousy, and all unkind speech. 2 Like newborn

babies, you must crave pure spiritual milk so that you will grow into a full experience of salvation. Cry out for this nourishment, 3 now that you have had a taste of the Lord's kindness.

- Cry out.... Like a baby does for milk... We cry out for ALL God has for us!!

Action Steps: Life Application

- Is there any place in your life that you are a hypocrite?
- How is your life proclaiming Jesus to the world?
- Is there a specific place/area in your life that you struggle the most to proclaim Jesus?
- Is there something in your life that you want to justify to people, God, yourself?