



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

- **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?**

- As we have been hearing from God's Word the challenges for living our lives in obedience, God's perfection & love we must bring this to it's simplest form in order as to not leave us in a defeated state!
- Here is the bottom line: Do what you KNOW God is asking you to do and you are good - if your NOT doing something He's talked with you about – STOP
- Moving forward in our quest to be the holy people we have been called to be let's examine another portion of scripture that will challenge us:

Living the Faith – Matthew 5:43-48

43 “You have heard the law that says, ‘Love your neighbor’ and hate your enemy. 44 But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you! 45 In that way, you will be acting as true children of your Father in heaven. For he gives his sunlight to both the evil and the good, and he sends rain on the just and the unjust alike. 46 If you love only those who love you, what reward is there for that? Even corrupt tax collectors do that much. 47 If you are kind only to

your friends, how are you different from anyone else? Even pagans do that. 48 But you are to be perfect, even as your Father in heaven is perfect.

- Jesus words scare us!! Perfect like God the Father?
- Let's look at the life of a Christian in light of Jesus teaching about how we treat people that have done us wrong... And get a glimpse of what perfection is!
- Real Christians love people that have done them wrong & Forgiveness is the foundation of that Love!

Matthew 5:14

14 “If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. 15 But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins.”

- This statement of Jesus is following His teaching of the Lord’s prayer.
- Here we see the foundation of love is forgiveness as you cannot truly love someone without forgiveness.

- Some of you hearing this today have been deeply wounded by abuse, physical, sexual, verbal, etc. Until we forgive that person(s) - we can't get past the place we are in our walk with God.
- I realize this is not easy - BUT if you are a Christian you KNOW that God has forgiven you of all kinds of sins!! He did not hold you accountable for any of the violations you have committed – He forgave!
- Therefore, it is our call to be “perfect like the Father” and offer forgiveness to those not asking!

Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

- The road to forgiveness was provided for us BEFORE we asked because God offered it to ALL!
- Not everyone will receive forgiveness because they won't seek it - but WE offer it the exact same way God the Father has for us – we open the way!!
- We usually DON'T want to offer forgiveness because we want to hold them accountable!

Colossians 3:12-13 12 Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. 13 Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you.

Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others.

- We hear a clear challenge for us as believers to be the holy people God has called us to be and give Grace to all those around us – have you been offended this week?

Matthew 18:21-22 21 Then Peter came to him and asked, “Lord, how often should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times?” 22 “No, not seven times,” Jesus replied, “but seventy times seven!

- Another clear challenge about living holy and the bases for that holiness is to give Grace to all those around us – did I ask...“have you been offended this week?”
- Are you carrying an offense someone has placed in you?

Hebrews 10:26-31 26 Dear friends, if we deliberately continue sinning after we have received knowledge of the truth, there is no longer any sacrifice that will cover these sins. 27 There is only the terrible expectation of God's judgment and the raging fire that will consume his enemies. 28 For anyone who refused to obey the law of Moses was put to death without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. 29 Just think how much worse the punishment will be for those who have trampled on the Son of God, and

have treated the blood of the covenant, which made us holy, as if it were common and unholy, and have insulted and disdained the Holy Spirit who brings God's mercy to us. 30 For we know the one who said, "I will take revenge. I will pay them back." He also said, "The Lord will judge his own people." 31 It is a terrible thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

- **2 points**: 1. The believers necessity of obedient living to our Holy God 2. He will take care of those who have sinned against us (Him)!!

- Understanding God's standard for us we therefore release those who have sinned against us and leave them in the hands of God!
- Holding onto the offense is a way for us to hold them accountable – while we also know that we truly aren't holding them accountable – we are actually holding ourselves in captivity!!
- The captivity of un-forgiveness and the release of the affect their sin has had upon our life!!
- True freedom is experienced in Forgiveness!

Action Steps – Life Application

- Have you received the unconditional forgiveness of God for the sins of your life?
- Will you receive the call of God to live like Jesus and live a holy life in all you do?
- Will you forgive those who have sinned against you? Those who have offended you? Those who are talking about you? Those who are out to destroy you?
- Forgive as you have been forgiven!