

Accountability Questions

- **Did you spend 5 minutes a day at least 5 days last week reading the Bible?**
- **Did you share a God story with a non-believer this week?**
- **Did you have spend time alone with God this week?**
- **What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?**



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!**

Advent

Week 1 = Hope

Week 2 = Peace

Week 3 = Joy

Today = Love

- Love is one of the most misunderstood subjects in the world today!
- We are so confused about what love is - what it does or doesn't do
- This confusion is a result of our not fully knowing God.

1 John 4 7 Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God. 8 But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

- God is love - here is the foundational truth of our relationship with and through God. HE IS LOVE!
- Therefore, without God - it is impossible to Love or to even know what Love is!!
- This is why the world “*falls in and out of love*” - because the world has a mirage of what love is...

- We were made in God's likeness & Image - therefore, we were made "love" - when we sinned – we rejected love and therefore love departed from us - this is why humanity seeks love – we are ever searching to fill that void of who we are!!
- The void CANNOT be filled with anything other than LOVE = anything other than GOD!
- When we begin to look at the teaching of God's word on Love it is always "in action" toward others

1 John 4 9 God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. 10 This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins.

- EVERYTHING in this is toward us... He gave, He died, He offered... that we might receive from Him!
- “this is real love”...
- Clearly, we are shown that love is action toward

John 3 16 For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. 17 God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him. 18 “There is no judgment against anyone who believes in him. But anyone who does not believe in him has already been judged for not believing in God’s one and only Son. 19 And the judgment is based on this fact: God’s light came into the world, but people loved the darkness

more than the light, for their actions were evil. 20 All who do evil hate the light and refuse to go near it for fear their sins will be exposed. 21 But those who do what is right come to the light so others can see that they are doing what God wants.”

- The receiving of God’s love (Jesus) allows us to know love and therefore live love = ACTION
- Which is as God demonstrated – ACTION toward those who have not earned it or deserve it... but rather is offered unselfishly in Hope of a response!

- YES there is hope for response BUT it is not offered in response but rather a HOPE FOR RESPONSE!

Romans 5 6 When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners. 7 Now, most people would not be willing to die for an upright person, though someone might perhaps be willing to die for a person who is especially good. 8 But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.

- The first step in knowing or receiving love is receiving God's gift of Jesus. By saying YES to Jesus we are restored to a right relationship with God and receive Him into ourselves and therefore, have received love once again.
- The Holy Spirit (GOD) now lives within... therefore, LOVE now lives within... it is only here and now that we KNOW LOVE and can LIVE LOVE!!!
- With this all resounding in our hearts... and using this as the foundation of our understanding let us HEAR the truth of these scriptures together:

1 Corinthians 13 1 If I could speak all the languages of earth and of angels, but didn't love others, I would only be a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 If I had the gift of prophecy, and if I understood all of God's secret plans and possessed all knowledge, and if I had such faith that I could move mountains, but didn't love others, I would be nothing. 3 If I gave everything I have to the poor and even sacrificed my body, I could boast about it; but if I didn't love others, I would have gained nothing.

- **This is action without love!**

- **The next verses show love in action:**

4 Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud 5 or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. 6 It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. 7 Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.

- **We are shown in verses 1-3 we can have spiritual actions & still be absent of love - & shown in 4-7 what it means to live love!**

Action Steps

- Have you received the greatest of gifts – God’s love – Jesus?
- Since receiving God’s gift – have you had a revelation of what love is?
- How do you love others? (God’s example is real – the claim of God living in our heart DEMANDS the action of Love toward others – it is uncompromising, non-negotiable) **1 John 4** *7 Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God. 8 But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love.*