



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 is called to:
Radiate the love of Christ
Reach the Lost and the Saved in order to
Restore them into fully mature followers of Christ

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 spend time alone with God this week (With no personal agenda)?
- Do you know what the Holy Spirits saying to you?
- Are you giving as God has asked?

- After sharing in the final Passover meal Jesus is taking the disciples to the Garden of Gethsemane as the meal is completed and they are on their way He begins to have a tough conversation with them...

Matthew 26 31 On the way, Jesus told them, “Tonight all of you will desert me. For the Scriptures say, ‘God will strike the Shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.’ 32 But after I have been raised from the dead, I will go ahead of you to Galilee and meet you there.”

33 Peter declared, “Even if everyone else deserts you, I will never desert you.”

- Peter – ever the outspoken extravert-declares his loyalty and commitment above everyone else’s!

- Here in this self proclamation of commitment that Peter is rocked to the core with Jesus next words...

34 Jesus replied, “I tell you the truth, Peter—this very night, before the rooster crows, you will deny three times that you even know me.”

35 “No!” Peter insisted. “Even if I have to die with you, I will never deny you!” And all the other disciples vowed the same.
- The scene changes to the garden where the arrest happens and we read “56... all the disciples deserted Him and fled”

- “Ready to die for you”... “never leave you”... “never deny you”...
- Words are easy to say – the reality of living those words can be much different in the moment of truth!
- Jesus is arrested...

Matthew 26 69 Meanwhile, Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. A servant girl came over and said to him, “You were one of those with Jesus the Galilean.” 70 But Peter denied it in front of everyone. “I don’t know what you’re talking about,” he said.

72 Again Peter denied it, this time with an oath. “I don’t even know the man,” he said.

Again...

74 Peter swore, “A curse on me if I’m lying—I don’t know the man!” And immediately the rooster crowed.

75 Suddenly, Jesus’ words flashed through Peter’s mind: “Before the rooster crows, you will deny three times that you even know me.” And he went away, weeping bitterly.

- It’s easy to say you’re a Christ follower in Church... but how do you respond in the ‘real-world’?

- Jesus is crucified, buried, the resurrection happens
Jesus has appeared to the ladies, then again to some
of the disciples... now they are waiting for the next
step in God's plan... unsure of what will take place
next and as they wait the disciples go fishing.
- As they fish all night they catch nothing... then a
guy from shore tells them to throw their nets in a
specific spot... they catch the mother load of fish
and they know it's Jesus....
- They come to shore and Jesus has breakfast there...

- Jesus begins a conversation with Peter by asking him 3 times... Peter do you love me?
- Peter humbly acknowledges the questions and in humbleness declares his love for the Lord.
- It is here that Jesus reveals a harsh reality to Peter ... Jesus tells Peter – that Peter would give his life for his faith... This love you declare today will cost you your life!

John 21 18 “I tell you the truth, when you were young, you were able to do as you liked; you dressed

yourself and went wherever you wanted to go. But when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and others will dress you and take you where you don't want to go.” 19 Jesus said this to let him know by what kind of death he would glorify God. Then Jesus told him, “Follow me.”

- Notice that after Jesus tells him the kind of death (crucifixion) that Peter would die for Him... Jesus again declares what He did when He first called Peter “follow Me”

- Another moment of truth... now that you know the cost... follow me!
- Many of us are quick to say “I am a Christ Follower” but when we go out into the ‘real world’ we quickly change our story...
- What do you do when family, friends, or work/school associates ask you to do something that would compromise your faith?
- How do you respond when facing situations that compromise the word of God?

- Peter's response to this revelation of what it would cost him is this.....

John 21 20 Peter turned around and saw behind them the disciple Jesus loved—the one who had leaned over to Jesus during supper and asked, “Lord, who will betray you?” 21 Peter asked Jesus, “What about him, Lord?”

22 Jesus replied, “If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you? As for you, follow me.”

- Here is the moment of personal revelation – Peter wanted to know what it would cost others...

- Jesus response: “What is that to you?”
- Friends – no matter what anyone else is called to do... or what they go through for their faith – that doesn’t matter to you!
- STOP looking at others and wondering about what they have to do
- STOP looking at others for what they aren’t doing
- STOP looking at others to figure out what God wants them to do...
- FOLLOW ME!

Action Steps

- Where in your life have you declared to be a Christ follower but you have denied it in the moment of truth?
- What have you done about your denial?
- Where have you allowed your eyes to wander onto other Christ followers?
- Today – will you respond to Jesus call “Follow Me” understanding the cost is for you to lay down your life?