



# **Christian Faith Fellowship**

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- 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 Spirit is saying to you?**
- **Are you giving as God has asked?**

- Last week we looked at the transformation that God performs in us as we begin a relationship with Him thru Jesus Christ!
- The old is past the new has come (2 Cor. 5:17)
- The “Renewing of the mind” and the process by which we need to re-pattern our thinking as we no longer serve sin and darkness but God!
- The Gospel has been complicated by people - as we try to intellectually walk with God we can get off track with the abundance of theory and philosophy available to us!

**Colossians 2** 1 I want you to know how much I have agonized for you and for the church at Laodicea, and for many other believers who have never met me personally. 2 I want them to be encouraged and knit together by strong ties of love. I want them to have complete confidence that they understand God's mysterious plan, which is Christ himself. 3 In him lie hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. 4 I am telling you this so no one will deceive you with well-crafted arguments...

- This is where many Christians get stuck... not completely clear on what their faith is or what it means and therefore, we are timid to share Christ with others because we are not confident in ‘what we believe’ or ‘how it works’.

*“2 I want them to have complete confidence that they understand God’s mysterious plan, which is Christ himself. 3 In him lie hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.”*

- DON’T get off track studying this or that – follow CHRIST! Learn about Jesus – live for Jesus...

**Colossians 2** 6 And now, just as you accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord, you must continue to follow him. 7 Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness.

- A continual following – a continual growing – roots in Him– lives built on Him– growing faith.
- How long ago did you come to faith in Christ?
- How much have you grown in your understanding of God's work thru Christ?

- How different is your life today as compared to before you came to faith in Christ?
- How has your understanding of God changed since you first came to faith?

8 Don't let anyone capture you with empty philosophies and high-sounding nonsense that come from human thinking and from the spiritual powers of this world, rather than from Christ.

- If you Googled – Christ follower – Christianity – faith – God etc. you would come up with a multitude of helps for your faith... pro & con for faith etc.

- Who or what is the source of your spiritual growth?
- Who is it we are called to follow? Christ – how do we follow Christ?

11 When you came to Christ, you were “circumcised,” but not by a physical procedure. Christ performed a spiritual circumcision—the cutting away of your sinful nature. 12 For you were buried with Christ when you were baptized. And with him you were raised to new life because you trusted the mighty power of God, who raised Christ from the dead. 13 You were dead because

of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then God made you alive with Christ, for he forgave all our sins. 14 He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross.

- We were DEAD in our sin and there was nothing we could do about it... we were captive to the law of sin and it was the ruling authority of our life!
- Church the work of our transformation was complete in Christ by the power of God and NOW we must learn to live in this new life - the fullness of Christ!

- Every wrong we ever did was now expunged from our record!! We are completely free of that stuff!!

15 In this way, he disarmed the spiritual rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by his victory over them on the cross.

- The picture of a conquering Leader taking the defeated commander & his soldiers- parading them through his home town in a celebratory show of the defeat of the enemy!

- This is what Jesus did on the cross – it was not a moment of shame and defeat but it was the absolute moment of VICTORY – the breaking of the enemies stronghold over humanity!!
- We were under the curse of sin – under the authority of darkness – owned by the enemy - We were prisoners of sin – held captive by the enemy (guilty as charged because of our sinful life) & there was nothing we could do about it ...

- But in the moment of Christ's death on the cross – the authority of darkness was broken – light and hope came flooding in to all humanity and we NOW had the opportunity to come clean and be free from the charges against us!

16 So don't let anyone condemn you for what you eat or drink, or for not celebrating certain holy days or new moon ceremonies or Sabbaths. 17 For these rules are only shadows of the reality yet to come. And Christ himself is that reality. 18 Don't let anyone condemn you by insisting on pious self-denial or the worship of

angels, saying they have had visions about these things. Their sinful minds have made them proud, 19 and they are not connected to Christ, the head of the body. For he holds the whole body together with its joints and ligaments, and it grows as God nourishes it.

20 You have died with Christ, and he has set you free from the spiritual powers of this world. So why do you keep on following the rules of the world, such as, 21 “Don’t handle! Don’t taste! Don’t touch!”? 22 Such rules are mere human teachings about things that deteriorate as we use them. 23 These rules may seem

wise because they require strong devotion, pious self-denial, and severe bodily discipline. But they provide no help in conquering a person's evil desires.

- You see – we are ever trying to “prove our worthiness” or “show our spirituality” and in so doing we surrender the power of Christ and replace it with human effort which is worthless in the fight against sin!
- Our hope & strength come from our Faith in the complete work of Jesus Christ! Anything more or less is deception & the work of darkness!

## Action Steps

- **Many questions have been asked in the message- How much have you grown in your understanding of God's work through Christ since you believed?**
- **How different is your life today as compared to before you came to faith in Christ?**
- **How has your understanding of God changed since you first came to faith?**
- **Who or what is the source of your spiritual growth?**
- **Who is it we are called to follow? Christ – how do we follow Christ?**
- **Let's purpose to know & live our faith to the fullest!**