



# **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?**

- When we would speak around the house my mother was constantly correcting our English. She was quick to correct your sentence and re-state it back to you properly!
- She would correct us with the most zeal when we would use a word like ‘ain’t’.... “Ain’t is not a word – you don’t say “are not” together in that context!”
- When I went to High School I made friends with 1 of the English teachers & took 5 years of English (in 4 years) using them as electives... you would think I was an English major – good grades etc. BUT

- I didn't learn anything because I didn't have to and I could get by with speaking and writing but not really knowing.
- Because I can speak proper English, and as a result, write it -If you were to ask me to grammatically break down a sentence I would be completely lost!
- So, I don't "know English" - I have huge gaps in my understanding although I can fake it and get by because I know enough – so, when I attempted to learn Spanish I was done! You have to know English grammar to understand the structure of Spanish.

**1 Thessalonians 3** Finally, when we could stand it no longer, we decided to stay alone in Athens, 2 and we sent Timothy to visit you. He is our brother and God's co-worker in proclaiming the Good News of Christ. We sent him to strengthen you, to encourage you in your faith, 3 and to keep you from being shaken by the troubles you were going through. But you know that we are destined for such troubles. 4 Even while we were with you, we warned you that troubles would soon come—and they did, as you well know. 5 That is

why, when I could bear it no longer, I sent Timothy to find out whether your faith was still strong. I was afraid that the tempter had gotten the best of you and that our work had been useless. 6 But now Timothy has just returned, bringing us good news about your faith and love. He reports that you always remember our visit with joy and that you want to see us as much as we want to see you. 7 So we have been greatly encouraged in the midst of our troubles and suffering, dear brothers and sisters, because you have remained

strong in your faith. 8 It gives us new life to know that you are standing firm in the Lord. 9 How we thank God for you! Because of you we have great joy as we enter God's presence. 10 Night and day we pray earnestly for you, asking God to let us see you again to fill the gaps in your faith.

- What we find here is a church that is faithfully serving Christ! Living in their new faith but lacking in areas as to “knowing” their faith!
- Paul was driven to go to them to help “fill the gaps in your faith”... important pieces missing!

- Just like with my English – you know enough to get by but there are critical pieces you are missing!

**Ephesians 4** Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. 12 Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ. 13 This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ. 14 Then we will no longer be immature like

children. We won't be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth. 15 Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church.

- Full and complete... no longer immature... no longer being able to be deceived by spiritually sounding lies!
- **False faiths grow through the ignorance of truth!**

- Last week we were learned how critical it is for us to “know Jesus”- He is the foundation of the Christian faith!
- Many false-faiths teach about Jesus-their version...
- Many of them can sound good - make sense in the moment & create a desire to follow him in this context – however, as we just read in scripture there are “good sounding lies” that we must be aware of for the enemy himself is the great deceiver!
- It is critical that you don’t just “get by” in your faith but you know what you believe!

- In our original verses we read Paul sent Timothy to the Church to make sure they were staying strong in their faith – because he knew they would go through some tough times – and they had! He also knew that through those tough times the enemy would come to tempt them to go wayward in their faith!
- He knew they could be vulnerable!
- This is also why he wanted the gaps in their faith filled with truth so that they would continue to grow strong in the faith and to continue to live victorious lives!

- You don't have to panic about what you don't know... however, you need to make sure what you do know is founded in God's word!
- Just continue to grow in your faith but walking daily in the faith through prayer, reading of the Bible, worshiping regularly, building relationships within the body of Christ!
- Where did Jesus Come from?
- Is He God or Man or both?
- Did He exist before Bethlehem?

- Did God have sex with Mary to have Jesus?
- Are their “other” sons of God (besides Jesus)?
- Do you have to be “dunked” to be baptized in Jesus?
- Should babies be baptized in Jesus name?
- Why did the Holy Spirit come and what is His purpose? (Jesus!)
- Can taking Communion save you?
- Can being baptized save you?
- Does a Christian need to be circumcised?

- If you google searched these questions you would be so confused with the mixture of responses... Churches and teachers would give you great sounding explanations as to why their belief is “the truth”...
- In fairness – people can say the very same thing about me and the gathering we have here at CFF!
- SO – here is my response! Read your Bible, pray, worship, allow the Holy Spirit to do what Jesus said He would do!
- Join a small group – grow in the faith!

**Matthew 15** 1 Some Pharisees and teachers of religious law now arrived from Jerusalem to see Jesus. They asked him, 2 “Why do your disciples disobey our age-old tradition? For they ignore our tradition of ceremonial hand washing before they eat.” 3 Jesus replied, “And why do you, by your traditions, violate the direct commandments of God? 4 For instance, God says, ‘Honor your father and mother,’ and ‘Anyone who speaks disrespectfully of father or mother must be put to death.’ 5 But you say it is all right for people to say to their parents, ‘Sorry, I can’t help you. For I have

vowed to give to God what I would have given to you.’

6 In this way, you say they don't need to honor their parents. And so you cancel the word of God for the sake of your own tradition. 7 You hypocrites!

- Even as the Jews were following God's Law they added to it and these additions became part of “their belief” for serving God and in turn “required others” to do the same!
- Jesus clearly states the very traditions they were practicing were violating the actual Law of God!!
- It is critical that we Know Jesus & His Teaching!

## Action Steps

- **John 14** 6 *Jesus told him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.*
- **IF Jesus is the Way - I need to know Him, know what He teaches, & know what it means to follow Him!**
- **When did you know Jesus as your personal Savior?**
- **How are you growing in your faith?**
- **How do you know what you know? and what is it based on?**