



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 at least 5 minutes a day – at least 5 days last week reading/hearing the Bible?**
- **Did you share a God story with someone this week?**
- **Did you spend time alone with God this week?**
- **What is the Holy Spirit is saying to you?**
- **Are you giving as God has asked you give?**

- After pursuing the theme of Change for July I have been asking God for His direction and desire as we journey through the month of August - I believe God wants us to engage the theme of Love & Forgiveness!
- Even though we say “Love & Forgiveness” the word love is foundation or root of forgiveness -you cannot forgive without exercising love to its fullest degree!
- We will begin in the simplest of forms and then seek the deep things God wants to reveal to us as we receive His incredible gift of love!

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.

- We were lost – we needed forgiveness & restoration God’s love for us reached out and offered an escape from our destructive life of sin and separation

- Remember as we read the creation account: God told Adam & Eve they could have ANYTHING in the garden EXCEPT the 1 tree?!
- Since sin entered the world we now have a world full of sin and there is 1 tree where you can find forgiveness – the cross of Calvary!
- EVERYONE MUST receive the love of God at that tree - there is NO relationship available outside of this way – the sacrifice of Jesus Christ for our sin!
- The scriptures there in John 3:16-18 clearly make that known to us!

Romans 3 21 But now God has shown us a way to be made right with him without keeping the requirements of the law, as was promised in the writings of Moses and the prophets long ago. 22 We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are. 23 For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. 24 Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins.

25 For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood. This sacrifice shows that God was being fair when he held back and did not punish those who sinned in times past, 26 for he was looking ahead and including them in what he would do in this present time. God did this to demonstrate his righteousness, for he himself is fair and just, and he makes sinners right in his sight when they believe in Jesus.

- This whole thing is an act of love from God & is completely done by Him for us! There is NOTHING you and I can do to earn God's forgiveness - we are simply recipients of this incredible Love in the form of forgiveness!
- This Love of God is experienced in the freedom from or the release of our guilt for ALL the wrong we have ever done! Completely NEW – made whole – restored by God into a right relationship with Him!
- As we step into this relationship with God through Jesus Christ – we are stepping into a love relationship

- This love relationship has expectations and boundaries to live within...
- Very much like the Marriage Covenant that we make as humans... it is a relationship that we enter into with expectations & boundaries. The very covenant we make as we enter into that relationship establishes those boundaries and what they are saying is: “I am yours” – “you are mine” – there is NO OTHER & there will be NO OTHER!
- It is a life commitment that states I am now living a different life as a result of this love relationship!

- When God gave Moses the Commandments this is the very first one:

Exodus 20 2 “I am the Lord your God, who rescued you from the land of Egypt, the place of your slavery. 3 “You must not have any other god but me. 4 “You must not make for yourself an idol of any kind or an image of anything in the heavens or on the earth or in the sea. 5 You must not bow down to them or worship them, for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God who will not tolerate your affection for any other gods.

- God's Love & Forgiveness **REQUIRES** a commitment from us to Him!
- As we step into this covenant of Love & Forgiveness we have much to learn about what it means and how it works – and so we live in “love & forgiveness” as we learn together (in marriage) what this means in the day-to-day of life! It is a selfless giving of myself
- God's **ALL IN** on this relationship of love! He has been pursuing us as we were pursuing everything else in the world trying to fill that love vacuum in our soul

- We CANNOT be whole until we are in relationship with Him!
- You see – in the beginning God created us in His likeness & image... the Bible teaches us in 1 John 4 “God is love” therefore, we were “love” – when we sinned and broke that relationship we were then ‘absent of love’ – we cannot experience or know love until we experience the forgiveness offered by God and it is in that act of love – forgiveness – that we are made new in love

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. 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.

- The act of love is on the side of the forgiver! The accepting of love is on the side of the forgiven!

- This causes us to meet on the foundation of love and allows a relationship to begin together!

Action Steps

- Have you received the gift of Love from God – Jesus Christ as your personal Savior?
- Have you been cheating on God - pursuing “other things” to fill your love gap and need forgiveness and restoration with God?
- Are you living in this new relationship of Love – learning the boundaries and expectations of this love?