



# **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!**

## 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?**



**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**

- To be a Christian is to be a Christ Follower
- We begin the life of being a Christ Follower thru confessing our sin – believing Christ died on the cross for our sin and by FAITH receiving His forgiveness for our sin.
- We are now “A Christian – A Christ Follower – Born Again – A Believer – People of the Way – etc.”
- When we take this step of faith we are believing the Bibles claims that Jesus is indeed God.
- The Bible makes this claim – Jesus made this claim – The disciples made this claim – the demons made this claim – God made this claim

- There are countless stories about Jesus outside of the Bible and many will acknowledge that He existed but only the Christian Faith will give Him the title as God the One and only Savior of the world!
- Jesus is the dividing point on the discussion of faith and the claims of the Christian Church.
- Many - even in the church get nervous and don't want to make such a bold claim that Jesus is God – the Savior of the world BUT without that belief – we are still lost in our sin and there is no hope for humanity to be reconciled to God!

- The fact is – Jesus was God BEFORE He came to earth to be our Savior and the Bible clearly makes this statement:

**John 1** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and *the Word was God*. 2 He was with God in the beginning. 3 *Through him all things were made*; without him nothing was made that has been made. 4 In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

6 There was a man sent from God whose name was John. 7 He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. 8 He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. 9 The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. 10 He was in the world, and though *the world was made through him*, the world did not recognize him. 11 He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. 12 Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— 13 children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. 15 (John testified concerning him. He cried out, saying, “This is the one I spoke about when I said, ‘He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.’”) 16 Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given. 17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. 18 No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, *who is himself God* and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.

- John clearly states:
- That Jesus was the Word in the beginning.
- That Jesus created all things
- That Jesus became human
- That Jesus is God
- These statements are unique to the Christian faith and are critical in the entire Redemptive plan of God for humanity!
- Jesus Himself made statements that He was God... and those who opposed Him realized that He was making this claim and didn't like it!

- Moses meets God at the burning bush and God tells him that he is to go lead Israel out of bondage...

**Exodus 3** 11 But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?” 12 And God said, “I will be with you. And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God on this mountain.” 13 Moses said to God, “Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ Then what shall I tell them?”

14 God said to Moses, “I am who I am. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: ‘I AM has sent me to you.’”

- God is saying “I AM” is my personal name... Now let’s look at **John 8**

52 At this they exclaimed, “Now we know that you are demon-possessed! Abraham died and so did the prophets, yet you say that whoever obeys your word will never taste death. 53 Are you greater than our father Abraham? He died, and so did the prophets. Who do you think you are?” 54 Jesus replied, “If I glorify myself, my glory means nothing. My Father, whom you claim as your God

is the one who glorifies me. 55 Though you do not know him, I know him. If I said I did not, I would be a liar like you, but I do know him and obey his word. 56 Your father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing my day; he saw it and was glad.” 57 “You are not yet fifty years old,” they said to him, “and you have seen Abraham!”

58 “Very truly I tell you,” Jesus answered, “before Abraham was born, I AM!” 59 At this, they picked up stones to stone him, but Jesus hid himself, slipping away from the temple grounds.

- The Jewish leaders knew exactly what Jesus was saying and wanted to kill Him for proclaiming to be God (I AM)

- While the Jews did not believe Jesus was God – they themselves knew ONLY God could forgive sins...

**Mark 2** 1 A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home. 2 They gathered in such large numbers that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them. 3 Some men came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. 4 Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus by digging

through it and then lowered the mat the man was lying on. 5 When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralyzed man, “Son, your sins are forgiven.”

6 Now some teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking to themselves, 7 “Why does this fellow talk like that? He’s blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?”

8 Immediately Jesus knew in his spirit that this was what they were thinking in their hearts, and he said to them, “Why are you thinking these things?

9 Which is easier: to say to this paralyzed man, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up, take your mat and walk’? 10 But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.” So he said to the man, 11 “I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home.” 12 He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all. This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, “We have never seen anything like this!”

- Jesus is making the claim to be God in forgiving sin.
- The Jewish leaders knew it & did not like it

- From the Beginning – when sin entered the world God showed that sin demanded death – the shedding of blood was required for the penalty of sin.
- God Himself killed the first animal, as He made clothes from animal skins & covered Adam and Eve
- The sacrificial system was established long before the Law that was given to Moses. As we read the Bible: in the first book, Genesis, you will see sacrifices being made to God long before God's Covenant with Abraham to have a people, long before Moses & the Law.

- When God did create the sacrificial system of the Law and give it to His people – the teaching was for His people to understand the need of forgiveness... the holiness of God... that we could not be in His presence on our own... No matter what humans did – sin separated us from God
- When God took the Israelites out of Egypt He did so through the death of the firstborn male in Egypt! ONLY the houses that had the blood over the doors, the blood of the Passover lamb, were saved...
- When John the Baptist saw Jesus walking he said:

**John 1** 29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

- It just so happened that on the day of Passover, when the Jews would kill the Passover lamb in remembrance of God’s deliverance of them... it would be the day Jesus was placed on the cross... to pay the sins of the world!
- It is through Jesus death and resurrection that we are forgiven, it is thru Jesus Christ that we have life, it is thru Jesus Christ alone – our God that it is possible!

## Action Steps

- Do you believe?
- Jesus Christ is God, born of a virgin, suffered and died on the cross, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day He rose from the grave having conquered sin and death, thru His sacrifice He has offered forgiveness to the whole world and He is coming again for the final judgment upon all humanity!
- By believing – you must accept the whole package... not just the parts that you like – it's all in or not in!