



# **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 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?**

- We have all learned something thru our lives about what it means to follow God - we've learned that we have to do X to be made right with Him.
- If we are here today – it is from a genuine desire to know Him and to know what it means to have a right relationship with Him.
- Many of us would be happy if we could simply check our boxes and complete our spiritual list of things to do in order to assure ourselves that our heart is right.
- Truth is – for many centuries – the church controlled the people by teaching these types of behaviors!

- Even after the Reformation – the Protestant movement began to gravitate towards the idea of laypeople viewing and paying clergy to do the ministry- to Seek God on their behalf – tell them what God wants from them to have their heart right, etc.
- I want to make it very clear to everyone listening to this message today – If you want to have a right relationship with God - if you want to make it to heaven - if you want to know what it means to have peace in your heart – if you want to be forgiven, You must personally know Jesus – He is the answer.

**1 John 1** 8 If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.

- We were all born in sin – we have all lived in sin – we have all acted sinful.
- Jesus will forgive all of this as He paid the price for all sin on the cross & defeated it in the resurrection!
- Do you believe this?

- As we accept the full work of Christ for our sin and the life we live – let's not stop reading there but continue on with the full statement being made to us

**1 John 2** 1 My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

- The believer is being made aware of the complete work of Christ in our life!
- The sin we are born in – Jesus paid the price for!
- The sins we have committed in our actions and decisions – Jesus paid the price for
- Not just for our sin - but those of the entire world – Jesus paid the price for
- Are we all good so far?
- **NOBODY** can say they never sinned – if so, we make God our to be a liar (v10). We are all good still, right?
- That next statement is where we start to get nervous...



1 *My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin.*

- So – there is a call to the believer to live above sin!?
- Once you have received Jesus – we are challenged to live for Him – in obedience to Him
- We cannot simply ignore these statements – they are here and we have to justify them in our faith!
- Let's look at the full statement: *My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.*

- The statement is “if” we sin – Jesus is our advocate – it doesn’t say “when” we sin...
- If you screw up and sin - it’s not all over for you – Jesus is our advocate and will forgive - but, we cannot simply live sloppy lives of sin and think we are going to ride the grace wave into heaven!
- So – before we get all nervous and start making statements like “well, I’m not perfect” and “nobody can live that way,” etc. – let’s not stop reading what we are being taught and apply the full truth of what God has for us!

**1 John 2** 3 We know that we have come to know him if we keep his commands. 4 Whoever says, “I know him,” but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in that person. 5 But if anyone obeys his word, love for God is truly made complete in them. This is how we know we are in him: 6 Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did.

- The key to living the life of a believer is  
**OBEDIENCE**
- Are you truly a Christ follower? You will live the way Jesus taught us (read the Gospels!)

- Are you truly a Christ follower? If you are you will live the way Jesus taught us (read the Gospels!)
- When I ask the accountability question each week “What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?” ... this question is asked because Jesus said the Holy Spirit will lead us in our life as believers!
  - The Holy Spirit is challenging us in areas that we are not yet living as Christ lived
  - He is guiding us into the path God has called us to live
  - He is convicting us in places that we need to surrender
  - He is leading us to live a surrendered life of Obedience

- Let's look at the last statement of our text this morning: 5....This is how we know we are in him: 6  
Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did.
- Before we get defensive and begin to make excuses “I’m not Jesus”.... “I can’t live like Jesus”... “That’s too much to ask” or whatever other excuse we want to put here – let’s remember the basics of what we are learning.
- Jesus lived in full obedience to the Father... this is our call.

- Jesus sent us the Holy Spirit to not only make us aware of where we are in our walk but to guide us in that walk!
- So the truth is... this life of Christianity as a true Christ follower can be summed up in 1 simple question for us to answer:
- Am I living in full obedience to what I know God wants me to do or not do?
- It's a Yes or No answer... there is no explaining it... there is no justifying... it's simply yes or no

## **Action Steps**

- If you are not being obedient in any area of your life  
– will you surrender in full obedience now and say  
Yes to Him?