

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?**

- Love & Forgiveness! After looking last week at the foundation of our Relationship with God being His incredible love for us which is the foundation of our forgiveness… we were challenged to embrace and celebrate Love & Forgiveness in the redemptive plan of God for us all!
- As we clearly see in scripture, our forgiveness – our salvation – is a work of God & it is available for ALL

1 John 1 8 If we claim we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and not living in the truth. 9 But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.

- If you have confessed your sin and received His forgiveness - God is good to His word - You ARE forgiven!!
- As you examine your life - will you let God forgive you of ALL your sin or do you want Him to hold some against you?

- It’s hard to believe but God forgives it all - He promises that He will not hold that sin against us!

2 Corinthians 5 16 So we have stopped evaluating others from a human point of view. At one time we thought of Christ merely from a human point of view. How differently we know him now! 17 This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun! 18 And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to himself through Christ. And God has given us

this task of reconciling people to him. 19 For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people's sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation. 20 So we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, "Come back to God!" 21 For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.

- Not only are those who have received Christ - Forgiven freely & made New – we have now been given the message of reconciliation to the world!
- Letting others know about this incredible love & forgiveness we have experienced!!
- So, let's look further at how we share this message of reconciliation with the world!

Matthew 6 7 When you pray, don't babble on and on as the Gentiles do. They think their prayers are answered merely by repeating their words again and again. 8 Don't be like them, for your Father knows

exactly what you need even before you ask him! 9 Pray
like this: Our Father in heaven, may your name be kept
holy. 10 May your Kingdom come soon. May your will
be done on earth, as it is in heaven. 11 Give us today the
food we need, 12 and forgive us our sins, as we have
forgiven those who sin against us. 13 And don't let us
yield to temptation, but rescue us from the evil one.
14 "If you forgive those who sin against you, your
heavenly Father will forgive you. 15 But if you refuse to
forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins.

- After the prayer lesson – Jesus' emphasis is on forgiveness! Not only is it important that we ask God to forgive us BUT we MUST forgive those who have wronged us – sinned against us – the exact same way God has forgiven us!
- The message of reconciliation is one of forgiveness!
- As we celebrate each day the amazing love and forgiveness of God - are we celebrating that by forgiving those who have sinned and ARE SINNING against us even now?!!

- Remember – Jesus died for our sin and He became our sin BEFORE we ever knew Him.
- The forgiveness was done in Christ – offered to the whole world out 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.

- Let's examine our hearts right now – asking the Holy Spirit to reveal His truth to us in this area -

- Is there anyone we are holding back the same loving forgiveness that God has given us?

Luke 6 27 “But to you who are willing to listen, I say, love your enemies! Do good to those who hate you. 28 Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who hurt you…

32 “If you love only those who love you, why should you get credit for that? Even sinners love those who love them! 33 And if you do good only to those who do good to you, why should you get credit? Even sinners do that much!

- Bless & pray for them?
- This is what Jesus said… can we not only understand what Jesus is telling us in loving those who have wronged us but now we are told we need to bless & pray for them!
- What was your reaction to the incident that occurred in Charlottesville?
- What is your thought process when you hear of the atrocities of ISIS?
- What is it God is asking us to do?

- He is not asking us to ignore offences – nor is He asking us to live in abusive situations – nor is He asking us NOT to hold people accountable for their actions!
- What He is asking us to do is have a heart of forgiveness – a heart of love and compassion for those who are lost – to pray for the same grace to capture them that has captured us!
- Anyone who does evil is living in sin & needs Jesus
- We, as forgiven believers, need to be praying for the lost to see their need of Jesus

Action Steps

- Step 1 is for us to receive the forgiveness God has offered to us through Jesus Christ.
- Step 2 Who have I not offered this same forgiveness to?
- Step 3 we must release them to God - asking Him to teach us to love the unlovable! (He knows how because He loves us)
- Step 4 Begin to “act in love” every day to those around us – being true Ambassadors of Jesus Christ – that the world might see there is hope for them!