

Faith Christian Fellowship
Sunday, January 31, 2016
Members of One Another
1: What Does it Mean to be a Christian?

Text: Romans 12:4-5 For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, (5) so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.

God wants us to have a covenant, family commitment to a local church. We need to be connected to other believers for fellowship and support, and to an eldership that has the capacity to speak into our lives the things we need to hear. That requires a commitment that the Bible calls "covenant." We also need to be part of a larger purpose, we call it vision, in order to live out and expand the Kingdom.

3 aspects of what it means to be a member of FCFT. First, let's answer a simple question: "What does it mean to be a Christian?"

Let's look at the story of the first people to ever be called Christians: Acts 11:19-30

Questions: What do you mean when you call yourself a Christian? What did it mean when the disciples at Antioch were called Christians?

- 1) Turn to the Lord and be changed
 - a) They didn't just turn away from something, they turned to Somebody. This is repentance.
 - b) They were changed so drastically that it was reported to Jerusalem and was obvious to Barnabas when he saw them.
 - c) Jn 3:3-8 You must be born again. John 1:13; Gal 6:15; Eph 2:1-8; Tit 3:5; Jam 1:18; 1Pe 1:3, 1Pe 1:23-25; Eph 1:13-14

Questions: Have you been born again? How do you know?

- 2) They were disciples not just believers
 - a) Matthew 28:18-20 The Jesus formula for making disciples:
 - i) Baptism marks a conscious commitment:
 - (1) Romans 6:4 a death and a resurrection (Rom 10:9-10 Lordship, not just doctrinal purity), not just joining a religious club. 1 Pet 3:21; Gal 3:27; Col 2:11-12

Questions: Have you been baptized in water since you believed? What did it mean to you?

- (2) Lk 14:26-25. Discipleship requires a total commitment

Questions: In light of this passage in Luke, how would you rate your commitment? Are you ready to commit to being a disciple?

- ii) Teaching by other disciples grows us up
 - (1) Jn 8:31 Continue in the Word if you want to be a real disciple, not just a believer.
 - (2) Jn 8:32 Continuing in the Word leads to freedom. Freedom is a by-product of discipleship

Questions: Are you a real disciple? In what areas do you still need to be free? How will you intentionally continue in the Word in order to know the truth?

- (3) We need His Word in order to grow up. 1 Peter 2:2; Matt 4:4; Jn 6:63; Rom 10:17
- (4) Our thinking must be changed to reflect our new identity in Christ. Rom 12:2; 2 Cor 5:17; Eph 4:23-24; Col 3:10

Questions: What are three characteristics of a new creature in Christ? Do you see yourself growing in these characteristics? What steps will you take to enhance your growth?

- 3) The aim of a disciple is to be like his Teacher.
 - a) Luke 6:40 NLT Students are not greater than their teacher. But the student who is fully trained will become like the teacher. 1 Jn 2: 6; John 13:15; 1Cor 11:1; Eph 5:2; 1Pet 2:21
 - b) We are teaching you for the purpose of seeing love produced in you. 1 Timothy 1:5 NLT The purpose of my instruction is that all believers would be filled with **love** that comes from a **pure** heart, a **clear** conscience, and **genuine** faith. Rom 13:8-10; Gal 5:13-14, Gal 5:22; 1Jo 4:7-14
 - c) John 13:34-35
 - i) We have one commandment
 - ii) There is one symptom that allows us to be diagnosed as "Christians."
 - iii) If being a Christian were a crime, would there be enough evidence to arrest you?

Question: What adjustments would you have to make in attitude and action in order to make growing in Christ-like love the primary aim of your life?