

Growing Hearts

“Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love as each part does its work.”

– Ephesians 4:15-16

My hope is to see CCF become strongly rooted in Christ, both individually and as a community. To be steadfast in faith. That from it, all our thoughts and actions flow from God. Although CCF is continually growing as a community of encouragement and support, my hope is that we will also be able to challenge each other in faith and through God’s Word. To expand in our understanding of what it means for us as a community to be brothers and sisters in Christ. That we wouldn’t be held back by our own limitations of caring for one another. That through Him, flow all things.

Growing Heart for God

I hope that through a personal desire to grow in faith, and actively seeking to understand God’s Word, we can gain a greater sense of what God’s love means for us. This doesn’t simply come from attending church and fellowship, but ultimately through spending personal time with God. In growing in our understanding of love, knowing that it is from God and through Him, we can become equipped to love others better.

“This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.”

– 1 John 4:10-12

Growing Heart for Individuals

Whether our interactions are with strangers, classmates, non-Christians, close friends, family, etc., love can be translated differently. “Loving” extends beyond our own personal ability to care for someone. Too often than not, our love for others becomes conditional, with its own limitations. Regardless, being able to grow in our love for God gives us a greater capacity to love people better.

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

– John 13:34-35

My hope is that we can further our relationships as brothers or sisters in Christ and care for one another’s spiritual state, continually directing each other back to Christ. With recognition of our inability to fully love others like God can, we can remind ourselves and each other of our need for Him. I hope that we can challenge one another in faith, to not remain stagnant or comfortable with where we’re at.

Growing Heart for Community & Fellowship

“Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.”

– 1 Peter 4:9-10

Regardless of whether last week was our first time at CCF, or if we’ve been a member for the past 5 years, I do believe that there are various ways we can grow in love for this community. Perhaps it’s simply attending CCF every Friday, praying continuously for the fellowship, attending ministries, being intentional with individuals, or stepping up to serve or lead. I hope that as a collective, we can remind each other that our reason for fellowship is found in Christ.