

CCF 8 Jan 2023
CCF Vision - foundation

We are unique in creation

Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness"... So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. *Gen 1:26-27 NKJV*

Image – Heb *tsehlem* a representative figure

Likeness – Heb *demooth* concrete resemblance

And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul. *Gen 2:7 AKJV*

Soul – Heb *nephesh* Gr *psuche*

Obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of your souls. 1 Pe 1:9 NASB1995

We are created in the physical image of God (*tsehlem*), and also in His likeness (*demooth*) with a character like His.

We are created as a spiritual being with a soul which is immortal and can be saved!

We are loved by God

God is love *1 Jn 4:16*

Even as [in His love] He chose us [actually picked us out for Himself as His own] in Christ before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy (consecrated and set apart for Him) and blameless in His sight, even above reproach, before Him in love.

Eph 1:4 AMPC

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Ro 5:8 NASB1995

We were created to be the objects of God's love!

He made us so that he could love us!

And even when we broke the relationship with Him by sinning, He still reached out to us in love!

God has work for us

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them. *Eph 2:10 NASB1995*

All our deeds of righteousness are like filthy rags
Is 64:6 AMP

All the ways of a man are clean and innocent in his own eyes [and he may see nothing wrong with his actions], But the Lord weighs and examines the motives and intents [of the heart and knows the truth]. *Pr 16:2 AMP*

God created us to do good.

To do His work.

Not the things we think are good to do.

He's not so interested in what we do as why we do it.

We must have the right motives

If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. And if I give all my possessions to feed the poor, and if I surrender my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing.

1 Co 13:1-3 NASB1995

Everything must be motivated by love, of God and of each other.

Our priority

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know (*Gr ginosko*) the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge (*Gr gnosis*), that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God. *Eph 3:14-19 NASB1995*

I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know (*Gr ginosko*) that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me. *Jn 17:23 NKJV*

Paul spent 3 years in Ephesus planting the church and discipling the believers. This letter was written towards the end of his life when he knew he would be unlikely to see them again.

What would you say as your last words to the Ephesians?

Our priority is to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge.

What does this mean?

Gnosis – Greek – head knowledge, to know about something.

Ginosko – Greek – deep and intimate knowledge (as in a man and wife).

Jesus' prayer in John 17 also emphasises the evidence of the love of God in us.

“By this shall all men know (*Gr ginosko*) that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.” *Jn 13:35 AV*

Our priority

“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. Many will say to Me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?’ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew (*Gr ginosko*) you; *DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.*’ Mt 7:21-23, Ps 6:8 NASB1995

And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. *Mt 24:12 NKJV*

Jesus also makes this intimate knowledge of Him and His love a priority. He warns us that our love can grow cold.

Testimony about encountering God’s love at CCF the first time, and others have said the same.

CCF foundational vision

As we grow in our experience of the love of God,
so our love for Him will grow.

He will bring about a deeper love for each other
and a desire to reach out in the power of His love,
sharing the good news of His gifts of grace, peace
and salvation
and helping believers to become disciples.

What's your priority?

Everything we do should be based in God's love – in an intimate knowledge of our Father, our Lord Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

You are loved.

It's a lifetime challenge to explore and grow in experience of how much God loves us.

Hurts.

Busyness.

Earning His love.

Betrayal.

I can't love anyone ever again.

Read the gospels to see Jesus' (God's) love in action.