

Living as Children of God

“In love he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will – to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.” – Ephesians 1:4-6

God is love. Even though we humans fall short of His glory, nothing can separate us from His love.

Out of love, He adopted us as children of God.
Out of love, we are heirs of His kingdom.
Out of love, we are reborn into the family.

In the upcoming year, I want to see everyone embracing their sonship from God. As children of God, we are called to obey His commands out of love. I yearn to see us living in the following ways:

To the praise of His glorious grace

“You split the sea so I can walk right through it; my fears were drowned in perfect love. You rescued me and I could stand and sing, I am a child of God.” – No Longer Slaves, Bethel

As you probably know, worship is something that is very dear to me. In the past winter retreat, I experienced one of the most authentic moments of worship in my life. After the session on love, we were given some time to meditate. As I was reflecting on the love God has for us, I made the connection on how God’s love propagates from the cross to me. I also understood that our identity as children of God is a product of love. Upon these realizations, my heart was filled with so much joy that my praise couldn’t be contained. As we went into a time of musical worship, every single word meant so much - it was my expression of love to God.

Similarly, as we find ourselves in awe of the fullness of God’s love, we are naturally compelled to worship. I believe that we can worship in many different ways; as long as we are focusing our mind’s attention and heart’s affection on God, we are worshipping. But regardless of the way you in which you worship, God is a God that deserves all of our praise. It is my earnest hope that one day CCF will grow into a culture of authentic worship, in which we will praise the King as one family.

As a Family of God

I have asked myself “Would I be as committed in CCF if it is a non-Christian club/community instead of a fellowship?” After journeying through the theme of unity, my answer would be no, it wouldn’t be the same. Unlike other communities, we are a family that is related by blood. The basis of CCF is God’s love, and this is something that only Christ centered communities can experience.

Just as love naturally falls into unity in a community setting, when a group of God’s children comes together, it becomes a family of God. Over the past year, it has truly been my joy to witness CCF realizing that we are more than a loving community, but a family of God! As a family, we should inherently want to expand. We want to share the love we experienced through this sonship to everyone. Here is my challenge to CCF in the upcoming year - continue to cultivate a sense of family while

extending our invitation to the rest of the campus. Ultimately, let's cultivate CCF as a place where people can encounter God's love, and, subsequently, fully become children of God.

Building for the Kingdom

As I reflect upon my past journey, I came to a realization that I gained a lot of passion for CCF. CCF has blessed me so much in the past that I want to pass on what I experienced to the future of CCF. My heart is at a place where I constantly want to give back to this family. But a heart for CCF isn't the end of the road, I yearn for it to manifest into a heart for God's kingdom.

As we concentrate our efforts on building a sense of love and relationship, we tend to forget the other side of our identity - heirs of His kingdom. In this time between the cross and the second coming of our King, we are given a mission – to build for the kingdom of God. Being a child of God isn't just about feeling loved in a family, but recognizing the authority of the father and the responsibility to carry out our mission.

I believe that CCF is part of the kingdom of God, and I have definitely been able to witness the kingdom being built through CCF in the past few years. Through our willingness and humility in offering up our gifts and talents to the fellowship, I have been able to see the passion people have for this community. However, God is not just a God of this fellowship, but a God of this whole world! There are a lot of space outside of our fellowship that requires building! Therefore, I urge CCF to start to grow from a heart for CCF to a heart for His kingdom as a whole. Let's offer ourselves not just to build up CCF, but to build for the kingdom of God!

Practicals:

- Grow in understanding of God and our identity as Children of God
- Continue to build up a worshipful and prayerful culture
- Extend our family by utilizing our strengths in CCF
- Engage in kingdom building activities