

Who Are We? Destination #1

FC3 - “Faithful”

First, What is “FC3” anyway?

FC3

1. It stands for our NAME - First Christian Church of Cleveland - (there are many FCC's out there - we are an original - there is no other First Christian Church like the one in Cleveland, Oklahoma!) We kind of spun off of that thought and stuck with those letters (F.C.C.C.) are came up with how we wanted to present ourselves to Jesus, to ourselves and to this community!

Christian churches came out of the restoration movement:

We are an Independent, Autonomous, Non-Denominational Church

Independent means - free from outside control from some 'board.' FC3 is independent of all other "christian churches" -

Autonomous means there is no governing body above us. We are self-governing. Our elders make the decisions for this church.

Non-Denominational means we are separate, we owe no dues, fees, etc. we do not formally align with a denomination! For example: Methodist churches are under a denominal 'head'. Southern Baptist, Disciples of Christ, Nazarene,

2. It stands for our DESTINATION - where we are heading

So our vision of who we want to be as a church body for the glory of God is:

We want to be

“A Faithful, Christ-Centered Church”

We long to see lives changed as a result of us being that Faithful Christ-Centered Church.

3. It stands for our MAP. - how we will get there.

Which is our Mission - what we do to know how to get there.

Faithfully Committing to God, Connecting to each other, & Caring about others.

Google can't get you there but Jesus can, so to do so we want to follow HIS lead!

Why is being faithful so important?

Because God is faithful and we are giving a message about who our God is when we are faithful! (a few pictures from Scripture)

Deuteronomy 7:9 *“Know therefore that the Lord your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commandments.*

Deuteronomy 32:4 *“He is the Rock, his works are perfect, and all his ways are just. A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is he.*

Psalms 71:22 *“I will praise you with the harp for your faithfulness, my God; I will sing praise to you with the lyre, Holy One of Israel.*

Psalms 89:8 *“Who is like you, Lord God Almighty? You, Lord, are mighty, and your faithfulness surrounds you.*

Joel 2:23 *“Be glad, people of Zion, rejoice in the Lord your God, for he has given you the autumn rains because he is faithful. He sends you abundant showers, both autumn and spring rains, as before.*

1 Corinthians 1:9 *“God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.*

1 Corinthians 10:13 *“No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.*

Because Many Biblical people lived faithful lives and honored God!

Noah was faithful

Genesis 6:9 *“This is the account of Noah and his family. Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked faithfully with God.*

Abraham and Isaac were faithful

Genesis 48:15 *“Then he blessed Joseph and said, “May the God before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac walked faithfully, the God who has been my shepherd all my life to this day,*

Moses was faithful

Numbers 12:7 *“But this is not true of my servant Moses; he is faithful in all my house.*

King Hezekiah was faithful

2 Chronicles 31:20 *“This is what Hezekiah did throughout Judah, doing what was good and right and faithful before the Lord his God.*

Timothy was faithful

1 Corinthians 4:17 *“For this reason I have sent to you Timothy, my son whom I love, who is faithful in the Lord. He will remind you of my way of life in Christ Jesus, which agrees with what I teach everywhere in every church.*

Epaphras was faithful

Colossians 1:7 *“You learned it from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf,*

Tychicus was faithful

Colossians 4:7 *“Tychicus will tell you all the news about me. He is a dear brother, a faithful minister and fellow servant in the Lord.*

Why do you need to be faithful?

So that the world can know who can be relied on - Jesus people!

It's what Jesus called for...

Matthew 25:21 *“His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!’*

Galatians 5:22 *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,*

It's what we are known for...

Ephesians 1:1 *Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To God's holy people in Ephesus, the faithful in Christ Jesus:*

Colossians 1:2 *To God's holy people in Colossae, the faithful brothers and sisters in Christ: Grace and peace to you from God our Father.*

1 Peter 4:10 *Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.*

It's our calling - no matter what!

Revelation 2:10 *Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you life as your victor's crown.*

CHALLENGE:

So faithful is about everything we say and do. Jesus said this

Text: Luke 16:10-12 *"Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. 11 So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? 12 And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else's property, who will give you property of your own?"*

This is why being Faithful is so important to get where we want to be...

FC3 wants to be know to be people who are FAITHFUL

Even in the little things!

So that we will be also in the BIG things!

So what areas of your life do you need to be trustworthy or more trustworthy.

Have you been dishonest with little?

Have you been trustworthy with other people's stuff?

Maybe you need to confess and come clean in order to get to the same destination God wants for you, FC3 wants for you and hopefully deep down inside you want for YOU!

GROW:

Grow is our theme for the year and it has been a difficult one so far!

But to grow in this we must lead the way in being faithful

This overflows into every area of life!

Your marriage - Would your spouse say you have been faithful as a spouse?

Your parenting - Would your children say you have been faithful as a parent?

Your occupation - Would your family, boss, co-workers and those you are around daily say you are a faithful person?

Lead the way in faithful living.

The Church needs you to be

The world needs you to be

Your marriage needs you to be

Your children need you to be

Your preacher needs you to be