

Christ Community Covenant Church
"FALL UP"
Alex Mowery – May 19, 2013 – Youth Sunday

Good morning!

For all of you who may not know me, I am Alexander Mowery, I'm 14, and I've been going to this church as long as I've been able to form memories. I have gone through the nursery, super twos and ones, KICK, VBS, all those ministries and through all my church experiences and the things I've experienced outside of this building I have come to identify myself, as most, if not all, of you, as a Christian.

But in today's world being a "Christian" can mean a lot of different things. The media and peers in general call Christians things like; hypocrites, delusional, old fashioned, oblivious, and just flat out confused. Christianity is being judged not as a whole but being defined by the eccentric and memorable.

As a result this has only propelled the fact that there are many *types* of Christians. Most basically there are 4 types of Christians. The first type of Christian is the Christian with a heart of gold; he or she meditates in the Word and puts full faith in God. However, for whatever reason they don't outwardly act on others through their faith and don't like to be identified as a Christian for whatever pressures they may face or feel.

The second type of Christian is nearly opposite. He or she is extremely outwardly Christian and compassionate but has no deep relationship with God. They are weak in faith and yet still identify openly to being a Christian. They wear a "Jesus Shirt" but are not clean in the heart.

The third type of Christian is even weaker in the heart with very little to no relationship with God. This person also owns a so called "Jesus Shirt" but he/she only whips it out whenever they think a benefit might occur. An example of this type of Christian was a used car dealership owner in Montana. For this owner, business was failing. In response, he began to place a Bible on every dash of the cars. Over time this gave him and his dealership a reputation of "fairness and justice". All because of some Bibles! He decided that being a "Christian" at that time would help him and indeed it did.

The final Christian is what we should all strive to be, Christians who search for a relationship with God and yet still emanate God outwardly. They both wear the "Jesus Shirt" *and* have a heart of gold. So overall with these 4 groups and all non-Christians even at a basic level there are a lot of bases that ministries have to reach. The Bible is already long enough and to effectively teach it simply to such demographics is increasingly difficult.

However, the Bible can essentially be broken down into two functions. These being: telling who God is and what he has done *and* what we should do and have done about it. Our actions pertaining to being Christian concern what we *should do*. This function is what ministries most commonly try to teach. The issue is that whether the ministry be VBS, a retreat, a camp, even just a service, they tend to emphasize one side of a spectrum in which a pure heart and faith exists on one side, and a course of action exists on another. And when a ministry does emphasize *both* it begins with telling people to become Christian and then eventually to act.

So how can we reach all these people in a concise yet comprehensive way? The answer is simple; all you have to do to be a true Christian is FALLUP towards God. FALL UP is an acronym each letter standing for an essential pillar of Christianity. (See notes below for the "pillars" with associated texts.)

Faith:

Galatians 3:14—He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit.

Galatians 3:11—Clearly no one who relies on the law is justified before God, because "the righteous will live by faith."

Action:

James 2:17—...faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead

James 2:22—You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did.

Love:

John 15:12—(JESUS) My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.

1 Corinthians 16:14—Do everything in love.

1 John 4:8—Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.

Life:

Romans 10:14-15—How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”

Understanding:

2 Timothy 4:15-17—...you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Prayer:

Acts 2:42—They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer (both action and prayer).

1 Timothy 2:1—First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone.

No matter who you are, no matter where you are in life, you can live and improve your life using these 6 pillars. As humans we can feel alone, unloved, purposeless. A full life in God can fill those holes. But this isn't a checklist. FALL UP is a way of life. You all have struggles, whether they are with you job, family, money, relationships, whatever. And when they pull you down, when anything in this world pulls you down, even gravity, all you have to do is..... FALL UP.