

## **Basic Facts We Must Never Ignore:** By Skip Elmore

Let's begin by clarifying a very common false perception. Christianity defines being a "*Follower of Christ.*" It is not a religion. No, here's why! All "religions", name any, Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Islam, etc. They're all are based on works, fear, or a combination of both. Simply stated, the term "religion" defines humanity seeking a belief in something; anything! Christianity defines a personal "*relationship*" resulting from God reclaiming humanity after the bad choice described early in Genesis.

Now, consider another misconception. Haven't we all, even from our early childhood, harbored a false perception that life should always be fair? Then when it isn't, don't we always, at least subliminally, think someone should come along and make it fair? Well, guess what - life is not fair and it hasn't been since that bad choice in Genesis allowed Satan to replace love, a purpose driven verb - not an emotion, with emotionally driven fear. With this in mind, we do not need to 'like' someone to extend 'love' to them.

See 1st John 4:18. All sin begins with seeds of fear. There was no fear in the garden environment. After Adam ran and hid, none of us struggle learning to be selfish! We must be willing to choose to love as that purpose driven verb, letting God, as Creator, Savior and Lord, reach out to lead us.

So, life is not fair, and love is a verb! Another basic fact humanity continues to overlook is that it's a "cause and effect" world we live in. Everything that happens has a cause, and everything we think, say or do may initiate either a positive or negative effect for ourselves or others. We are all the result of thousands of choices. Most were made before we were born, which contributes to the fact that life is not fair.

Remember, after God referred to Creation as a "spoken" event in the first pages of Genesis, He told us we were made in His image (Genesis 1:26). How many times have we spoken doubt or fear instead of declaring faith and speaking hope and vision to go with it??? Faith needs hope and hope needs faith; like bookends, they need each other. *Death and Life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit.* Proverbs 18:21. It is a "Cause and Effect" world in which we live!

Another fact: God's love is Unconditional!!! How many times have we subliminally reverted to an old false confirmation of self-worth based on remembering poor choices, performance or behavior rather than our new "Position of Worthiness" provided by Grace? Remember, God loved David as much after he committed adultery and murder as before. It was David's confession and repentance that allowed going forward with God's plans.

**So, remember these basic facts we must never ignore!!!**