



27700 Emery Road, Orange Village, OH 44128 (216) 531-2499  
3224 Payne Ave., Cleveland, OH 44114 (216) 621-1412  
www.ClevelandCCC.org

## Pastoral Letter, November, 2017

---

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

God has been so gracious to us for nearly 51 years, and as we look back to 2017 we are mindful of just how the grace of God has sustained us and supplied more than we could ask or ever deserve. Of course, we are thankful that the vision for which we have prayed for a decade has resulted in our new home in Orange Village, and that our old home has sold to another church ministry. Much more than that, we have seen God working in the lives of brothers and sisters, growing them to love Him as they deepen their love and commitment to His Word. As a result, we have seen growth in a number of our ministries.

As I've done occasionally in the past, I'd like to consider a 2017 Christmas Prayer List as we seek God for a fruitful 2018:

**Recovering Reformation.** Celebrating the 500th year of the Reformation in October and considering the keys to that genuine revival in Christ's church, we could see many areas where the modern Protestant church is not so Protestant, even here at C4. May God continue to open the eyes of His church to see that Scripture alone is the church and Christian's authority. As we grow in humble submission to His Word, may we glory in the salvation that God gives through Jesus Christ alone.

I bow down toward Your holy temple and give thanks to Your name for Your steadfast love and Your faithfulness, for You have exalted above all things Your name and Your Word (Psalm 138:2).

*Dear Father, Open our eyes to see the majesty of Your Word. May we seek to know it with all of our mind, to delight in it with all of our heart, to trust it with all of our soul, and to obey it with all of our strength. Revive C4 by reviving our hunger for your Word and our submission to Your name.*

**Growing Holiness.** As we have seen in 1 Peter in recent weeks, our great and glorious salvation is aimed at much more than our entrance into heaven. God is creating for Himself today a holy people, a people devoted totally to Him in all things, so that we might display the righteousness, truth, and love of God in this fallen world. Only when we by faith trust God to fill us with the power of the Holy Spirit to live a holy life will we truly know the fullness of His promise and experience the depths of His love. May we live to honor His holiness more and more in the year to come.

As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct (1 Peter 1:14-15).

*Dear Father, To be like You in Your holiness is the desire of our new hearts. Turn us from sin and help us in the coming year devote our whole selves and all our longings, and all our doings to You. May each part of our life be for You, so that your holiness may be increasingly reflected through C4.*

**Genuine Conversions.** God is on a mission to draw people from every nation, tribe, and language into His eternal kingdom. God reveals His means of reaching His people in Scripture. He takes a people—Christ's Church—and sets them apart in holiness to love one another in truth and proclaim His mighty Word. When God's people growing in holiness and love declare the good news of Christ's death and resurrection, the Holy Spirit convicts men of sin, judgment, and righteousness (John 16:8) and quickens those who are being saved to repentance and saving faith so that they are a new person in Christ. May we see God truly convert more souls through the ministry of C4 in 2018.

Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." (John 3:3).

*Dear Father, Would You be pleased to use us to bring many souls to Christ in 2018? Cause us to walk in holiness and love together so that You may use us to bring conviction of sin, genuine repentance, faith in Christ alone, and new life to many of those You have placed in our lives.*

**True Unity.** The Scriptures reveal that unity in the church is not the product of our efforts to compromise and be nice to each other. Rather, true unity grows as God's people increasingly live according to the power of the new life that God has given to His people. As we feed on and submit to His Word, we are drawn closer to Him, being reshaped according to the likeness of His Son. This is the way of true unity in Christ's church. May God help us to submit to His Word and live by faith in Christ, trusting the power of His life within us, so that our unity will grow strong in the new year.

May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. (Romans 15:5-6).

*Dear Father, Grow us together as You grow our faith, lead us to a deeper obedience to Your Word, and help us to live according to the new life You have given to us. May genuine unity adorn the gospel we preach, display the gospel with greater clarity, and bring new experiences of joy in the body of Christ.*

May God help us to persevere in such prayer this Christmas and always.

Praying with you and for you,

PASTOR HOUSE