

Christ's Love to the End

John 13:1-38

I. THE EXAMPLE OF LOVE (John 13:1-17)

A. The Preparation for the Foot Washing (John 13:1-3)

1. The time of the foot washing (John 13:1-2)
 - a. Before the feast of the Passover (John 13:1)
 - b. When the hour of Christ was come (John 13:1)
 - 1) Defined as the time He should depart
 - a) Out of this world
 - b) Unto the Father
 - 2) The hour for which He came to the world (John 12:27)
 - 3) The hour not yet come (John 2:4; John 7:30; John 8:20)
 - 4) The hour is come (John 12:23; John 13:1; John 16:32; John 17:1)
 - c. When the supper was ended (John 13:2)
 - d. When Judas was set to betray Him (John 13:2); put into his heart by the devil (compare Ezra 7:27; Nehemiah 2:12; Acts 5:3)
2. The love of the Saviour (John 13:1)
 - a. A personal love – “*his own*” (John 10:3-4)
 - b. A condescending love – “*which were in the world*”
 - c. An enduring love – “*unto the end*” (Jeremiah 31:3)
3. The knowledge of the Saviour (John 13:3)
 - a. His knowledge of His power (Matthew 28:18)
 - b. His knowledge of His person (John 3:13)
 - 1) Come from God
 - 2) Went to God

B. The Practice of Foot Washing (John 13:4-5)

1. The actions of the Saviour (John 13:4-5)
 - a. He arose from supper (John 13:4).
 - b. He laid aside His garments (John 13:4).
 - c. He took a towel (John 13:4).
 - d. He girded Himself (John 13:4).
 - e. He poured water into a bason (John 13:5).
 - f. He washed the disciples' feet (John 13:5).
 - g. He wiped their feet with His towel (John 13:5).

2. The biblical custom of washing feet
 - a. Water is offered to the guest to wash his feet (Genesis 18:4; Genesis 19:2; Genesis 24:32; Genesis 43:24; 1 Samuel 25:41).
 - b. A servant will often wash the feet of the guest (John 13:4-5).
 - c. This is an important test of hospitality (Luke 7:44; 1 Timothy 5:10).
 - d. Note: foot washing was always practiced in the home; it is never found in scripture as a practice in the church.
 3. A picture of the incarnation
 - a. Christ left His place in heaven (John 1:18).
 - b. He laid aside His apparent glory (John 1:14).
 - c. He took on the form of a man – towel (Galatians 4:4; Hebrews 2:16-17).
 - d. He took on the form of a servant (Philippians 2:6-8).
 - e. He brought the water of the word (John 15:3).
 - f. He cleansed through the word (John 17:17).
 - g. He condemned sin in the flesh (Romans 8:3).
- C. The Purpose of the Foot Washing (John 13:6-17)
1. The washing of Peter (John 13:6-11)
 - a. His objection (John 13:6)
 - b. His ignorance (John 13:8a) – “*Thou shalt never wash my feet.*”
 - c. His choice (John 13:8b)
 - 1) You must have your feet washed
 - 2) Or else you have no part in Christ (compare Hebrews 12:5-8)
 - d. His extravagance (John 13:9-10)
 - 1) Wash feet, hands, and head (John 13:9)
 - 2) One already washed (John 13:10)
 - a) Is clean every whit (Colossians 2:13)
 - b) Needs only to wash his feet (1John 1:9)
 - 3) Note: observe the paradox of this truth. They are clean every whit; that is, entirely. Yet, they still need to wash their feet. This illustrates the two-fold nature of our cleansing. As to our standing (*position*) before God, we are perfectly righteous in Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 5:21; Ephesians 1:6). However, as to our present relationship, or state (*practice*), we become soiled by the filthiness of this world and need repetitive cleansing (Psalm 32:5; 2 Corinthians 7:1; 2 Timothy 2:21). This is illustrated in the Old Testament tabernacle worship by the Burnt Altar (a type of salvation through the sacrifice of Christ) and the Laver (a type of daily cleansing).

- e. His counterpart (John 13:11) – Judas; “*not all clean*” refers to the presence of one who is not clean. It does not refer to a partial cleansing of believers.

- 2. The lesson brought home (John 13:12-17)
 - a. The question (John 13:12)
 - 1) Jesus finished the washing.
 - 2) He sat down again.
 - 3) He asked them what He had done.
 - b. The contrast (John 13:13-14)
 - 1) I am your Master and Lord (John 13:13).
 - 2) Yet I have washed your feet – the job of a servant (John 13:14).
 - c. The admonition (John 13:14-15)
 - 1) You ought to wash one another's feet (John 13:14).
 - 2) You should follow my example (John 13:15).
 - 3) Note
 - a) Christ is not establishing a new ordinance. There is no record of the New Testament church every practicing foot washing as an ordinance.
 - b) Christ is giving an example of humility and servant-leadership. Those who lead are to be servants. (See Matthew 20:25-28; Matthew 23:10-12; Luke 22:26-27; 1 Corinthians 9:19)
 - c) Christ was also our example in suffering (1 Peter 2:21-24). Yet we are not to follow the steps of His suffering in every detail and seek to be crucified. We are to follow His internal character, not His external actions.
 - d. The point (John 13:16-17)
 - 1) The disciples are under the Christ who washed their feet (John 13:16).
 - a) As His servants
 - b) As His sent ones
 - 2) The disciples are not greater than the Christ (John 13:16).
 - 3) The disciples should follow the example of the Christ (John 13:17).
 - a) Know these things.
 - b) Do these things.
 - c) Be happy in your obedience.