

I. Introduction and Review.

II. Jesus loves you. v. 1

A. His is a knowing love. v. 1a

1. He knew His hour had come. v. 1
2. He knew what His love would cost.
3. He loved voluntarily. 10:11,17

B. His is a particular love. v. 1b 10:15,26,29 17:6-11 6:37 15:19 Eph. 5:25

1. He loved His own.
2. His love for us had nothing to do with our worthiness. Rom. 3:10f I Cor. 1:26f

C. His is an extensive love. v. 1c 15:13 Eph. 3:17-19 Ro. 8:31f

D. His is a condescending love. v. 3 Phil. 2:6-7

1. He was fully aware of His greatness and authority. v. 3,13
2. He chooses to take the lowliest position.

III. Jesus demonstrates His love by serving you. v. 4-11

A. He humbly washes His disciples' feet. v. 4-5

1. He does the duty of the lowliest servant. Gen. 18:4 Lk. 7:44 I Sam. 25:41
2. Jesus is the true servant of the Lord. Phi. 2:5-8 Is. 42:1 49:1-7 52:13f Mk 10:45

B. Jesus' act signifies the spiritual cleansing which only He can give. Mark 10:45

I Jn. 1:7 Titus 2:14 Rev. 1:5

1. The foot washing is a symbolic act, not a magical cleansing.
2. Have you been washed? Ps. 51:7

C. Don't resist His love. v. 6-9

1. Peter objects to the Lord's servanthood. 12:34 Mark 8:31-32
2. People today resist the truth of the cross. I Cor. 1:18f

D. He also provides for our continuing purification. v. 10 Eph. 5:26-27 I Jo. 1:8f

IV. Jesus calls you to be a servant. v. 12-17

A. Imitate His humble love. 13:34-35 I Pet. 5:5 Phil. 2:5 I John 3:16

1. Jesus' teaching comes with the authority of His example. 15:9,12 13:34
2. Is Jesus instituting an ordinance of footwashing?
3. This humble love is not "natural". Luke 22:24
4. Pride holds you back from being useful to the Lord. I Pet. 5:5
5. Put others ahead of yourself. Phil. 2:1-5
6. You are only able to wash the feet of others after He has cleansed you. I Jn. 4:19
II Cor. 5:15

- B. Consider some specific applications. Phil. 2:1-4**
1. Family life. Eph. 5:22f
 - a. Husbands should exercise authority with sacrificial love.
 - b. Wives should serve lovingly and cheerfully
 - c. Children ought to be helpful.
 2. Church.
 - a. Help where help is needed. I Tim. 5:10
 - b. Leaders are servants (ministers). I Pet. 5:3 III Jn. 9f
 - c. Use your gifts to serve. I Pet. 4:10
 - d. Support the ministry of others.
 - e. Take interest in others. 13:35 Rom. 15:1-3
 - f. Honor and encourage those who serve faithfully.
 3. Work. Eph. 6:5-9
 4. Dealing with difficult people. Ro. 15:1-3 Gal. 6:1f Rom. 12:17-21 Mt. 5:43f
- C. There is no legitimate excuse for your selfish pride. v. 13-14 Mt. 10:24**
The time to serve Christ is short.
- D. Christlike humility is the way to greatness and blessing. v. 17 12:26 Ac.20:35**
Mk. 10:43-45 Luke 22:26-27 I Pet. 5:6 Phil. 2:9-11 .

V. Conclusion. I Jn. 4:19

- A. Are you a servant? 13:35
- B. You can't wash the feet of others until He has washed you.

Discussion questions

1. How does the world's idea of greatness differ from the greatness demonstrated by Jesus?
2. What was on Jesus' mind before He washed His disciples' feet?
3. Why does Peter object?
4. What is the symbolic significance of the cleansing Jesus gives?
5. What ongoing cleansing do believers need?
6. What does Jesus want us to do as a result of the example he set?
7. How, in particular, can you apply this at home, in the church, and at work?