

Love One Another **AS I HAVE LOVED YOU**

“Little children, I am with you only a little while longer. You will look for Me, and as I said to the Jews, so now I say to you: ‘Where I am going, you cannot come.’ **A new commandment I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you also must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are My disciples, if you love one another**” (John 13:33-35).

What does that look like?

In John 13, the Apostle John began with Jesus showing his disciples the **FULL extent of his love**. It began with a demonstration of greatness. “He got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciple’s feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him” (John 13:4-5).



The washing of the feet of the disciples mirrors a state of humility that is associated with selfless even slave-like service to others who come into the home. People sold into slavery and those who have lived in destitution appreciate the purchase of their life. In ancient times, living in a hot, dry climate and wearing open footwear brought in a lot of dirt inside the home. The custom was to wash the feet of those coming inside to keep the dirt from being brought in. The foot washing ceremony instituted by Jesus points to a cleansing that takes place at the entrance before entering God’s home. It is an annual reminder for believers to be the servant of servants and humbly wash each other’s feet before entering a holy place.

The Commander of God’s army later known in the New Testament as Jesus Christ stood before Joshua and identified the first step in cleansing, the removal of dirty shoes. “The commander of

the LORD's army replied, 'Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy.' And Joshua did so" (Joshua 5:15).



The same command was given to Moses by Almighty God. "When the LORD saw that he had gone over to look, God called out to him from within the bush, "Moses, Moses!" "Here I am," he answered. "Do not come any closer," God said. "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground" (Exodus 3:4-5).

The removal of the foot wear covered in dirt is the first step and the second is the washing of the feet to remove additional uncleanness. God's holy place is clean,

no trace of sin. Coming into God's holy place is a two-step process. Baptism is the first step and living life in humility and righteously is the second step.

After washing the disciple's feet, Jesus said, "Do you understand what **I have done for you?**" (John 13:12b). It is Jesus Christ who initiated the second cleansing step—the washing and removal of dirt from off their feet was a mirror of their spirit walk before God to ensure they remain on the straight and narrow prior to entering His home. Receiving God's Holy Spirit after baptism makes the full extent of love possible for followers of Christ.

Jesus said, "You call me '**Teacher**' and '**Lord**', and **rightly so, for that is what I am**" (John 13:13). God's faithful body of people have **ONE TEACHER, Jesus Christ—the head of the body**. The body of the church does not comprise of hierarchical compartments separating one from another but rather, a family. "Don't let anyone call you 'Rabbi,' for **YOU HAVE ONLY ONE TEACHER**, and **all of you are equal as brothers and sisters**. And **do not call anyone on earth your father, for you have one Father, who is in heaven**. Neither be called instructors, for **you have ONE INSTRUCTOR, that is, Christ**" (Matthew 23:8, 10).





Jesus, as their only Teacher, set the example for his students to do the same for their brothers and sisters who are following Christ. His example taught them to humbly and in righteousness remove the dirt—the misconceptions, misinformation and disinformation from the walk of their brothers and sisters in Christ, so that they remain on the straight and narrow path towards God's home. Jesus confirmed their understanding of him as their Teacher. He said, "You call me '**Teacher**' and '**Lord**', and **rightly so, for that is what I am**'. As their Teacher, he added, "I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. **I have set an example that you should do as I have done for you.**" Then Jesus added, the cornerstone of truth, "I tell you the truth, **no servant is greater than his master**, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him" (John 13:16). The disciples are the servants; God Almighty is their master. Jesus Christ is the messenger; God Almighty sent him. Nobody is greater than God Almighty, the Source of all power and life. The understanding Jesus made clear to his disciples was that everyone on earth and in heaven is subject to Almighty God. The mistake Satan and his followers have made is that they believe as a coalition that they can overthrow Almighty God. Their pride and arrogance are the poison that has twisted and darkened their thoughts into a futile rebellion. Jesus concluded, "Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you **DO** them" (John 13:17). Jesus wants his followers to walk humbly with God (Micah 6:8).

Jesus then prophesied his betrayal as a witness to his disciples that he is the One that God has sent to save them. "I am telling you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe that I am He" (John 13:19). Mankind is easy prey to deception. Even after Jesus had died and rose, he had to prove himself as their Saviour.

"Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him.

And he said to them, ‘What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?’

They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, ‘Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?’

He asked them, ‘What things?’

They replied, ‘The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a **prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people**, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But **we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel [all twelve tribes]**. Yes, and besides all this, it is **now the third day** since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.’

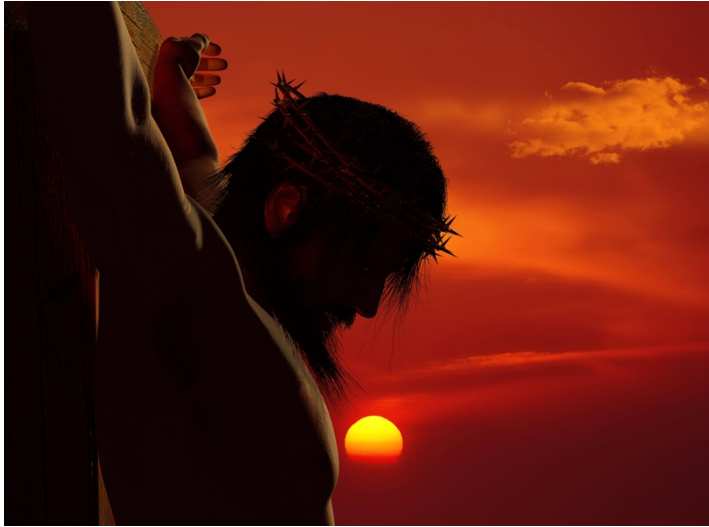


Then he said to them, ‘Oh, **how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared!** Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter his glory.’ **And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.**

When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. **Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him**, and he disappeared from their sight... They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together and saying, **‘It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon’**” (Luke 24:13-27, 30-31, 33-34).

The witness of Jesus as the Saviour for the Jews, their brothers in the ten tribes and for all of mankind was extensive and complete. It was evident that some of Jesus’ followers hoped that he would rule as their King and Lord then and there, but they did not understand the process of salvation. Paying the penalty for sin made possible redemption through God’s grace and still the important second step—the receiving of God’s Holy Spirit, so that they could learn to walk in God’s way of love to the full extent.

Christ's death on the cross was yet another example of his love for all of mankind. **"Who, existing in the form of God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, HE HUMBLIED HIMSELF and became OBEDIENT TO DEATH—even DEATH ON A CROSS"** (Philippians 2:6-8).



The core of Christ is to do the will of his Father. He does not seek to challenge his Father—**"did not consider equality with God something to be grasped,"** (Philippians 2:6) instead he remains a humble servant, even to the point of being beaten beyond human recognition, shamed and death on the cross. His love for his church and mankind is without a doubt, genuine and eternal. His capacity to love goes beyond the ability of mortals. Only by being filled with God's Holy Spirit can this sacrificial love be expressed.

It will be both a deeply emotional and humbling revelation for deceived mankind when they learn that Jesus who is God—the Son, willingly submitted to becoming mortal and suffering, so that he could save creation on earth and truly understand the human experience—the weaker vessel and intercede for mankind before God, the Father.

"For this reason, he had to be made like his brothers in every way, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, in order to make atonement for the sins of the people" (Hebrews 2:17).

His sacrifice for his church and all of mankind demonstrates the depth of **his commitment for our success and his love**, which flows out **"wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God"** (Ephesians 3:18-19).

Christ demonstrated to what extent love can go. **"This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. You are My friends if you do what I command you"** (John 15:12-14).

Followers of Christ are his friends of whom, he gladly laid down his life to save them. His example will be witnessed in another group of people during the Great Tribulation. **"Then I heard a loud voice shouting across the heavens, 'It has come at last— salvation and power and the Kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ. For the accuser of our brothers and sisters has been thrown down to earth— the one who accuses them before our God day and**

night. **They have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and BY THE WORD OF THEIR TESTIMONY.** And **they did not love their lives so as to shy away from death**" (Revelation 12:10-11).

These followers of Christ will demonstrate their great love for God and Christ as many have done throughout the ages, during the time of great distress. They will not shy away from dying to stand against a powerful coalition of rogue heavenly rulers, powers and authorities who arrive on earth, having been thrown out of heaven, and witness before them to the whole world the testimony of Jesus Christ. In doing so, **they will conquer Satan.** They will gladly put their life on the line and die, if necessary, to bring truth to the world. They will stand loyal and strong working with God and Christ to awaken people from the spell of deception and in turn, save them. They understand the full extent of loving one another, **desiring that all come into repentance, be given grace by God and welcomed into the family of God as a righteous royal, ruling member.**

"The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead **he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance**" (II Peter 3:9). Christ followers endure patiently because they want to see all of mankind repent and enjoy eternal peace and love.

It will be visually evident who are truly the disciples of Christ because they will do as he did. "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever" (Hebrews 13:8). They will exhibit all of the properties of love outlined by the Apostle Paul in I Corinthians 13:4-7:

- Suffers long, patient
- Kind
- Does not envy
- Does not brag
- Not puffed up, proud or arrogant
- Not rude
- Not self-seeking
- Not easily angered
- Keeps no record of wrongs
- Does not rejoice in iniquity
- Rejoices in truth
- Protects
- Eager to believe the best in others
- Does not lose hope even when repeatedly disappointed
- Provides the power to endure anything.

The same will carefully help one another, recognizing the vulnerability of being humble God-fearing and God-serving people in this angry and dark age saturated in sin.

They put on the armour of God and without compromise, they seek to apply the wisdom of God in responding to adversity having a mindset that is striving to achieve peace, even when it is not

immediate. They will search out medicinal and nourishing words for each matter individually. Peacemakers bring a delightful aroma to our Father in the third heaven, like seeing an exquisite display of golden apples in settings of silver.

Christ came not to do away with the law but to expound on it. The six commands after loving God are all components to how to love your fellow brothers and sisters. Christ brought to the surface the depth of loving one another when he gave the disciples a new command. He said that they should

love one another **as he loved them**. He demonstrated the **full extent** of loving one another. He came to serve as the servant of all; he died to save all twelve tribes of Israel and people from all nations on earth; he did the will of His Father and spoke only His Father's words. The Father and the Son work as one to save mankind. Christ's followers have joined that team and work to awaken and save by living as Christ lived and declaring the testimony of Jesus.



All of mankind have sinned; one is not better than the other. Yet, from out of sin through the work of God's hands, a rebirth takes place that opens the eyes to the pain on self and others from wickedness. God's second creation, repentant mortal man on earth, will overcome through suffering and grow into perfection to become a holy kingdom of royal priests.

The New Testament echoes God's objective for the followers of Christ. "But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light" (1 Peter 2:9).

Whether Old Testament or New Testament, God's objective hasn't changed. "And unto Me you shall be a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words that you are to speak to the Israelites" (Exodus 19:6).

Christ appearing like a sacrificed lamb, was the only one who was worthy to take the scroll and the four living creatures and the 24 elders sang a new song, "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and **with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation. You have made them to be a kingdom of priests to serve our God**" (Revelation 5:9-10).

Repentant Old Testament Israel, New Testament Israel and people from every tribe, language and nation will be blessed to be part of a holy kingdom of royal priests.

God will accomplish His work in man forging an unbreakable loyalty to serve and love their Creator, the Source of all power and life and they will never look back. They will discover the full extent of love and embrace it with all their heart, mind, soul and strength and never again will they be turned away from our gracious, enduring and loving Father in heaven.

Compiled by Janette Andrejowich