



Kingdom Covenant Church

THE SACREMENT OF FOOT WASHING

John 13:1-17

WHAT IS FOOT WASHING?

Foot Washing is a sacrament instituted by Jesus Christ to enable man to fulfill the law of God...
"Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." Lev 19:18, Matt 5:17-18, Rom 13:10

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF FOOT WASHING?

Just as Baptism removes the enmity in us against God and enables us to love God, so foot washing removes the enmity in us against our brother and enables us to love our brother as we love ourselves.

If I then, your Lord and teacher (Master) have washed your feet, you ought – it is your duty, you are under obligation, you owe it- to wash one another's feet. For I have given you this as an example, so that you should do (in turn) what I have done to you. (John 13:14-15 AMP)

WHAT IS THE ENMITY THAT IS IN US AGAINST OUR BROTHERS?

We think too highly of ourselves; we long to rule over others and we seek only after our own interest.

For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith. (Romans 12:3) I Cor 13:4-5

WHY DID JESUS WASH THE FEET OF THE DISCIPLES?

He washed the feet of the disciples to show them that they were to become “servants” of the Lord by serving one another.

And he sat down and called the twelve and saith unto them, If any man desires to be first, the same shall be last of all, and servant to all. (Mark 9:35) Gal 5:13-14, Matt 20:26-28

HOW DID THIS PREPARE THE DISCIPLES TO PREACH THE GOSPEL?

Christ washed the feet of the disciples to make their feet beautiful- to create a bond of unity among them that would make them a team, an army, to bring the Gospel to the world in word and example.

And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace. (Ephesians 6:15)

Peter saith unto him, thou shalt never wash my feet, Jesus answered him, If I was thee not, thou hast no part with me. (John 13:8)

DID THE WASHING OF THE DISCIPLES FEET CHANGE THEM?

Yes. The disciples who quarreled among themselves for place and preferment, repented and received the gift of love. The multitude marveled how they loved one another.

And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own: but they had all things common. And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all. (Acts 4:32-33)

HOW DO WE PREPARE OURSELVES FOR FOOT WASHING?

By repenting of our pride and enmity against our brother and by allowing the Spirit to give us understanding of the Word, so that we have faith to receive the gift of love.

WHAT DOES THE SACRAMENT OF FOOT WASHING DO FOR US IN RELATIONSHIP TO OTHERS?

Through the Sacrament of Foot Washing:

1. The Holy Spirit reveals to us that we are servants of Christ and of one another.
2. The enmity against our brother is removed so that we can love one another.
3. Barriers are broken down and a bond of unity is produced among the members of the Body of Christ.
4. The alienated and wayward brother is restored back into the Body of Christ.

And make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way: but let it rather be healed. (Hebrew 12:13) Gal 6:1, Eph 5:25-26

WHAT ARE THE BLESSINGS OF FOOT WASHING?

The blessings of foot washing are these:

1. It removes all that has defiled us in our daily walk as members of the Body of Christ.
2. It works a deep spiritual work in our heart.
3. It unites hearts in Christian fellowship and love.
4. It teaches humility and willingness to serve other followers of Christ.
5. It rebukes selfishness and the desire to rule others.
6. It makes us worthy communicants of the Lord's Supper.
7. It prepares our feet to take the Gospel of Peace to the world.

Note: Foot washing may be considered the continuing witness of the water, just as Communion is the witness of the blood and the Holy Spirit is the witness of the Spirit on earth.

For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the word and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one. And there are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit and the water and the blood and these three agree in one. (1 John 5:7-8)

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