

The Gospel of John/SS – John 13:1-17/Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet

A. The Purpose of the Footwashing

1. Foreshadow of the atonement/crucifixion (13:1-11)
2. Illustrative for sanctification (13:9-10)
3. Christian works (13:12-17)

B. What are some reasons why we shouldn't instituted "footwashing" as a sacrament?

1. It was an example/illustration a Christian lifestyle, not an establishment of an ordinance (13:14; Lk 22:27; Mt 20:26-28; Mk 10:42-45; 1 Tim 5:10; 1 Pet 2:21-25).
2. One is made clean by the atoning work of Christ administered through the word of the gospel, not a physical act by which grace is enacted (15:3; 17:7; 1 Jn 1:7-10).

C. What is an equivalent act of service to that of "footwashing" today and how should we rightly apply Christ's commission to go and do likewise?

1. Christ said that this was an example of what we ought to do to one another, that is, among fellow-believers. In fact, in 13:35, Jesus points out that it will be this "love" that we have for each other which will evidence that we are in fact his disciples, or simply that we *are* disciples.
2. What is the other context in which Jesus uses the same argument as in 13:16?
 - a. John 15:20
 - b. Matt 10:24ff
 - c. Acts 8:32; Rom 8:36 [Ps 44:22]

Applications:

- 1) **In order to have your sins removed, you must have them washed away by Jesus Christ (1 Jn 1:7).**
- 2) **We must not show partiality as doers of the word (James 1-2).**
- 3) **We must let Christ serve us.**
- 4) **Christians must take on the form of a servant.**
- 5) **Christians must be characterized by their humility.**
- 6) **We must recognize Christ as both our Teacher and Lord.**
- 7) **Christians must continually repent of sins which are still only wiped away by the cleansing work of the Savior.**