Thou Shalt and We Will  (JL-78)  John 13:12-17
Sunday, December 17, 2005

We have come to the final Passover meal, which Jesus *eagerly desired* to eat with His disciples.

The *synoptic accounts* of this evening explain how Jesus *initiated the Lord’s Supper*. John does *not* give this detail, instead John will focus on the *teachings* from that night.

He is *more interested* in *principles* and *significance* than with *specific events*.

With the *exception* of this one event, which John records and the others do not … the *washing of the disciples’ feet*.

In the *synoptic accounts* of the events of this evening, we read that *before* Jesus arrived, there was a *dispute* that took place *among the disciples* as to *who would be the greatest*.

What they do not mention, but John *does*, is the *ACTION* that Jesus takes to *rebuke* their *lack of humility* … as He, Himself, the *Lord and Master* washes their feet.

As Jesus was *preparing to suffer* on the Cross, his *disciples were fighting among themselves* who is the greatest disciple? - While they acted in *conceit* toward one another, their *Lord and Master* *stooped down* and *acted* as their servant.
Jesus washed their feet.
The feet of those who were just sinning
by boasting in the pride of their hearts.

- It was the eve of His crucifixion,
His betrayer is right there and Jesus knows this…

With all of this considered,
it makes Christ's humility even more astonishing.

As He washes the feet of prideful, boastful, arrogant men
On the eve when He would have rightly been preoccupied
with his own impending death.

What Jesus does though, is so much more than merely a rebuke of the foolishness of the disciples …

it is so much more than merely a foot washing …

It was more than simply a replacement for the hand-washing ceremony of the Passover …

this was no mere ritual going on here …

- Historically, the church has reduced this passage’s understanding
to merely the action …

Emphasizing the establishment of the sacrament of foot-washing.

But John is not interested in ceremony …
he is not interested in rituals, theatrical practices
and sacraments …

- Others take this story as nothing more than an illustration and lesson
in humility and Christian service.

But it is much more!

This is a parable in action
This was a foreshadow of the cross itself, and a portrait of Christ as He left His throne of heaven to take on flesh, become sin and die on a tree.

In this passage we see justification, forgiveness, sanctification, glorification, the deity of Christ, His humiliation as man

Chapter 13

In vivid detail, John paints the picture for us … beginning in verse 1:

Now before the feast of the passover, when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end.

And during supper, the devil having already put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him; Jesus knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he was come from God, and went to God; rose from supper, and laid aside his garments; and took a towel, and girded himself.

Jesus rises from supper, he lays aside his outer garments –

Just as the Eternal Word of God, leaves the Father’s bosom,
Where He is the Father’s delight
Where He enjoyed perfect fellowship
He divests Himself of His outward glory.
He sets aside His eternal nature …

As Paul wrote:

"Being in very nature God, he did not consider equality with God something to be grasped"

He took a towel and girded himself

He assumed the place of a lowly slave –
"He made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant"

verse 5 …

After that he poured water into a basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel wherewith he was girded. Then he came to Simon Peter: and Peter said unto him, Lord, dost thou wash my feet?

This washing symbolizes the spiritual work of cleansing that he was about to accomplish on Calvary's Cross.

What a beautiful parable of his mission in coming to this world: the Lord of Glory, God in the flesh, strips off his kingly robe, puts on the garb of a menial servant, condescends to humbly kneel to lovingly wash the feet of his own.

What humility … yet it is only a prelude of the greater humiliation that will follow, 24 hours later, as Jesus lays down his life on the Cross –

"He humbled himself and became obedient to death - even death on a cross!"

This is Jesus' mission in life. This is why he came into the world – (Mark 10) not to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

continuing in verse 7 of John 13

Jesus answered and said unto him, What I do, thou know not now; but thou shalt know hereafter.

Peter said unto him, Thou shalt never wash my feet. Jesus answered him, If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me. Simon Peter said unto him, Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head.
Jesus said to him, *He that is washed need only to wash his feet, but is completely clean: and ye are clean, but not all. For he knew who should betray him; therefore said he, Ye are not all clean.*

Here we see the **double washing** for the believer that Bill spoke about last week …

*first*, the **washing of his entire person** …

the **once for all washing** that comes when a man is *justified by faith alone.*

But beyond this,

Christ **loved the church** and gave *Himself up for her,*

the book of Ephesians tells us

*that He might sanctify and cleanse* her with the

**washing of water by the Word** …

The **same portrait** is *painted* in the **Old Testament** in the

**sanctification** of the high priest …

Though Aaron and his sons were **consecrated** …

they bathed their entire bodies, *nevertheless,*

they needed to *wash* their **hands** and **feet** at the laver

before entering the **inner court** of the **tabernacle**.

In the **New Testament**, when the Roman soldier *pierced the side*

of the **dead Savior**, John, who was an **eye witness** to it,

conveys what he saw:

*“came there out blood and water.”*

Again a **picture**, that **in the cross**, the **blood**

satisfies the demand of a **holy God** against **sin**

and provides **propitiation,**

while the **water** meets the needs to **sanctify** a **defiled people.**

These are **pictures** of how **Christ serves us,**

by **daily washing our feet** …

with the **water of the Word of God**
verse 12 …

So after he had washed their feet, and had taken his garments, and was set down again, he said unto them, *Know ye what I have done to you?*

Today Jesus Christ asks us the same thing …

Do you know what I have done for you?

Jesus Christ was not content with his disciples being completely clean …

Likewise today, He is not content that you are “saved.”

It is never enough to say, “I’m saved, I’m going to heaven when I die.”

Eternal life is not something reserved for the future …

Eternal life is KNOWING GOD …

It is a living, abiding, continual walk with Jesus Christ.

It not a decision we once made

It is about love and fellowship with the Almighty, Holy One …

in heaven, … yes, but also right now, today, on earth.

Jesus Christ washed His disciples feet because He cared about their fellowship IN THIS LIFE …

Later that evening, He would turn to His own, whom He loved unto the end, and say,

“no longer do I call you slaves, but I call you friends.”

He could not do this unless He first washed their feet.

And He says the same thing to us today …

Turn to Hebrews 9.
This philosophy of … “I’m saved and that’s all that matters …
I’m going to heaven when I die … and that’s all that matters.”

That’s **not** Christian.
It **ignores** the **daily process** of **sanctification**.
The **daily walk** of **life**.
It **ignores** a **relationship** in the **here and now**.

Jesus Christ must **wash us with the Word** of God **today**
**in this life** if we are going to fellowship with Him!

It is **non-optional**.

It was **not enough** for Him, that He just **saved us** …
So He must also **wash us daily** in the Scripture.

And every day we **refuse** to read the Word of God,
we are being like Peter … telling God …
“Thou shalt not wash my feet!”

Hbr 9:13-14

... if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an
heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies to the purifying of the
flesh: How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through
the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, **purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God**?

The **blood of Jesus Christ** … the **cross** …
not only **saves**, but **purifies**!

It **purges our conscience**.

It **must**, if we will be able to **draw near to God**.

It **must** if we are going to be **friends of God**.

Turn to Hebrews 10:22
Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.

We must experience the daily washing of the Word, to be able to draw near to God.

John 17 and Ephesians 5 tell us that the means of this washing is the Word of Truth, God’s Word!

Every night when we go to bed, there is a pail of water by your bed side … Jesus is there saying … I want to wash you … I want to wash off the grime that you picked up from the world today.

And every time you instead of permitting Him this service, we turn on the TV or read the newspaper or turn on your computer, or whatever … we’re saying … “Thou shalt not wash my feet”

God has given us in His Word a fuller’s soap … And we must bathe in it daily.

The context is sanctification!

That is the MANNER in which Christ serves.

He SERVES us by washing us … by sanctifying us.

As holiness, is not keeping a bunch of blue laws, so Christian service is not stuffing envelopes for Jesus. Its not meeting a phone call quota Or as the JWs do, meeting a quota of door bells to ring.

Often when we hear of service or ministry, we immediately think of it as what we do for the church.
Our ministry is **what we volunteer to do** to keep a ministry operating.

The **church** has taken **as** its model, **corporate America**, where everyone’s “service” is **like their job**.

They **put in their hours**.

**God is supposed to be happy** because of what they **do**.

They are **fooled** to **believing** that their **sanctification** is **taking place** based upon their **service** …

**But … its deceptive.**

Because the **busiest** people in the church, **appear** the **holiest**.

At least in **people’s eyes**

We give them **titles** … make them **feel important**.

They’re **propped up** … **lifted up** before others.

I am **deacon so and so**; this is **minister so and so**

I am **pastor so and so** …

It **plays** right into the **pride of man**.

There is **nothing** man **craves more than a title**.

Meanwhile, his **family** looks at him and says:

Pastor **so and so**; Deacon **so and so** … (hmmm)

In many of today’s churches, **service** has become a **replacement** for **sanctification**.

And **such service** becomes a **counterfeit** of **sanctification**.

People are **pressed into service** before there is any **progress** in their **sanctification** …

And **ministry** becomes their way to **appease God**.
I may not be patient, joyful, kind, and peaceful, but hey, I’m chief sound engineer at my church, that must count for something.

Men are made teachers, with no care of their home life.

Some are pressed into service before they are even a Christian!

The fruit of one’s sanctification the is no longer gentleness, goodness, faithfulness, kindness, love, joy, peace, and patience … but is now,

- How many meetings you can attend
- How many young people you can get to attend your rally
- How many books you’ve read
- How many countries you go to on missions trips.
- How good a preacher you are
- How skilled a musician you are

The Scripture speaks of ONE appropriate Christian service … and it is not stuffing envelopes, cleaning bathrooms, making phone calls, leading music, teaching, going on mission trips, or even pastoring.

Romans 12 tells us that we are to render our bodies a living sacrifice holy and acceptable to God … THAT is our one reasonable act of service.

Christ saved us, and He also washes us!

THIS is the MANNER in which He serves.

THIS is the EXAMPLE He is setting for US in washing our feet.

God did not just save you and leave you to your own devices … We would surely destroy ourselves.

But thankfully, Titus 2:11-12 tells us that the very same grace which brought salvation also
teaches us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ.

How humbling a thing it is to discover that all that time in our Christian walk that we were trying to live a Christian life …

That even as redeemed people, we could not do it … And that we must rely upon the same grace that made us alive to be able to walk.

Do you know this?
That’s what Jesus is asking …

**Know ye what I have done to you?**

Do you know what He did for you to secure your sanctification?

(I mean were all pretty familiar with the verses of Scripture that teach us of God’s work in salvation…)

But once we turn to sanctification, we seem to forget that this also is a work of God.

We tend to look at sanctification merely as it occurs on a human level:

**But Jesus says,**

**Know ye not what I have done to you?**

We look at our repentance, for example and say, Oh, I have repented of this sin …

But Jesus tells us, **Know ye not that I have granted you repentance?**

We say, “I see my life more sanctified”
God says, “I am the God who sanctifies you.”

We say, “I am growing into the image of Christ”
He says, “Know ye not that you are being transformed by My glory”
We say, “Look at my good works.”
“Know ye not, that God prepared them beforehand”

“I work out my salvation with fear and trembling”
“Know ye not, that it is God who works in you to both will and work.”

We look upon our growth in moral excellence, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, kindness, and love ...

Know ye not that these are only because you are a partaker of the DIVINE NATURE.

We see fruit in our lives … joy, peace, patience, etc.
Know ye not that you bear fruit only as you remain in the vine.

We see our love for others
Know ye not, that you only love because He first loved you.

We see ourselves doing God’s will
Know ye not that it is He who will make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight,

You say, “I love God”
Know ye not that the LORD your God will circumcise your heart, so that you will love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live.

You say, “I find it easier to obey God’s commands”
Know ye not, that that God has said, I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances.

Know ye not what I have done for you?

Do you KNOW this?

How do you think of your relationship with the Lord?
Do you serve Him or does He serve you?
Before you are too quick to answer, 
ponder the idea that you **cannot** serve God 
**unless** He has *first* served you.

It is a **sin** to attempt to serve God, if He has not *FIRST* served you.

And its a **great error** of the church to place people into ministry 
to whom Jesus Christ has **not served** and **sanctified**.

And we wonder why people **burn out** …

In the **parable of the talents** in Matthew 25,
the man who **buried his talent, did so**
because he believed the **master** to be a **hard man**.
A man, it says, who **sowed where he did not reap** …
Who **gathered where he did not plant**.

Sadly, many see God in this way – perhaps without realizing it.

If you have ever looked upon **your service** as a **burden** …
you are saying in essence, that God is a **hard man**.
God is **requiring** this **hard task of me**.
He is **demanding** what He **does not deposit**
He is **reaping** where He **does not sow**.

*If we do not realize* that God will **only require**
that of us which He **graciously supplies** …
We will **surely get bitter serving** in **our own strength**.

And don’t be fooled … there’s a lot you can do **on you own strength** …
but it will **amount to nothing**!

**Anytime** you **seek to serve apart** from the **ability** that God has *first* given,
you are saying that **God** is a
**hard man who reaps where He does not sow**.
Anytime you fail to acknowledge Him as the SOURCE of your service, you render your service unfruitful.

God-glorifying service first must recognize its source, or else it becomes arrogant and self-serving.

It is then that we get burnt out and bitter.

At times, subtly, our approach to serving God may actually be a cloak for our pride, as was the case in Peter’s unwillingness to have his feet washed by Jesus Christ.

When we take the … “I can do it” “I can handle it” “I don’t need any help” mentality … Our service will become fruitless.

In washing the disciples’ feet, Jesus takes the initiative in serving them first. It is then, His service unto us that enables us to respond in serving others.

The pail was there in the upper room … it probably lied in the corner … and one by the one the disciples passed it by … any of them could have picked it up – but there was no glory in that.

They were too occupied about being a greater disciple … While the means of their true greatness was there before them.

But they could not see it … mankind fails to see the exaltation of humiliation.
God’s way of greatness is **humble yourself**, and **He will exalt you in due season**

Man will *always* have his eyes on something **bigger** and **better**. He will *always* **crave more glory** … **bigger crowds** … **more notoriety**

**Be aware** of this my brothers and sisters, **lest it happen to us!**

Things can *start out right*, and *quickly go sour* … when **pride** rears its ugly head.

Let **our greatness** **ALWAYS** be in **bearing** the **basin** and **towel**.

When you enter a room, **look** for the **basin** and **towel** … **It's there** … there is a **basin** and **towel** in **every situation** you enter.

There is a **basin** and **towel** **in relationships**, **in families, in churches, on your jobs** …

In fact, **Man not only will not**, but **CANNOT serve** on His own initiative.

But **because** Jesus Christ has **served us first**, we can **serve!**

As God says in Ezekiel 36:27, **I will, and you shall**, so we must say, “**Thou shalt and we will**”

**Thou shalt work in us both to will and to do, and therefore we will work out our own salvation**” (Philp 2:12-13).
Thou shalt enlarge my heart, then we will run the way of thy commandments (Psa 119:32).

Thou shalt draw men, and I will run after you (S of S 1:4)

When Christ pours out his Spirit upon His church, we are quickened in our ability to serve Him with cheerfulness.

It is God’s power with which we will naturally serve.

2 Pet 1:3-4

His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.

When Philip was drawn to Christ, he naturally drew Nathanael – he didn’t need to fulfill a quota of door bells to ring.

Likewise, as Christ works first on our behalf, THEN ... our witness,
our work of service to others,
our giving, or
any of God’s commandments for that matter, will be not be burdensome (I Jn 5:3),
it will not be compulsory or obligatory,
but rather the cheerful outflow of a heart FIRST served by God.

And our duty becomes a delight.

We won’t need a check-list to know how we are to serve. We won’t need a supervisor to tell us how many phone calls we should make in a week to encourage our brother or sister …
Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you.

Ye should do as I have done

There it is again

Thou shalt, and we will ...

But what is it that we will do?

Serve.

How is that we serve?

I hope you will now appreciate, why I spent so much time earlier emphasizing the context …

Because if Jesus is saying to the disciples, you should do as I have done … we can misunderstand WHAT it is we are supposed to do … if we did not take careful notice of what He did.

Many a pastor has preached on these verses in order to motivate his church to serve more and take on ministries in the church … but that is NOT the kind of service the text is teaching.

Jesus washed His disciples feet … which was a picture of His sanctifying them.

He does what is necessary and stops at no lengths to ensure our sanctification.

As He has done, so we ought to do to each other.

That is we must be willing to be involved in each other’s sanctification.
We need to be investing in each other’s holiness.

If we see any stain resting on the feet of our brother, we must not hide from it …

we must be willing to lovingly confront one another.

Why is this so hard for us? Why do we have such a hard time washing one another?

Mayonnaise illustration.

Take a napkin and wipe the mayonnaise off of your brother’s chin!

Why are we so afraid to speak the truth in love to each other? Why is it that we are so concerned about fearing man, that we can never say to him what he is doing wrong?

It’s not like we’re to be Pharisees –

judging one another … picking out the speck in our brother’s eye, while we have a beam in ours.

There is no joy in magnifying someone else’s sin

Scripture makes it clear that LOVE seeks to cover a multitude of sin … LOVE does not seek to gossip of the sins of another …

The book of James 4:11 warns us not to

speak against one another, brethren. He who speaks against a brother, or judges his brother, speaks against the law, and judges the law;

and in James 5:9

Do not complain, brethren, against one another, that you yourselves may not be judged;

Rather, LOVE seeks to help a brother overcome, without exposing it to others.
Such a serving LOVE will, when necessary, 
not shy away from admonishing.

The TRUE servant seeks to remove the stain of sin 
and does not wish any of the consequences of sin 
to befall his brother or sister.

For this reason, the New Testament is full of commands to 
admonish, encourage, reprove, exhort …

But if I am going to do this, it requires that I get down 
to my brother’s feet … 
I must be able to stoop low to wash feet.

Gal 6: 1-2 reminds us …

Brethren, even if a man is caught in any trespass, you who 
are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each 
one looking to yourself, lest you too be tempted. Bear one 
another’s burdens, and thus fulfill the law of Christ.

Take note that even here in Galatians 6, the context of serving your brother 
the bearing of one another’s burdens that fulfills the law of Christ 
has to do with restoring a brother found in sin.

You see, it is involved in their sanctification

The servant seeks to stoop down to the feet of the offender 
and help him remove their guilt and shame …

He seeks to help bear their burden …
He seeks to serve in THIS way …

its not easy … but it is necessary.

THIS is the kind of service and burden-bearing we are called to …
You can be the most gifted preacher, if your motivation for preaching is anything other than washing your brothers and sister’s feet, it is self-seeking.

You can be a great administrator, if your organization is not with an eye of the sanctification of the church … it will come to naught.

In Romans chapter 12, Paul warned against thinking more highly of yourself than you ought. He said, prophesy, teach, exhort, lead, give, serve … whatever …

Do it knowing that you can only do it because of the measure of faith that God has FIRST given you!

In order to serve in this way, you must … Romans 12 continues …

Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; giving preference to one another in honor;

You must, as Peter put it:

Clothe yourselves with humility toward one another

And as Paul wrote in Philippians 2:

Doing nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more important than himself;

If this same attitude is in you, which was in Christ Jesus, then you are being a servant to your brother after the manner that Christ was on that Passover eve.

And the more responsibility you bear in the body of Christ, the more this applies.

Jesus said, If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet.
He said, “I’m giving you this example.”

We **cannot ignore** that this and other texts like Lu 22:26

\[ \text{but let him who is the greatest among you become as the youngest, and the leader as the servant.} \]

These have a **peculiar application** to the **Christian leaders** …

The **body of Christ** is **looking** to **Christian leaders** for their example, and **too often** they are **lording over the flock**

**Pastors, elders, teachers** … are **SHERPHERDS** … NOT LORDS!

**There is ONE LORD**

This has **always** been an issue in the church … John wrote of in 3 John vss. 9-10 …

**I wrote unto the church: but Diotrephes, who loves to have the preeminence among them, received us not.**

**So if I come, I will bring up what he is doing, talking wicked nonsense against us. And not content with that, he refuses to welcome the brothers, and also stops those who want to and puts them out of the church.**

It **happened in Israel, it happened in the first church, it happened throughout church history, and it continues today.**

**How many a dark page of Church History would not have been written if shepherds would heed Christ’s words:**

**If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet.**

That night Christ **demonstrated how spiritual love operates**

He showed us the **MANNER in which we are called to serve one another**
Such **service** seeks ONLY the **GOOD** of its objects, and **esteems** nothing **too lowly** to **secure** that end.

All of the things that we think of service being …

Stuffing envelopes, cleaning bathrooms, making phone calls, leading music, teaching, going on mission trips, and pastoring.

While *they themselves* are **not service** …

they **can be true manifestations** of **service,**

*if we do what we do* to **bear another’s burden** …

*if the end of such service*

is the **GOOD** of our brother or sister.

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**What are some other ways that we can be a servant to one another?**

1 Pet 4:9-11

*Be hospitable to one another without complaint. As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.*

We can have our *family in Christ* as *guests* in our home –

*showing hospitality* – to *minister* to them – to **be a blessing** to them.

Hbr 10:24-25

*let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more, as you see the day drawing near.*

When you **don’t see** your *brother or sister* at service,

you can **pick up a phone, give them a call, pay them a visit** …

**stimulated them** to **not forsake the assembly** of the saints.

This idea of *live and let live* … is a **product of Satan** …

It was Cain who said, “*Am I my brother’s keeper?*”

We must **see ourselves** as *each other’s keeper* …
Such **cannot** take place by *merely* spending a few hours together **on Sunday morning**!

We must **break out of our comfort zones** and **truly love one another** – **not in word**, but **in deed**.

When we read the **New Testament**, we see a **body** that is **intimately involved** in each other’s lives.

It blesses me to see **how many of you** have **taken** a genuine interest in the **welfare of others** in this fellowship.

I have been blessed to see the **body**, **genuinely caring** – with **no check-lists** – **no one looking over you**.

**How when one member hurts**, you have experienced that hurt.

Like Paul in 2 Thess 1:3, *I give thanks to God for you, brethren, … because your faith is greatly enlarged, and the love of each one of you toward one another grows ever greater;*

Be sure that Jesus Christ sees how you have **visited each other’s homes**, how you have **borne one-another’s burdens**, how you have been **willing to give** to you brothers and sisters and their families when they were in need.

**When Jesus Christ returns** He’s going to say, “**Well done ... I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in; naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you came to Me.'**

**to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me.'**

**Continue** to **serve one another** in this way.
• **Bear one another’s burdens**
• **Wash one another’s feet**
• Be for each other **sharpening tools,**
  
  *as iron sharpens iron, so a man sharpens his brother …*

That is serving one another, as Christ has served us!

Why should we do this?

Let’s close with Romans 15.

In Romans 15 … vs.1

> Now we who are strong ought to bear the weaknesses of those without strength and not just please ourselves. Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to his edification.

Take note as to WHY we are to do this … look down at verse 6:

> … that with one accord you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

As we consider this **kind of Christianity,**

I am not talking about a **social program** …

Nothing human **is an end to itself.**

Man serving his fellow man in **human community,** and **human togetherness,**

**Human bonding** and **human society** was **ordained** for **God’s glory**!

And where **human community does not live as community**

for the glory of God alone, it will, **in the end be destructive.**

So be careful that the end of this is the **glory of God** …

we are not here to be Mother Theresas and become **famous** for our **good works** …

Jesus concludes this teaching.
Verily, verily, I say unto you,  
The servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent  
greater than he that sent him. If ye know these things, happy  
are ye if ye do them.

It is one thing to know these things, but Jesus tells us,  
happy are ye, if you do them.

It is one thing to confess your love for one another,  
it is another thing to leave your comfort zone  
and stoop down and serve them.

A mere speculative knowledge of such things is of no value.  
Its not enough to say, “I really care about your soul,  
but then never lift a finger to help cleanse it”

An intellectual assent to these things,  
with no action is worse than useless.

If we say, “Amen.” To any of this today, let us put it into practice!

If you know these things HAPPY are ye if you do them!

Notice it does not say happy are ye if you have these things done to you.

We think that our happiness depends upon OTHERS doing unto US.

But in the judgment of Christ here, the HAPPY heart  
is the one that is ever ready to perform for another  
the humblest act of kindness.

We make ourselves unhappy by thinking that we are not treated  
with the kindness which we think ourselves entitled to.

Maybe some of those sad faces that Bill was talking about last week  
are sad because you are waiting to be served instead of serving!
LISTEN CAREFULLY, to the overwhelming witness of Scripture:

*Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor;*

*Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another*

*Let us pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another*

*the members should have the same care for one another. And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.*

*be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.*

*encourage one another, and build up one another*

*confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another*

*Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins.*

*As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.*

*this is the message which you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another;*

*For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another*  Gl 5:13

*Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.*  1 Jo 4:7

*Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. … if we love one another, God abides in us, and His love is perfected in us.*  1 Jo 4:11-13