

To Grow in Love, Our Love Must be Christ-Like

John 13:34

A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.

“Many of the questions ask of Jesus was around the subject of how do you have Heaven on earth? His rare and wonderful answer that He brought down from Heaven was LOVE!”

Romans 12:3 *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.*

“God accepts me – that is grace. Faith, the next step, is my acceptance of God’s acceptance of me. That’s what faith is. Faith just accepts the fact that God accepts me. Grace – God accepts me; Faith – I accept that God accepts me. Now, if God accepts me, what am I to do? I am to accept me. That is peace. Peace. All right. Grace, Faith, Peace. I have to stop trying. I start trusting. And then that wonderful, glorious peace like a river comes into me. Now that I have peace I can love. Ok now with Love – now I accept you.”
- **Adrian Rogers**

I. Christ like love is a selfless love.

A. Christ’s love stands in contrast to the disciple’s love.

The Disciples discussion right before the upper room:

Luke 22:24 *And there was also a strife among them, which of them should be accounted the greatest.*

“The Devil wants you to love inanimate objects. He wants you to invest your emotions, your excitement, your energies into objects and things that can’t love you back.”

- ◆ You love things impersonally.
- ◆ You love things with high expectations. (performance oriented)
- ◆ You love things looking for what you can get.
- ◆ You love things like trophies to display.

B. Christ’s love is characterized to the disciples.

John 13:4 *He riseth from supper, and laid aside his garments; and took a towel, and girded himself. (V.5) After that he poureth water into a bason, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel wherewith he was girded.*

How did Jesus transform the gesture of washing feet?

- ◆ It was normally a gesture of hospitality provided by the host.
- ◆ It was performed by a servant who had no choice in the matter.
- ◆ It was normally performed without any emotion involved.

“Jesus, because of who he was, transformed it into a humble gesture of genuine love!”

Philippians 2:5 *Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: (V.6) Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: (V.7) But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: (V.8) And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.*

II. Christ like love is a steadfast love.

“We’re to love people and use things, not love things and use people.”

- **Adrian Rogers**

A. He loved them in the infancy of the spiritual life.

John 13:1 *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.*

Matthew 16:23 *But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men.*

John 13:37 *Peter said unto him, Lord, why cannot I follow thee now? I will lay down my life for thy sake. (V.38) Jesus answered him, Wilt thou lay down thy life for my sake? Verily, verily, I say unto thee, The cock shall not crow, till thou hast denied me thrice.*

B. He loved them in the infidelity of their spiritual life.

Mark 14:70 *And he denied it again. And a little after, they that stood by said again to Peter, Surely thou art one of them: for thou art a Galilaean, and thy speech agreeth thereto. (V.71) But he began to curse and to swear, saying, I know not this man of whom ye speak.*

III. Christ like love is a sanctifying love.

A. Christ's love was longsuffering in Peter's ignorance.

John 13:8 *Peter saith unto him, Thou shalt never wash my feet. Jesus answered him, If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me. (V.9) Simon Peter saith unto him, Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head. [The invitation was, do you really want to be a part of who I am?]*

“Jesus final command to His disciples reiterated what He demonstrated in washing their feet. This is the preeminent mark of being His disciple. Love for other is not an option; it is the way the world sees Christ in His followers.”

- David Jeremiah

B. Christ's love was restoring in Peter's inequity.

John 13:10 *Jesus saith to him, He that is washed needeth not save to wash his feet, but is clean every whit: and ye are clean, but not all.*

Luke 22:31 *And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: (V.32) But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.*

John 21:17 *He saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep.*

