

**Abiding in Christ:
Loving as He does
John 13:1-20, 15:1-17
Sermon Outline**

Introduction: At the heart of spiritual growth is abiding in Christ. Part of how we do this is by loving the way he does: *If you keep my commandments you will abide in my love...This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.*

I) What does this love look like?

A) Sacrificial service

- *Jn 15:13: Greater love has no one than this, that someone lays down his life for his friends*

- *Jn 13:3: Jesus...rose from supper, laid aside his garments...and began to wash the disciples' feet*

B) Meaning for us

II) Why does Jesus want us to serve?

A) He wants us to be like him

- This is how Jesus rules
- This is how God has always ruled

B) He wants us to rediscover our humanity

C) He wants us to be joyful

Jn 15.11: ...so that my joy may be in you and your joy may be full

III) Where service begins

Abide...

You are already clean (13.10, 15.3)

Jesus and Peter: Unless I wash you, you have no part in me (13.8)

Questions for Reflection this Week

- 1) Jesus describes love as self-sacrifice (*Jn 15.13*), but he models it by washing feet (*Jn 13.3ff*). What does Jesus' modeling of love in Jn 13 add to his summary description of love in Jn 15:13? Notice how deliberate, humbling, and mundane Jesus' act of service is.
- 2) How would close friends (roommates, parents, children, spouses), neighbors, and colleagues at work/school (both those you work for and those who work for you) rate you as a servant?
- 3) Look closely at the interchange between Jesus and Peter when Jesus washes Peter's feet. Why is Peter shocked? Why does he refuse Jesus' service? Why does Jesus insist on it? How does this interchange parallel and clarify our relationship to Jesus?
- 4) Reflect on the following: "When God chose to become one of us in order to serve us, he did not suddenly enter upon a new way of relating to us. He only made more vivid the pattern that has always been. From the day God made us, set us in a fruitful Garden and a habitable world, and gave us companionship in one another, he has been serving us. He serves us by giving and sustaining our immune, cardio-vascular, and GI systems. He serves us by giving us language and life—even when we use these gifts to hurt him and each other."
- 5) Jesus might have chosen to model service in any number of ways, but in John 13 he does it by washing. Why washing? Answer in the light of what was about to happen to Jesus.
- 6) Though John 15:1-17 contains a solemn warning (v 6), it is fundamentally upbeat and hopeful. List and ponder all the things that Jesus wants for us to have (v 3, v 7, v 9, v 11, v 15, v 16). Thank God for what you have discovered.
- 7) List all the language in John 13 and 15 that refers to (either declares or implies) Christ's initiative (*abide, already, love as I have loved you, unless I wash you...*). Why does Jesus insist repeatedly on making the first move? Why, like Peter, do we resist it? Spend time thanking God for his initiative.