



❖ Knowing the Full Extent of Christ's Love (1)

- Verse one introduces the foot-washing & the unveiling of His love (ch 13-17).
 - Love: translated 2 ways: *to the end* or *to the full* (*telos*)
 - Jesus now shows his disciples *the full extent [eis telos] of his love*. *Full extent* could also be translated *to the last* (cf. NIV note).
 - "uppermost proof of His love"(J. Knox).
- Love is real action displayed within the context of time, place, people, and circumstances. It is within that context that love has any meaning.
 - Jesus was aware of the context (time, people & events); the disciples were not.
 - Time had come—Time is key in John (4:21,23; 5:25,28; 7:30; 8:20).
- *Passover*- This is the third or fourth Passover cited (2:13; 6:4; perhaps 5:1).
 - No doubt that every passover Jesus sensed the anticipation and tension.
 - When you are *the Lamb* you are aware when you are close to the sacrifice.
 - It would involve him becoming the new passover Lamb.
- *Jesus knew that the time (his hour) had come*
 - And leaving and going to the Father.
- In the context of returning to the Father, betrayal, sinful humanity, and the crucifixion, Jesus begins revealing his love.
- Because they are unaware of the context, they are oblivious to the grandeur of His love, until after the resurrection.
- Going deeper into Christ is becoming more aware of His love—the humbling and pain he entered into.

❖ Christ's Love Is Deeply Found in the Contradiction (2-8)

- *the devil had already prompted Judas*- (1).
 - This, the first of several references to the betrayal (vv. 11, 18-20). It becomes the focus of the next section (vv. 21-30).
 - Jesus is going to wash the feet of one who is considering betraying him.
 - Judas has not yet yielded to the temptation (cf. v. 27), but the devil has *prompted* him, or more literally, "put it into his heart."
- *Jesus knew his position... all things under his power, and ... had come from God* (3). It is in the context of knowing his authority that he served.
- The act of servanthood is undeniably overwhelming (4-5)
- *He came to Simon Peter, ..., "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"*(7-8).
- Usually recipients of love partially feel deserving of love based on relationship, performance or the length of time of the relationship.
- Peter refused to have his feet washed, "No,... never!" Peter had felt this contradiction before when Jesus first called him (Luke 5:8).

- The contradiction involves a greater understanding of God's love, in light of a greater awareness of my neediness & fallenness.
 - *Where sin abounds, grace abounds all the more (Rom. 5:20).*
 - *The one who is forgiven much, loves much (Luk 7:47).*
- The contradiction of the Cross, spotlights God's love.
- The Cross is the ultimate display of God's glory (John 17:1).

❖ **Christ's Love Demands the Surrender of Our Pride (9-11)**

- Helpless in the contradiction we must receive or be left out.
- "Wash"- has a double meaning. Ultimately, it points to the Cross.
- It is often the refusal to see myself as dependent on God (my pride), which restricts me from knowing His love.
- We discover Christ's sacrificial love at the Cross.
- Going deeper into Christ always involves a greater appreciation of the Cross.

❖ **Christ's Profound Grace Reproduces Itself In Us Toward Others (12-17)**

- *"Do you understand... you should do as I have done for you."*
- Christian love has the mark of the Cross: self-sacrifice for another.
- Christian love is not convenient or self-serving. It is often painful, dirty, and empty of rights or position; startlingly disarming (Phil 2:1-11).
- The more we sacrificially love others, the more we discover Christ.

❖ **Thinking It Through**

- Can you think of a situation where someone did an incredibly kind thing for you that left you feeling helplessly appreciative?
- Describe the depth of the Grand Canyon or some other place or height, which caused you to feel, overwhelmed.
- Why do we feel so undeserving of Christ's love? Why is this important?
- What are the superfluous marks of a Christian, which our modern Christian culture makes so important, but do not really matter?
- Why is Christian love so unique? Have you ever been loved this way?
- Who is God asking you to love, and how and when and where?