

The Everlasting Love of Jesus Christ

John 13:1-20

I. An Enduring Love (John 13:1) There are four main uses of the word love in the New Testament: The English translates them as love, but the original Greek differentiates their significances. 1. Agape- God's supernatural love towards mankind. 2. Philia- a brotherly love. 3. Eros- a romantic love. 4. Storge- A parents' love for their children. In this passage Jesus is using the form from the root of Agape, in order to show His supernatural love to His current and future disciples. It was His enduring love that drove Him to the cross. It was for those who came to faith waiting on the cross, for those who came at the cross, and for those who will come after the cross. Love has been mentioned a lot throughout God's Word, but the master of enduring unending love is that of Jesus and the cross. John 15:13 ***"Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends."*** Also Paul specifically mentions that love endures in 1 Cor. 13:7 ***"Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things."***

II. An Endorsing Love (John 13:2-11) There is so much packed into these verses. What I mean by endorsing love is one aspect of these passages. In verse 8 Jesus tells Peter "that unless I wash you, you have no part with me." Jesus was meaning that unless my relationship by faith and the sacrifice that I do on the cross spiritually cleanses you, you will have nothing to do with me. Washing was a common biblical metaphor for spiritual cleansing. The sacrifice of Jesus endorses you if you place faith in Him. It's like being clothed with His brand. Listen to Galatians 3: 27 ***"For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ."*** and Isaiah 61:10 ***"...joyful in my God for He hath clothed me with the garments of salvation..."*** His love clothes you, it endorses you. You have the King of universe, the Creator, is now giving you an identity become of His blood sacrifice. (I remember in high school that a young lady wanted to wear the football players lettermen's jacket).

III. An Exemplifying Love (John 13:12-17) Should feet washing be practiced in the church? I believe the example of it should. Remember that washing someone's feet back then was the job of a slave. It was an act of total humility of putting someone before yourself. The love and act of humility that Christ showed His disciples and showed us on the cross is a great example of the love we should show others. Listen to John 13:35 ***"By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."***

IV. An Encouraging Love (John 13:18-20) In verse 19, the original Greek reads "I am" possibly fulfilling a claim of deity and in Exodus 3:14. Ephesians 3:19 is this type of encouraging love: ***"and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God."*** Jesus is clear that not everyone will know this encouraging everlasting love of Christ, in this case He is referring to Judas, the one who would betray Him.