

John 13:1-17—Foot Washing?

I. Introduction

- A. The Church of the Brethren, Mennonites, Durkards, some Church of God, some United Methodists, some Seventh Day Adventist, some Episcopalians, and some Catholics (Maundy Thursday—before Easter)...practice “*Foot Washing*” claiming **John 13** commands it. In fact, many believe it is a church ordinance. Some practice Foot Washing with Communion, some pastors/priests wash parishioners’ feet, others pair up and wash each other’s feet...
- B. Quotes:
 1. “*I believe that the Bible shows ample proof for 3 ordinances of Gods Church. These are Baptism, Communion and Foot washing.*” (Pastor Anthony T. Molihan, Stanton First Church of God)
 2. “*Feet-washing as an ordinance is not generally observed by professing Christians; in fact, by many the doctrine is spurned, misrepresented, and ridiculed as is no other teaching of Christ recorded in the gospel history. Notwithstanding the fact that Christ said we “should” do it, that we “ought to wash one another’s feet,” they never observe it, either as a public ordinance or as a private duty.*” (F.G. Smith)
- C. How would you feel about someone, or our church washing your feet?
- D. What is God’s **John 13** command? Do you care enough to understand, and will you obey it?

II. Scripture

- A. OT—**Gen. 18:4; 19:2; 24:32; 43:24; Jdg. 19:21; 1Sa. 25:41; 2Sa. 11:8; Psa. 58:10; SOS. 5:3.**
- B. NT—**Luk. 7:39, 44; John 13:1-17; 1Ti. 5:10.**
- C. **John 13:1-17.**

D. Questions

1. **13:1**—If you were about to die, how would you last love those closest?
2. **13:2-3**—Do you know your purpose, origin, and destination?
3. **13:4-5**—Servant leadership is...?
4. **13:6-8**—Why didn’t Peter want Jesus to wash His feet?
5. **13:9**—Why did Peter now want Jesus to wash his feet and more?
6. **13:10**—What is the meaning of:
“*Washed*” (Gr. Louo=“*bathed*” thoroughly; of a dead person, to clean away blood):

“*Wash*” (Gr. Nipto = “*wash*,” “*to cleanse*,” typical hands, feet, or face:

7. **13:10-11**—Who was NOT “*washed*” or clean and in what sense was he filthy (cf. **6:64**; **13:2, 18-30; 18:2-5; Mark 14:21**)?

8. **13:12-13**—Who was Jesus, what had he done, and what traits did he show?

9. **13:14**—“*...you also ought to wash one another’s feet.*” Are all encouragements, indebtedness, or even commands that are given to one person, culture, or a group of people in the Bible required of all Christians? Please provide a Biblical example.

10. **13:15**—“*...an example, that you should do as I have done to you.*” Did Jesus command the church or Christians to Wash Feet or did he give an example for us to follow that might have many modes or ways to express or follow? Consistent with your view, what is or are practical ways of following Jesus’ example today?

11. **13:16-17**—Are you or is anyone else better than Jesus? Do you understand what this passage is asking of you? What promise is given you if you obey it?

III. Application

- A. What do you believe Jesus asks of you here?

- B. Are you going to do it?

- C. How will you consistently obey it?

- D. How do we serve God and help others get cleansed from all unrighteousness (cf. **1Jo. 1:9**)?