

John 13

Christians often talk about becoming like Jesus. What does the phrase mean to you? If our church and your family were more like Jesus, what would be different?

1. What about Jesus' teaching here most surprises you?
2. In verses 4-5 and 12, how does John's detailed description of Jesus' action in washing the feet of His disciples serve as a parable or object lesson of His coming sufferings and death? See Philippians 2:5-9.
3. It is possible to bow low in order to wash someone's feet in a way that is self-serving and draws attention to us. How might this foot-washing, viewed as a parable of Jesus' death, help us address the matter of motive?
4. The little drama involving Peter and Jesus is funny on the outside but deeply serious on the inside. When we first come to Jesus, we need a bath (Titus 3:5-6). Thereafter, we need a daily "foot-washing" to be cleansed of the dirt we pick up as we journey through life. In what ways do you need Jesus to "wash your feet" today?
5. How does Jesus' teaching and example here challenge the way we often understand leadership (Luke 22:24-26)? Our own role in serving Him in the world?
6. Jesus here challenges us to engage in foot washing activities. But sometimes the greater challenge is to allow others to wash our feet.

Which do you find most challenging: "washing feet" or allowing others to wash your feet by serving you?

Getting Real with One Another: Foot-Washing Today

Some churches and groups still practice foot washing today. In cultures where people wear shoes and streets are paved, it has little more than symbolic value. But it can still teach an important lesson. In Jesus' day, feet were washed to remove dirt and to be hospitable. Jesus did not perform a special or unusual act; His taking on a servant's duties stunned the disciples. Instituting foot washing today would be missing Jesus' primary lesson. He was not inventing a clever way to serve others; He was serving others in a very common way. Today we ought to think of foot washing as an example of servant leadership. Other ways we can show a "foot washing" attitude include:

- Taking on a menial task or accepting a lesser role.
- Not insisting on our "rights" or "privileges."
- Meeting others' needs before meeting our own.
- Looking for a job no one else will do and cheerfully doing it.
- Focusing on the results being achieved, not who is getting credit.

1. With these examples in mind, how will you wash feet this week? Whose feet do you need to wash?
2. Our church is facing similar concerns as in John's Gospel story. While pastoral leadership will change, the true Leader and Lord of the Church has promised His presence by His Spirit to comfort us and enable us to focus on that which unites us: the mission of our Leader and Lord.
3. What are your deepest desires for FBC – Gamma's transformation? What are you willing to do to help this happen?

Group Prayer Time

Please pray that our group, our church would be supportive and encouraging of each other in following Jesus Christ and His plan for each of our lives.

Pray for more people to join and support future growth of Gamma.