

## Washing The Feet

It could be that there is nothing more important than washing the feet. We can maintain almost every form of good hygiene above the ankle and be vibrant but if we fail to maintain good hygiene below the ankle it would eventually affect the whole rest of the body: 1Cor 12:26. Sooner or later, walking would be increasingly difficult because of infection and all the related complications, not to mention the obnoxious smells that would develop around us and others. It gets to the point where the person infected with the problem notices less and less the smell and more and more feel the pain related to confinement that limited mobility produces in us; whereas the people in our periphery are more and more aware of the smell and begin to have less and less concern for those of us who are infected; others just wanting to keep their distance. This distance makes them feel safe from what seems to them as being instability and doubt. When God is making it evident that we have infections in the spiritual sense, it can seem to be a confusing time for us.

Problems with the feet are one of the easiest infirmities of the body to prevent. Yet once falling into the advanced stages of infection, and even if the condition clears up, there is a greater likelihood of relapse; the habits of the past can be the flaw that starts the problem all over again. There is a wide range of infections affecting the feet that all produce different types of smells. Shortly before our Lord's sufferings and departure to heaven, He girded Himself for work and proceeded to wash the disciples' feet: Jn 13:1-17. When the Lord came to Peter and refusing to cooperate, the Lord informed Peter that He would have no dealing with him unless he submitted to this washing; and, of course, we know the outcome of the story. In our Spiritual walk, it is inevitable that our feet will be soiled by a missed step here and there; these missed steps when unnoticed produce division. Spiritually, this condition is passed from one Generation to the next and for a time can go largely unnoticed or, at least, these problems being accepted as the norm.

The idea spiritually is that we get used to dirty feet and nobody notices it anymore until the infection advances. Then we feel a sense of limited mobility that many would like to break free of if they could. Dirt built up on the feet in the early stages is more noticeable to other people and not as much so to the persons or groups having the problem. These problems represent accumulation of the defilements related to the world; and, realize this: it was inevitable that this would happen. The Church has an active force against it; this force is determined to pervert our way: 1Tim 4:1. This attack of Satan against the body of Christ can not reach above the ankle: Gen 3:15. Satan is able to bite at the heel in the worst case, and his defilements may seem OK to the individual or group having it but appears repugnant to others not having that particular problem—but, certainly, we have our own problems too.

Truth can never divide the church; Truth can only divide believers from the unbelievers; and this is a good thing. The things that divide believers from believers is

deception and deceit, the very things that stress our relationships with God. Erroneous concepts divide true believers from the harvest/elect of God/the standing grain. God's gifts don't go into the realm of the bazaar and things that can't be confirmed; these things only producing speculation. We have come to the point where there can be no truly unified effort to mobilize for the Gospel. Here is the major point: the Lord was requiring the Apostles to wash each other's feet; this enabling close inspection and proper cleansing. But this is to have a symbolic meaning of spiritual cleanliness: Jn 13:10-11. This relates to what pastors should be doing for each other. Not any group, or any one of us for that matter, is going to have all the answers: 1Cor 10:12. But collectively we do, because the body is one and there will come a time when we need each other to find our way back to the truth. Any person or group thinking they are right is caught in the very spirit of division. Pastors should be washing each other's feet/hearts; this is reformation: deciding what the scriptures mean using the scriptures and not relying on old witnesses/commentaries and, above all, not resting on our personal experiences as a standard of truth. Once this has been started then it needs to be maintained from there after. God made it so pastors have a spiritual capacity to better notice spiritual defilements on the other pastor's foot more so than they would notice their own. Pastors have to rely on each other in order to effectively rid the body of things that are counterproductive to its growth. Pastors are not growing if they don't wash each other's feet; therefore their congregations will eventually stagnate also becoming increasingly worldly and having less and less concern for the pastors.

False doctrines are stimulating to the pride; promoting speculation, competition and division rather than advancing the Gospel. False doctrine can not be confirmed whereas true doctrine is easily confirmed. I have never seen a division because of truth. One pastor can not pretend to ignore the other pastor's feet; this will never progress the plan of God and is in fact the lie that advances the lie. Reformation is not without pain; and no one can get up and leave the table until there's unity. Satan's counterfeits can be easily detected by a very close examination of the scriptures with at least two or three pastors or even more being at the same table. This is the principle of letting every matter be confirmed by at least two or three witnesses. It is inevitable at this point in church history that all at the table are going to have various opposing ideas; but the bible holds the keys to understanding. Very important: sooner or later the false doctrine in any person will always and inevitably be a source of doubt permeating the spiritual life, leaving us with feels of nakedness: A little leaven leavens the whole lump: 1Cor 5:6-8; Gal 5:9.

The pride of not wanting to be wrong propagates the unwillingness to admit these doubts; therefore, producing the critical attitude; and, yes, the critical attitude has to come out of us. The root of the critical attitude is selfishness: Jer 6:13-19. So, to protect this lie in our hearts we have to put it into a rational such as: "I and so many others have believed this for so long; how can we all be wrong?" or, "Dear old Dr. so & so said this; so, it must be true." or, "This denomination has been very successful on a world-wide scale; so, how could this be wrong?" Well, the scripture says that Satan deceives the whole world; it would be reasonable to think at some point we are all going to succumb to some type of demonic influence at some point in our walk with God: Rev 12:7-9. But, on the other hand, our God is able to make us stand despite ourselves: Rom 14:4. And God

shows us Israel and their cycling back and forth from orthodoxy to deception over and over again. God also states the principle of everybody everywhere repenting and passing over and beyond a time of ignorance: Acts 17:27-31.

If God is ready to make a move towards orthodoxy, then things are going to seem more and more darkened and in need of repair before there would be a willingness on our part to make the necessary changes. There were times when Jerusalem needed rebuilding and much of the material had to be removed from the city and be replaced with the materials related to God's specifications: Neh 4:10. Here is another principle: If a person says in his heart, "This is what this means to me" and another person looks at the same thing and says, "This is what it means to me." If the views are antithetical i.e. opposite, then it would be reasonable to believe that there might be something wrong. Maybe one person is wrong, maybe their both wrong, maybe their both right and in fact seeing two different things. God wants there to be unity among us. He wants us to speak the same things: 1Cor 1:10. We should see the Bible is showing us right and wrong; providing information to produce corrective measures in us: 2Tim 2:15. This is only possible if we are humble and admit to our doubts.

God is able to make us stand even if we have married some foreigners and brought them into our lives. When God is ready to remove these foreigners, it can seem as though all work has stopped. These foreigners i.e. false doctrines are now in a position where they have to go so there can be unity and the resultant Joy that we knew in the past. Reformation is necessary so the harvest is not defiled and therefore divided up in greed that resulted from these false doctrines i.e. the spirit of division: Jer 12:10-13. A Very Important Principle: If there were no false doctrines than there would be no division; the adoption of truth can only unify. Because there is division we know there are false concepts and deceptive practices. We know there are false teachings because the Bible says there are and there will be in the future; the scripture also indicating we would be affected by them: Eph 4:14; Tts 1:9. It should be of no surprise to any of us that we have adopted some deceitful practices paying attention to deceitful spirits; the scripture promises that this would be the case in the latter days of the Church; and God could even turn us over to a spirit of error if some of us somehow think our hands are completely clean. We are at a point in history where the ten virgins seem to be falling asleep; this is challenging and symbolizes a lack of Spiritual vigilance on the part of the five true virgins/believers: Mat 25:1-13. This is a time when pastors have agreed to not wash each other's feet; agreeing not to disagree even though there are various smells coming from each other's feet still noticeable. So, the result is a tapestry of subtle compromise; being caught in the net of the trapper with the possibilities of a dark age coming upon us. The feet need to be washed before the preparation of the gospel of peace can go on: Eph 6:15; therefore with the shield of faith making the body fully prepared for battle; having no stumbling blocks set in the path of new converts: Mt 18:6-7; Lk 17:1. The infections of the feet cause unfavorable colorations to the Gospel; once the erroneous is taken out of the way, then there can be a concerted effort to harvest the grain without those involved having conscientious objections harbored in their souls, not having thoughts of suspicion towards one another; this problem was inevitable but, on the other hand, it can be preventable for our future and for those allotted to our charge.

Indeed, we are clean above the ankle because of the regeneration of the Holy Spirit happening at the point of our trust in Christ: Tito 3:5-6. We are at a time where reformation is necessary and having a spirit that considers all things community property being willing to give so no one wanting to change can be black mailed by the enemy: Acts 2:43-47, 4:32. In this time in history Satan is stealing the Glory that God had intended for us to have. The only thing that gets lost is the glory God had intended for us; God is able to get his harvest without us. Grain is standing in the field and it's white for harvest. I hope we don't trample the grain which would be scattering the sheep: Jer 10:21; Mat 9:36. If this happens again, it will be because of dishonesty and greed, and it will not work to say "Let us each go to our own house." 1Kings12:16; Hag 1:9. God is willing that we move ahead together. I don't want to be subjected to cruel slavery again; I don't want to turn back out in the desert again when the good land is so near. We need to learn the things that are necessary to take possession of the land; conquering the enemy along with the giants in the land; leaving behind the idols of Egypt. How blessed are the feet of those who bring good news of good things!!  
-Isa 52:7.