

## Love As I Love You

This command of Jesus, "love one another as I have loved you," can take us in all kinds of directions.

For some folks, any talk of love immediately gets the blood sugar rising with thoughts of sweet nothings and maybe a bouquet of flowers.

Too often we tend to think of Christian love as a sort of broad tolerance for people we otherwise can't stand; a sort of being nice, a show of politeness that may oftentimes hide a real dislike or disdain just under the surface.

But for Jesus, his call is neither to the sappy sentimental nor to the mere show of getting along.

The love Jesus has for us, and therefore the love he invites us--no--commands us! to have for each other is something far different.

It is love that is planted, then rooted, then flourishes, in service.

That's why the feet are washed tonight.

That's why I hope you all come up to have your feet washed, because in fact it is perhaps more difficult to have your feet washed than it is to wash them.

To allow my feet to be washed means becoming vulnerable, not only to the one doing the washing, but to everyone else in the room.

Nakedness, ever since Garden of Eden days, has been a human embarrassment, even if the only thing that's getting naked is our feet.

And yet it precisely is nakedness that Jesus calls us into: a nakedness of spirit, a nakedness of heart as we come together under the one Lord and Savior.

In our nakedness, we allow others to see us not just at our Sunday best, but sometimes at our Monday worst.

In our nakedness, the differences between us, whether of class or money or color or race, these differences slowly melt away.

In just a few short hours, Jesus himself will hang naked from the cross, the Son of God, the Word of God, exposed for all to see; as he invites us too to be exposed and in that exposure, to find what it means to love each other as Jesus loves us.