

What is the **ONE thing** that would make THE world a better place?
Your world? Your life? Your day? Our church? Your family?

Psalm 90:14

Satisfy us in the morning with your **steadfast love**, [so] that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

Ephesians 3:16-19 (NLT)

I pray that from His glorious, unlimited resources He will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit. Then Christ will make His home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into **God's love** and keep you strong. And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, **how wide, how long, how high, and how deep** His love is. May you experience the **love of Christ**, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God.

DECIDE NOW:

To let God love us.

The world—including you and me—struggles to understand and receive God's love.

We've learned and come to believe that all love is more or less conditional.

→ We strive to meet conditions ...

→ We set conditions ...

Religious cycle: I have/have not ... but God hasn't ...

Self-esteem: I do xyx → raise my standing = more loveable

→ Not conditional but it is costly

John 13:1

Before the Passover Festival, Jesus knew that His hour had come to depart from this world to the Father. Having loved **His own** who were in the world, He **loved them to the end** (*utmost*).

The love of God is something we would not know of or be able to receive **without the Cross**.

--His own → peculiar, focused, concentrated love

John 13:2

Now when it was time for supper, the devil had already put it into the heart of **Judas**, Simon Iscariot's son, to betray him.

God's love and evil can and do co-exist.

Judas' condition (his "price"): his own agenda & ambitions.

The price Judas set kept him from seeing the price Jesus paid.

John 13:3-5

Jesus knew that the Father had given everything into His hands, that He had come from God, and that He was going back to God. **So** He got up from supper, laid aside his outer clothing, took a towel, and tied it around Himself. Next, He poured water into a basin and began to **wash His disciples' feet** and to dry them with the towel tied around Him.

Jesus—the Son of God—washed feet!

Jesus—the Son of God—washed **Judas'** feet.

How did Jesus do what Jesus did?

→ *eternally, steadfastly loved by The Father, Spirit ... Trinity*

There are no conditions around God's love because His love reflects His **character, not our **behavior**.**

John 13:6-10a

He came to Simon Peter, who asked him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus answered him, "What I'm doing you don't realize now, but afterward you will understand."

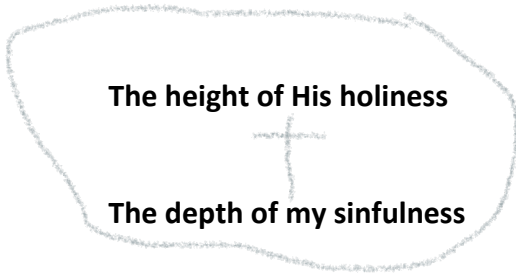
"You will never wash my feet," Peter said.

Jesus replied, "**If I don't wash you**, you have **no part** with Me." Simon Peter said to Him, "Lord, not only my feet, but also my hands and my head." "One who has bathed," Jesus told him, "doesn't need to wash anything except his feet, but he is completely clean. You are **clean**, but not all of you."

Peter's struggle:

the incredible humility of Jesus + his own self-righteousness

SLIDE VISUAL



STOP ... and STARE ...

We come to know and experience God's love through sin & failure not through success or self-esteem, religious efforts or being good enough.

We are not qualified for love or DQ'd from love due to our past, our personalities, or our performances.

Romans 5:5-6, 8

God's **love** has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit Who was given to us. For while we were still helpless, at the right time, Christ died for the **ungodly** ... God proves His own **love** for us in that while we were **still sinners**, Christ died for us.

This unconditional **love invites unconditional **surrender**.**

Living under this Kingdom of Unconditional Love

- **SIN**
- **Adversity & Suffering**
- **How I live ...**

- **Sin is seen and handled through the Cross-shaped love of Christ**
 - **I sin → I run to the Cross in confession and repentance**
 - **My sin → hurts the one Who loves me most, best, and forever → I fight my sin with His love**
- **Adversity is not evidence against God's love for us but an opportunity to live from His love → Romans 8:37-39**
- **I live FROM His love → Psalm 90:14**

1 John 1:7-9

If we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say, "We have no sin," we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Romans 8:37-39

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.