

# Do you have a foot-washing attitude?

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**By Dave Havir**

BIG SANDY, Texas—Jesus Christ set a wonderful example in every aspect of His life. One of the most poignant events in the life of Christ is when He washed the feet of the disciples.

You know the story. You remember the exchange that the Messiah had with Peter.

Peter said in John 13:8: "You shall never wash my feet."

Jesus replied (also in verse 8): "If I don't wash your feet, you will have no part with Me."

Then the enthusiastic Peter said in verse 9: "Lord, don't only wash my feet, but wash my hands and head."

So Christ washed the feet of His disciples.

After Jesus washed the feet of the disciples, He asked them: "Do you know what I have done" (verse 12)? Then He went on to explain.

He said in verses 13-15: "If I as your Lord and Master have washed your feet, you ought to wash one another's feet. I have given you an example that you should do as I have done."

How do those verses apply to disciples today? Let's consider two ideas.

First, many of His disciples today follow the actual example and literally wash someone else's feet at a church service commemorating the death of Jesus Christ.

Second, many of His disciples use Christ's example to motivate them to practice a foot-washing attitude as a way of life.

Here are four quick concepts to remember as we seek to have a foot-washing attitude.

■ We should not be exalting ourselves. Some good scriptures about this are Matthew 23:5-12, Luke 14:7-11 and Luke 18:9-14.

- We should seek to be a living sacrifice. Paul mentioned this in Romans 12:1-2.
- We should not respond to pressure by other people. Do not let people use scriptures about love and a foot-washing attitude to manipulate you into enabling their addiction. (See the next point.)
- Serve the needs of other people. When you are committed to serving the needs of other people, you will sometimes say *no* to their bad requests, fantasies and addictions.

Christ washed their feet, and then He died for them.

We have the opportunity to wash some feet, and then to be a living example to serve the needs of people around us.