

## JOHN 13:1FF.

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We all can relate to Linus in the "Peanuts" cartoon strip when he shouts in frustration, "*I love mankind; it's people I can't stand!*"

It's easy to love the human race in the abstract, but when it comes to loving specific irritating people that I can't avoid, the process becomes a lot more difficult.

In our text we see the Lord Jesus loving men who did not deserve it. **Luke 22:24** tells us that at the Lord's Supper, just after Jesus announced that one of them would betray Him, the disciples got into a dispute about which of them was the greatest. (PASTOR STEVEN J. COLE)

"In a cemetery in New Orleans stands a monument that attracts much attention. It was designed to represent a great ship at sea in the midst of a storm. A mother and her daughter stand in the sinking vessel, and their faces display terror as they cling to each other.

The bronze plate on the monument says that the mother and the daughter, sole survivors of a large estate, were both drowned.

Upon their deaths, lawyers were faced with the question of who died first in the shipwreck. After some deliberation, the court decided that the estate should be administered in the name of the daughter, figuring she went down last. They reasoned that the mother would have held her daughter in a place of safety and would have sacrificed her own life for her daughter. Those officials recognized the **STRENGTH OF A MOTHER'S LOVE**". *db 1-2-83*.

"EVEN MORE POWERFUL AND BEAUTIFUL IS GOD'S LOVE FOR US."

In chapter 13, John leaves behind the public ministry of Christ to the Jews, and gives us insight into the love of God, and the unique relationship that Jesus has to His body, the church. First and foremost is the love that Jesus had for "his own".

### I. THE CHARACTER OF THE LOVE OF CHRIST

**John 13:1** Now **before the feast of the Passover**, when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, **HAVING LOVED HIS OWN WHICH WERE IN THE WORLD, HE LOVED THEM UNTO THE END.**

. . . . All through his ministry he knew he was to be the "**Lamb of God who would take away the sin of the world**," (**John 1:29**).

The *Passover* draws attention to the fact that Jesus is **our** Passover lamb. Just as the Jews put the blood of the **Passover lamb** on their doorposts and lintel to protect them from the angel of death, so **Christ's blood**, applied to our hearts by faith, protects us from the wrath of God.

. The time has also come when he, as the **grain of wheat**, must **fall into the ground and die**. He sees, as a result of his death, a great harvest of Jews and Gentiles to follow.

".....when Jesus knew that **his hour was come** . . . ."

**Acts 4:27** For of a truth against thy holy child Jesus, whom thou hast anointed, both Herod, and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles, and the people of Israel, were gathered together,

**Acts 4:28** For to do whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel determined before to be done.

The events unfolding in these final hours did not take Jesus by surprise. He deliberately **laid aside His glory**, just **as here He laid aside His garments**. He took on the form of a slave and became obedient to death on the cross ([Phil. 2:5-11](#)).

[Phil. 2:5](#) Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

**6** Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

**7** But **made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant**, and was made in the likeness of men:

**8** And being found in fashion as a man, he **humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.**

**9** Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:

**10** That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of *things* in heaven, and *things* in earth, and *things* under the earth;

**11** And *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

, Jesus was moved by an overwhelming sense of love for his disciples. Listen to these beautiful words, "having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end." . . . . **Within twelve hours of this event he is hanging upon a cross**

[Charles Wesley](#) captures the essence of Christ's Love for us in his hymn:

LOVE DIVINE ALL LOVES EXCELLING  
Joy of heaven to earth come down  
fix in us Thy humble dwelling  
all thy faithful mercies crown.

**HIS OWN = THOSE WHO BELONG TO THE LORD BECAUSE THEY HAVE BEEN PURCHASED FROM THE SLAVE MARKET OF SIN AND PLACED INTO THE FAMILY OF GOD.**

[I CORINTHIANS 6:19](#)

"WHAT? KNOW YE NOT THAT YOUR BODY IS THE TEMPLE OF THE HOLY GHOST WHICH IS IN YOU, WHICH YE HAVE OF GOD, AND YE ARE NOT YOUR OWN? **FOR YE ARE BOUGHT WITH A PRICE:** THEREFORE GLORIFY GOD IN YOUR BODY, AND IN YOUR SPIRIT, WHICH ARE GOD'S.

**HIS OWN WHICH WERE IN THE WORLD**

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Megachurch Pastor's Passionate Message to Christians: "Your Need to Be Seen as Cool 'Must Die!'

Mar. 6, 2015 4:08pm [Billy Hallowell](#)

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Pastor [Matt Chandler](#) of the Village Church in **Flower Mound, Texas**, delivered a tough message from the pulpit last Sunday, proclaiming that the' "**incessant need**" that some Christians have "**to be seen as cool and relevant must die.**" "That is not who we are," he said, speaking to his fellow believers. "**The marginalization that occurs because we love Christ shouldn't be run from. We don't live for this life alone**

Chandler went on to say that Christians should be "**counter culture to this culture**" and that there's a danger in trying to make Jesus look "cool."

"You're never going to make Jesus so cool that everybody thinks he's cool. Once you do that he's not Christ anymore," he said. "He's some figment of your imagination."

**Rom 12:2** And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

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**John also emphasizes that Jesus' disciples were "in the world." Jesus was about to depart from this world, but His disciples were still in it. As Jesus will soon pray**

**John 17:15-18, I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil.**

**16 They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.**

**17 Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.**

**18 As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world.**

He doesn't ask the Father to take these men out of the world. **That is the sphere of ministry to which He sends them.** But they are to be distinct from the world.

**HAVING LOVED HIS OWN WHICH WERE IN THE WORLD, HE LOVED THEM UNTO THE END.**

"One of the lessons we learn from the Gospel of John is that the relationship which **Jesus had with his disciples is the relationship he will have also with us. He loves us "unto the uttermost,"** as well. **Nothing we do, or fail to do, in foolish ignorance, will stop him from loving us unto the end.** He may have to discipline us. That is an act of his love. He may bring remarkable experiences into our lives, but we may be sure that underneath all is his loving concern for us. How important it is for us to remember that. Jude, one of Jesus' brothers, writes, "Keep yourself in the love of God," (**Jude 1:21**). God loves you, and out of that love everything he does with you will flow. This is our assurance: Having loved his own, even though he was about to be tortured and to pass into a dark struggle that no man can comprehend, he did not think of himself but only of those whom he loved. " (Ray Steadman)

**John (13:1)** states that Jesus "loved His own."

**John 3:16** states that God loves the world, but here the emphasis is on Jesus' love for His own, not for the world.

God loves the world by making provision for the sins of all that will believe in Jesus. The invitation goes out to all: Come and take the water of life without cost (**Rev. 22:17**).

Yet at the same time, Jesus has a special love for His own that He does not have for the whole world.

As Paul writes (**Eph. 5:25**), Christ "loved the church and gave Himself up for her."

**You need to understand this principle. As a Christian, I am commanded to love all my sisters in Christ, but I have a special love for my wife. I'm commanded to love all God's children, but I have a special love for my own children. In the same way, Jesus has a special love for His own, whom the Father gave to Him (John 6:37)** PASTOR STEVEN J. COLE

**John 17:9** I PRAY FOR THEM: I PRAY NOT FOR THE WORLD, BUT FOR THEM WHICH THOU HAST GIVEN ME; FOR THEY ARE THINE.

**John 17:14** I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, BECAUSE THEY ARE NOT OF THE WORLD, EVEN AS I AM NOT OF THE WORLD.

**HE LOVED THEM UNTO THE END.**

**John 13:2** - And supper being ended, the devil having now put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's *son*, to betray him;

Jesus loved Judas also! And in a few minutes he will even wash the feet of the man who would betray him!

### **Matt. 27:39-44**

**39** And they that passed by reviled him, wagging their heads,

**40** And saying, Thou that destroyest the temple, and buildest it in three days, save thyself. If thou be the Son of God, come down from the cross.

**41** Likewise also the chief priests mocking him, with the scribes and elders, said,

**:42** **He saved others; himself he cannot save. If he be the King of Israel, let him now come down from the cross, and we will believe him.**

**43** He trusted in God; let him deliver him now, if he will have him: for he said, I am the Son of God.

**44** The thieves also, which were crucified with him, cast the same in his teeth.

IRONICALLY, THE FAITHLESS WORDS SPOKEN BY THE SCRIBES AND ELDERS OF ISRAEL HAD AN ELEMENT OF TRUTH TO THEM. FOR IF CHRIST HAD TAKEN THE "I'LL SHOW YOU ATTITUDE" THAT SATAN HAD HOPED TO PRODUCE BY THE TAUNTS, HE WOULD HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO SAVE US.

BUT BECAUSE HE CHOSE RATHER, "**HIMSELF NOT TO SAVE**" HE WAS AND IS ABLE TO SAVE TO THE UTTERMOST ALL THOSE WHO COME IN FAITH TO HIM.

HE HAD POWER TO LAY DOWN HIS LIFE - AND HE HAD POWER TO TAKE IT AGAIN!

**John 10:17** Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. NO MAN TAKETH IT FROM ME, BUT I LAY IT DOWN OF MYSELF. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.

**Hebrews 7:24** But this man, because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood.

**Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.**

TRANSITIONAL: THE CHARACTER OF HIS LOVE IS ETERNAL AND AS SUCH IT IS A CONTINUING LOVE:

**Matthew 28:20** Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: **AND, LO, I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS, EVEN UNTO THE END OF THE WORLD. AMEN.**

## **II. THE CONTINUANCE OF THE LOVE OF CHRIST**

"EVEN MORE POWERFUL AND BEAUTIFUL THAN A MOTHER'S LOVE IS GOD'S LOVE FOR US."

**"In sending His Son Jesus, He displayed HIS DESIRE TO HOLD US IN A PLACE OF SAFETY.**

Because His love is eternal, there is no circumstance under which God would let His children perish. The waters of adversity cannot drown the trusting saint, for God holds him above the floods. Because of Calvary, we can rest in the assurance that we will never enter into condemnation." **db 1-2-83.**

**Romans 8:35-39** Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

**36** As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

**37** Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

**38** For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,

**39** Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Hymn by **Carolina Sandell Berg** (author of Day by Day) #41 in hymns for the living church. "Children of the Heavenly Father."

Children of the heavenly Father  
Safely in His bosom gather  
Nestling bird nor star in heaven  
Such a refuge e'er was given.

Neither life nor death shall ever  
from the Lord His children sever  
Unto them His grace He showeth  
and their sorrows all He knoweth

Though He giveth or He taketh  
God His children ne'er forsaketh  
His the loving purpose solely  
To preserve them pure and holy

### III. THE COMMAND TO CONTINUE IN THE LOVE OF CHRIST

**John 15:9** As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: CONTINUE YE IN MY LOVE.

HOW IS IT THAT WE ARE ABLE TO CONTINUE IN CHRIST'S LOVE

**I John 4:19** WE LOVE HIM, BECAUSE HE FIRST LOVED US.

**John 13:34** A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another;

AS I HAVE LOVED YOU, THAT YE ALSO LOVE ONE ANOTHER.(**how did He love?**

**Until the end! 13:1)**

Now before the feast of the passover, when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, **having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end.**

**John 17:26** And I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare it: that the LOVE WHEREWITH THOU HAST LOVED ME MAY BE IN THEM, and I in them.

Loved with everlasting love, Led by grace that love to know;  
Spirit, breathing from above, Thou hast taught me it is so.  
Oh, this full and perfect peace! Oh, this transport all divine!  
In a love which cannot cease, I am His, and He is mine.

Heav'n above is softer blue, Earth around is sweeter green!  
Something lives in every hue Christless eyes have never seen;  
Birds with gladder songs o'erflow, flowers with deeper beauties shine,  
Since I know, as now I know, I am His, and He is mine.  
Since I know, as now I know, I am His, and He is mine.

Things that once were wild alarms cannot now disturb my rest;  
Closed in everlasting arms, pillowed on the loving breast.  
O to lie forever here, doubt and care and self resign,  
While He whispers in my ear, I am His, and He is mine.  
While He whispers in my ear, I am His, and He is mine.

His forever, only His; Who the Lord and me shall part?  
Ah, with what a rest of bliss Christ can fill the loving heart!  
Heav'n and earth may fade and flee, firstborn light in gloom decline;  
**But while God and I shall be, I am His, and He is mine.**  
**But while God and I shall be, I am His, and He is mine.**