



Loving Our Neighbors
Love the Way Jesus Taught It
The Position of Love

John 1:9-13 - *He was not the Light, but he came to testify about the Light. There was the true Light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.*

John 17:17 - *Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.*

3 characteristics of people who serve like our Lord

I. Loving Servants Live with an Eye on the Future

v. 1 - *Now before the feast of the Passover...*

Exodus 12:13 - *The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live; and when I see the blood I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.*

A. What Jesus knew

1. That He would depart out of this world to the Father – v. 1
2. That the devil had a place in this event – v. 2
3. That the Father had given all things into His hands – v.3
4. That He had come forth from God and was going back to God – v. 3

B. A helpful summary

Hebrews 12:2 - *fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

C. Security in the future frees us up to serve God joyfully and confidently today

1. The way we position ourselves before God

1 Samuel 3:10 - *...Speak, for Your servant is listening.*

Isaiah 6:8 - *...Here am I. Send me!*

2. The way we position ourselves before people

Philippians 2:5-7 - *Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men.*

Romans 12:1 - *Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.*

Romans 6:19 - *I am speaking in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness, resulting in further lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness, resulting in sanctification.*

II. Loving Servants Often Have a Platform for Ministering Life-Changing Truth

A. Peter's objections

John 13:6-8 - *So He came to Simon Peter. He said to Him, "Lord, do You wash my feet?...Never shall You wash my feet!"*

B. Jesus' explanation

John 13:8 - *...Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me."*

John 13:9 - *Simon Peter said to Him, "Lord, then wash not only my feet, but also my hands and my head."*

1. A person only needs to be bathed (saved) once – v. 10
2. The process of sanctification (change and growth) is ongoing for those who have been spiritually bathed – v. 10
3. This is frequently true in our day as well

"If we live out the Great Commandment, an environment is created where the Great Commission can be effectively obeyed. Loving people who live around us fosters an environment where people trust one another." (The Art of Neighboring, p. 111)

"The Great Commandment is a matter of obedience to those who know and follow Jesus. We don't love our neighbors so they will know Jesus; we love our neighbors because we already love Jesus and trust him." (The Art of Neighboring, p. 113)

- a. It is an essential attitude in the home
- b. It is a delightful posture in the workplace
- c. It has a powerful impact in the neighborhood
- d. It is an effective platform for the church

III. Loving Servants Find Joy in Following Our Savior's Example

A. Do this with one another

John 13:15 - *For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you.*

B. But what if I think I'm too good to serve?

John 13:16 - *Truly, truly, I say to you, a slave is not greater than his master, nor is one who is sent greater than the one who sent him.*

C. But what if I don't like the people I am supposed to be serving?

D. There is great joy in loving others by serving them

John 13:17 - *If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.*