

Name: _____

Date: _____

THE DOCTRINE OF FOOTWASHING

*“If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet.”
(John 13:14)*

Objectives

<i>Knowledge of God’s Will</i>	Footwashing is an important sacrament performed in the name of our Lord. We must receive it to have a part in Jesus.
<i>Knowledge of God</i>	This sacrament reminds us of God’s unfailing love.
<i>Good Work</i>	Learn to keep our feet clean through sanctification in the Spirit and the truth. Follow God’s word by standing within His house and loving our brethren.

A. Footwashing and Its Establishment

With this act, Jesus gave us an important instruction: after we have been baptized, we must accept footwashing. Then we will be completely clean and have a part with Him.

B. The Spiritual Significance of Footwashing

1. *Jesus Christ set the example for us:* By washing His students’ feet with His own two hands, Jesus Christ broke tradition and set a new example for us to follow.
2. *It was commanded by Jesus Christ:* Just as our Master washed the feet of sinners, we who follow Him are called to do likewise.
3. *It is required for salvation:* Peter’s reaction shows us the importance of having a part with Jesus. God is offering us a portion of His grace, promises, salvation, and heavenly inheritance.

C. The Teachings Behind Footwashing

1. *Love and Forgiveness:* By personally washing His disciples’ feet, Jesus demonstrated how He “loved them to the end” (Jn 13:1). He also washed Judas’ feet, showing both to him and to us the depth of His love, and of His forgiveness.
2. *Humility and Servitude:* By washing their feet, Jesus taught them to follow His example of servitude and humility.

Life Application: Living in Holiness

Our feet reflect our lifestyle and our faith, because the path which we direct them to go greatly affects our spiritual lives. We may receive footwashing only once in our lives, but our feet need to continue following in the footsteps left behind by Jesus Christ.

1. Are Your Feet Clean?

To have a part of our inheritance with Jesus, we must also have a part in His lifestyle by striving to be clean and holy (1 Cor 6:9) and presenting ourselves before God as “holy and without blemish” (Eph 5:27).

- a. *Sanctified by the Spirit:* The power of the Holy Spirit gives us the strength to live in holiness.
- b. *Sanctified by the Truth:* We must root ourselves firmly in the word of God.

2. Where Are Your Feet Taking You?

To follow in Jesus’ footsteps, we must choose the right path with the help of God’s word (Ps 119:105).

- a. *Stand Within the House of the Lord:* By surrounding ourselves with our brethren in Christ, we encourage both ourselves and each other to strive for the Lord (Heb 10:24–25).
- b. *Love Our Brethren:* Walking in Christ’s love keeps us from sin and danger.
- c. *Share the Gospel:* By sharing the gospel, we can leave imprints that show God’s love.

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Lesson 9 Homework Assignment

The Doctrine of Footwashing

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Read							
Pray							

Memory Verse (John 13:14):

1. What characteristics does Jesus want us to follow with the act of footwashing?
2. "I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the _____ of the LORD!' Our _____ have been _____ within your _____, O Jerusalem!" (Psalm 122:1–2)
3. What is a sacrament?
4. Name at least three important life applications that we should follow after we receive footwashing. Explain each in detail.
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.