

Keeping your Feet Clean **John 13:6-13**

Introduction:

1. Have you heard of the expression, “Keep your nose clean?” It means to stay out of trouble, and do the right thing.
2. When it comes to the Christian life, we might say instead, “Keep your feet clean.” Why? Because the Bible (especially Paul) compares the Christian life over and over again to a walk. Colossians 1:10; 2:6
3. This text is about feet. We have looked at this amazing story of how Christ washed the disciples’ feet (vs. 1-5). What a Savior!
4. But as Jesus is washing their feet, He is met with some resistance. When He gets to Peter, Peter says, “Lord, are you going to wash **my** feet?” vs. 6
 - This is admirable because he knows that this is not appropriate.
5. Jesus is like, “I know you don’t understand it now, but I’ll explain later.” Peter’s response was, “Oh no you don’t. You will **never** wash my feet.”
6. Now it has gone beyond the point of humility to obstinate self-will. So Jesus responds, “Peter, you can’t walk with me if your feet aren’t washed.”
7. Don’t you love good old Peter? He said to Jesus, “Then wash all of me – head to toe!” Jesus said, “No, you have already been washed and made clean. But you **do** need your feet cleansed.”
8. Peter and the twelve had been arguing and fussing over who would be the greatest and what position they should have in Christ’s kingdom.
9. They had some dirty feet. So, Jesus picks up the towel and the water basin and proceeds to give them a vivid illustration of what they desperately needed. In the midst of Jesus’ conversation with Peter, we learn some incredible lessons about our walk with Christ.
10. How do we walk through this filthy world system with clean feet? How do we overcome those fleshly temptations that are constantly there, threatening to defile our walk with Christ?

First, we need a total cleansing from Christ.

Second, we need the water of the Word applied to our daily walk.

1. These men were saved (except Judas Iscariot) and had a relationship with Christ, but they had dirty feet. There were some real issues of pride and self-will that Jesus knew all about.
2. The problem was that the disciples didn't recognize their pride and sin. Have you ever noticed how good we are at seeing other people's faults, and not so good at seeing our own shortcomings?
 - Illustration: Little kids – you explain sin and they will point the finger at their sibling or friend, “Tommy sinned, he hit me yesterday.” We as adults aren't a whole lot better.
 - But don't you know the disciples were hit with their own sin like a ton of bricks when Jesus picked up the towel and water basin and began to wash their stinky feet.
 - Illustration: Have you ever been convicted by the right actions of somebody else? I would be doing a project around the house like washing the cars, and one of my three boys would say, “Dad, do you need some help?” Usually within a couple of minutes, the other two would chime in, “Yea dad, do you need some help?” They were convicted by the one who was willing to serve.
 - Jesus' actions showed the disciples how dirty their feet were.
3. Just like them, our feet get dirty too as we walk in Satan's world system. We are saved and have been inwardly cleansed by Christ, but we are walking through a dirty world. Let's face it. That isn't being negative, just realistic. That reality shouldn't make us cynical, but we need to understand the challenges we face as believers. 1 John 5:19
 - It can be a real challenge to keep our feet clean. This world system can really muddy you up. Ephesians 5:3, 8, 10, 11
 - None of us are above getting our feet dirty and taking on wrong attitudes and actions and loving Satan's world system.
1 John 2:15-16
4. Has God provided a cleansing agent for us today? Yes, He most definitely has – it is the water of God's Word. Ephesians 5:26
5. The Bible is compared to water. There is simply no way to keep clean feet in our walk with Christ without the Word of God being a vital part of our everyday life.
 - Illustration: Sometimes you don't realize how dirty something is until you apply some water to it. Have you ever taken a towel and water and cleaned something and then looked at the towel and said, “Wow. I didn't know it was that dirty.”
 - The water exposed its true condition. This is what the Bible does for us. It is also likened to a mirror. It is also compared to

light. Think about those analogies. Water, light, and mirrors all expose and reveal dirt, dust, and grime.

6. The Holy Spirit lives within the Christian and like the towel, the Spirit takes the water of the Word and applies it to our lives.
7. The Holy Spirit helps us to see when our feet are dirty. It helps us to see when our walk with Christ has gotten defiled. That is a real blessing because once we see the dirt, we are more motivated to clean it. But there is one more important aspect to clean feet.

Third, we must submit ourselves to Christ.

1. When the Holy Spirit takes the Word of God and seeks to convict us and cleanse us, we cannot resist the work of Christ like Peter did. We must acknowledge that our feet are dirty and truly **desire** cleansing and change.
2. We must not work against Christ and what He is trying to do in our lives. We must submit to Him in humility. We must recognize that only Christ can cleanse and help us to walk worthy of Him.
3. Peter's desire to be in fellowship with Christ caused him to ultimately put away his pride and submit to Him.
4. Your **relationship** with Christ is unchangeable once you are saved. But your **fellowship** with Christ has to do with your daily walk – your feet!
 - Illustration: As parents, we have an unchangeable relationship with our children, but our fellowship can be hindered and even broken.
5. You say, "But Pastor Dan, I thought when we were saved we were forgiven of all our sins and cleansed."
6. That is true, you are saved from the eternal penalty of your sin the moment you are saved and trust Christ. That sin can never condemn you and break your relationship with God.
7. But there is a difference between judicial forgiveness and parental forgiveness.
 - Judicial – God remits the penalty of our sins when we trust Christ and are saved. The penalty for our sins (past, present, and future) is forgiven.
 - Parental – a saved person may still commit sin (get his feet dirty) and this disrupts fellowship with God. We don't need to get saved all over again, but we need to come before God with honesty and admit our sin and allow the Father to give parental

forgiveness and restore fellowship. This takes submission. Ill.
My boys growing up (standing and state)

8. Your submission to Christ as your **Savior** brings **union** with Him (at salvation), but your daily submission to Christ as your **Lord** brings **communion** with Him.

In Conclusion:

1. Have you been washed and cleansed from your sin by faith in Christ?
2. If yes, how are your feet? Have they gotten dirty? In other words, how is your daily walk with Christ? Will you allow God's Word to show you the true condition of your walk, and will you submit to Christ?