

Servant Authority

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I. Introduction.

- A. Text: John 13:1-17.
- B. One of the critical issues is where authority comes from.
- C. Jesus offers Himself as the sole source of eternal life.
- D. Jesus is concerned with not only life, but also the development of it.

II. Why Jesus washed the disciples' feet.

- A. Before the feast of the Passover, Jesus sees Himself as the Passover lamb that would be sacrificed for the people.
- B. Jesus was moved by an overwhelming sense of love for His disciples.
 - 1. The relationship Jesus has with His disciples He will have with us.
 - 2. Jesus loves us to the utter most without condition.
- C. Jesus was aware that there are invisible powers at work against us. We can easily be victimized by the devil.
- D. Jesus was aware that He was entrusted with the decisions of the timing of His death. Jesus was not a victim of a Passover plot.
- E. Jesus had a deep sense of His own identity.
 - 1. When we get in trouble, we need to remember whom we are.
 - 2. The believer no longer has to obey the devil because he is a child of God.

III. The disciples thought they should have been the ones washing feet, but they misunderstood the true nature of authority.

- A. Peter did not understand the nature of true authority.
- B. Jesus warns Peter that if He does not clean him, he can have no part with Him.
- C. Jesus' explanation.
 - 1. The believer has become an entirely new person by coming to Jesus.
 - 2. If we want Jesus' fellowship, we must acknowledge our sins and ask for Jesus' daily cleansing. (I John 1:9)

D. Jesus was modeling service for one another. Jesus was an authority because He served.

E. The church must establish its authority through service.

Application questions:

1. Which of Jesus' reasons for washing the disciples' feet stands out to you the most? What strikes you?

2. What does Jesus mean when He tells the disciples that they must be cleansed? Explain.

3. What are some up to date ways we can establish spiritual authority by "washing one another's feet?"
