

Let us pray,

May we never forget the depths that you Lord will go for us, to bring us back into relationship with you.

Amen.

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It is popular mainstream Christianity to believe that there is a condition upon which God's love is given.

We must accept the Lord as our Savior in front of a person who we deem matters.

Such as a pastor, a congregation of believers, etc.

It is also believed by mainstream Christianity that we must do this before we die, otherwise we lose God's love and are damned to suffer for all of eternity.

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Well, this doesn't sound much like love at all.

First of all, it is important that we remember that we as a Christian people, historically and currently, don't completely agree on why Jesus had to die.

Is it to save us from death?

To save us from eternal suffering?

To save us from sin?

To bring heaven to earth?

Why did Jesus have to die?

There are some out there who are very confident in their beliefs on the matter, and will arrogantly proclaim that they have all the answers.

That if you do what they say they believe Jesus meant, then you can be assured that you are saved.

But does God really call us to have faith in our interpretation of him, or does God call us to have faith in him?

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Here is the thing.

God either loves us or he doesn't.

We are either saved or we are not.

If Jesus really is who he says that he is, and he truly saved us from ourselves, then why in the world do we continue to think that we have a part in God's ability to save?

If we have to accept God's forgiveness and salvation, then are we truly saved from ourselves?

Or is God's love so profound and generous, that even in our unbelief.

Even in our disobedience,  
even in our unwillingness to follow God's law.

We are saved.

Purely because God loves God's creation.

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Today we see in our Gospel, Jesus washing his disciples feet.

Today we see God who should be at the top.

Who should be having people serve him.

Come down from his paradise, to join us in our suffering.

And instead of doing God's best to avoid suffering and servitude.

God instead, embraces serving and suffering.

God says, I have required you to enter into this life of suffering and service.

Therefore, I will take on this burden with you as well.

Jesus, in this one moment of washing his disciples feet, has shown us that there is nothing outside of where God is unwilling to go.

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There is no where on this creation, that God is not willing to go and serve.

There is no part of God's creation that is too dirty for God.

God has come to save the world with His presence.

And this is what true servant leadership and love looks like.

There is nothing beneath God.

Therefore, there should be nothing beneath us.

Instead of working to elevate ourselves, we should be working to bring ourselves to depths in which the world does not wish to go.

So that we may be a light in the darkness, a sign of hope for the hopeless, and a reminder, that no one is unworthy of God's love.

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Remember, we are either saved or not saved.

And if we are saved, which I truly believe that we are, than there is nothing that we can do that is outside the grace of God.

God loves us so much, that He is willing to serve and suffer with us.

So that we can see that there is nothing beyond his grasp and his generosity.

May we be willing to enter into the shadows and the dirty places, and be to others what Jesus is to us.

A beacon of love and hope, in a world starving for love and hope.

Amen.