

"I OWE YOU ALL AN APOLOGY"  
John 13:3-20

<sup>3</sup>Jesus knew that the Father had given Him authority over everything and that He had come from God and would return to God. <sup>4</sup>So He got up from the table, took off His robe, wrapped a towel around His waist, <sup>5</sup>and poured water into a basin. Then He began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel He had around Him. <sup>6</sup>When He came to Simon Peter, Peter said to Him, 'Lord, why are You going to wash my feet?' <sup>7</sup>Jesus replied, 'You don't understand now why I am doing it; someday you will.' <sup>8</sup>'No,' Peter protested, 'You will never wash my feet!' Jesus replied, 'But if I don't wash you, you won't belong to Me.' <sup>9</sup>Simon Peter exclaimed, 'Then wash my hands and head as well, Lord, not just my feet!' <sup>10</sup>Jesus replied, 'A person who has bathed all over does not need to wash, except for the feet, to be entirely clean. And you are clean, but that isn't true of everyone here.' <sup>11</sup>For Jesus knew who would betray Him. That is what He meant when He said, 'Not all of you are clean.' <sup>12</sup>After washing their feet, He put on His robe again and sat down and asked, 'Do you understand what I was doing?' <sup>13</sup>You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and you are right, because it is true. <sup>14</sup>And since I, the Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash each other's feet. <sup>15</sup>I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you. <sup>16</sup>How true it is that a servant is not greater than the master. Nor are messengers more important than the one who sends them. <sup>17</sup>You know these things – now do them! That is the path of blessing. <sup>18</sup>I am not saying these things to all of you; I know so well each one of you I chose. The Scriptures declare, 'The one who shares My food has turned against Me,' and this will soon come true. <sup>19</sup>I tell you this now, so that when it happens you will believe I am the Messiah. <sup>20</sup>Truly, anyone who welcomes My messenger is welcoming Me, and anyone who welcomes Me is welcoming the Father who sent Me."

I. Why do you think God created us?

- A. He created us to **love us** and to **serve us**.
- B. We were designed to **function in relationships** based on **unconditional love**.
- C. We were not designed to know evil. The **immediate cost** is that it broke our **unity and eternal relationship** with God.

- D. Without that intimacy and unity with God, **unconditional love** in our relationships isn't possible.
- E. We accept **conditional** relationships rather than **no relationships**.

II. There are 6 traits that our culture highly values:

1. **Appearance**
  2. **Natural Abilities**
  3. **Learned Skills**
  4. **Wealth**
  5. **Power or Influence**
  6. **Who You Know**
- A. It's these things that make you **valuable**.
  - B. The primary things that teach us 'performance makes us valuable' are:
    - 1) Our **culture**
    - 2) Our **relationships**
    - 3) Our **previous church** experiences

III. The truth about who God is and how He wants to relate to you.

- A. God wants **to serve us!**
- B. God loves you and me **unconditionally**.
- C. The relationship is good and that's what **motivates** me to do **good things**.
- D. Serving others is not something you are **supposed to do**--IT'S **WHO YOU ARE TO BECOME!**