



A Biblical Vision For A Healthy Local Church

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Genuine Christian Community and Relational Vitality (Part 4)

1. The 1st part of this miniseries was: The Trinity, Because God has fellowship, so in Christ, we do...
2. Part 2 was titled: How Grace Creates "**Genuine Love**". Romans 12 "Let Love be genuine"(Horse & Buggy picture)
3. Last week's message was titled: Jesus calls us "**Dear Friends**"
4. This morning we shall look at:

Jesus Creates & Cleanses and Commands A NEW Messianic Community!

This is just another way of saying: A Genuine Christian Community...& Relational Vitality!

Something refreshing about the word "NEW", the concept "NEW"

As in new car (smell), a new toy, a new friend, a new home, a new life!

Speaking of "new car smell": PICTURES

We turn to the final week of Jesus' life to simply be exposed to the "aroma" of this Person & work of Jesus Christ!

Watch Him Instruct...!

watch Him Work...!

watch Him Die...!

watch Him Create!

Context:

[**John 12:20-33 NIV** Now there were some Greeks among those who went up to worship at the Feast. (21) They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, with a request. "Sir," they said, "we would like to see Jesus." (22) Philip went to tell Andrew; Andrew and Philip in turn told Jesus. (23) Jesus replied, "**The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. (24) I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. (25) The man who loves his life will lose it, while the man who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. (26) Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me. (27) "Now my heart is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. (28) Father, glorify your name!"** Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and will glorify it again." (29) The crowd that was there and heard it said it had thundered; others said an angel had spoken to him. (30) Jesus said, "**This voice was for your benefit, not mine. (31) Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out. (32) But I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself. (33) He said this to show the kind of death he was going to die.**]

John 13:1-38 NIV It was just before the Passover Feast. Jesus knew that the time had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he now showed them the full extent of his love. (2) The evening meal was being served, and the devil had already prompted Judas Iscariot, son of Simon, to betray Jesus. (3) Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; (4) so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. (5) After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him. (6) He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" (7) Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand." (8) "No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me." (9) "Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!" (10) Jesus answered, "A person who has had a bath needs only to wash his feet; his whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you."

(John 15:3 NIV You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you.)

(11) For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean. (12) When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. (13) "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. (14) Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. (15) I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. (16) I tell you the truth, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. (17) Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them. (18) "I am not referring to all of you; I know those I have chosen. But this is to fulfill the scripture: 'He who shares my bread has lifted up his heel against me.' (19) "I am telling you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe that I am He. (20) I tell you the truth, whoever accepts anyone I send accepts me; and whoever accepts me accepts the one who sent me." (21) After he had said this, Jesus was troubled in spirit and testified, "I tell you the truth, one of you is going to betray me." (22) His disciples stared at one another, at a loss to know which of them he meant. (23) One of them, the disciple whom Jesus loved, was reclining next to him. (24) Simon Peter motioned to this disciple and said, "Ask him which one he means." (25) Leaning back against Jesus, he asked him, "Lord, who is it?" (26) Jesus answered, "It is the one to whom I will give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish." Then, dipping the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas Iscariot, son of Simon. (27) As soon as Judas took the bread, Satan entered into him. "What you are about to do, do quickly," Jesus told him, (28) but no one at the meal understood why Jesus said this to him. (29) Since Judas had charge of the money, some thought Jesus was telling him to buy what was needed for the Feast, or to give something to the poor. (30) As soon as Judas had taken the bread, he went out. And it was night. (31) When he was gone, Jesus said, "Now is the Son of Man glorified and God is glorified in him. (32) If God is glorified in him, God will glorify the Son in himself, and will glorify him at once. (33) "My children, I will be with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and just as I told the Jews, so



I tell you now: Where I am going, you cannot come. (34) "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. (35) By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." (36) Simon Peter asked him, "Lord, where are you going?" Jesus replied, "Where I am going, you cannot follow now, but you will follow later." (37) Peter asked, "Lord, why can't I follow you now? I will lay down my life for you." (38) Then Jesus answered, "Will you really lay down your life for me? I tell you the truth, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times!

We notice here 2 main elements, ingredients:

HORSE & BUGGY PICTURE

1. The Soon Death of the Son of God! (Theology; Truth about Jesus; The Horse)
2. What that death creates: (implications; application; effect; what that death does to His people; The Buggy)
 - a. A new messianic community
 - b. A cleansed people of God: cleansed by a bath & then cleansed of their dirty feet.
 - c. A newly commanded people: Love one another, as I have loved you.

Jesus Creates a NEW Messianic Community:

The Farewell Discourse (JN 13-17) is given to His closest disciples (the apostles)

His own (13.1)

These are the ones He originally called to Himself...

Jesus went up on a mountainside and called to him those he wanted, and they came to him. He appointed twelve—designating them apostles—that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach and to have authority to drive out demons. (Mark 3:13-15 NIV)

Jesus Cleanses a NEW Messianic Community:

By washing His disciples feet

By driving out Judas from among them

Jesus Commands a NEW Messianic Community:

Love one another – not new...in the OT: love your neighbor **as yourself**

This new command is:

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. (35) By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

John 15:12-13 NIV My command is this: Love each other **as I have loved you.** (13) Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.



Jesus Creating, Cleansing and Commanding A NEW Messianic Community by His glorious Death & Resurrection

Jn 12.23 "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. (24) I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.

(27) "Now my heart is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. (28) Father, glorify your name!" Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and will glorify it again." (29) The crowd that was there and heard it said it had thundered; others said an angel had spoken to him. (30) Jesus said, "This voice was for your benefit, not mine. (31) Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out. (32) But I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself." (33) He said this to show the kind of death he was going to die.]

Jn 13.1 Jesus knew that the time had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he now showed them the full extent of his love

Jn 13.34 "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.

Has your life gone the way you've always dreamed it would go?
Has your life gone according to your plan?
Disappointments, bad decisions, bum deals in life?

Regardless of what you think about your life...God is on complete control and is working all things according to His plan for you...and can you bring a charge against His plan for your life...for your eternity?

He is building His character among us here @ HCC

As Pastor Mark Dever says of a "healthy local church" :

"A healthy church is a congregation that increasingly reflects God's character as His character has been revealed in His word." (What Is A Healthy Church? P.40)

So this week, may we

*"ponder anew, what the Almighty can do, if with His love He **befriend** thee"*