

It's easy in our hurry-up world to rush by those in our path who need help, who need what only God can offer. Jesus showed His disciples what it means to serve others with humility, to set pride aside, and to let love be the motivation for reaching out-loving others the way He loves us. From the book "Jesus, Hero of Thy Soul" the writer states, "Knowing how Jesus lived His life here, we can't settle for less than a genuine pursuit of His likeness. His very presence among us forbids us from being just nice people who do nice things....The bland leading the bland, both falling into a nice rut"

Part of Jesus' teaching in John 13 was acted out by Him in a drama of sorts – a live demonstration of what it means to roll up one's sleeves and serve others. This is the message we must take into the world if people are going to see Jesus when they see us.

- I. A Persuasive Initiative for Rolled-Up Sleeves
  - Love was at the center of Jesus' serving His disciples
  - Loving one another is not easy
  - When we ask, "How?" the answer is "as I have love you" John 13:34
- II. Some Practical Insights About Rolled-Up Sleeves
  - Rolled-up sleeves will test your authenticity – There is nothing wrong with letting others see our good works (Matt 5:16). The point is that we are not to do them for that reason (Matt 6:1-8)
  - Rolled-up sleeves will teach you humility – The bible tells us we are to be clothed with humility (Col 3:12)
  - In the eyes of Jesus, the way down is the way up
- III. A Powerful Illustration of Rolled-Up Sleeves
  - Vs 4-5, we have the powerful illustration of Jesus' humble service
- IV. Some Personal Instructions Concerning Rolled-Up Sleeves – Three insights:
  - Knowledge produces accountability – vs 12-14 The knowledge of who Jesus was and who they were, and the fact that He washed their feet in spite of the gulf that separated them, made them accountable to do the same for each other
  - Example increases responsibility – vs 15-16 "For I have given you an example that you should do as I have done to you." They had seen the ultimate example of humility before their very eyes and were therefore responsible to do the same.
  - Obedience determines authenticity – vs 17

Ques: By what act on Christians' parts will the world come to know that we are followers of Jesus?  
(John 13:35)

Why did God make loving our brother a test for whether we love Him?

Happy Studying!