

When I lived in Philadelphia, I attended chapel services on many weekdays at the seminary. Of all the messages I heard, only one now comes to mind. It was preached by a doctoral student, who was from the inner city. The sermon title was "Jesus Ain't Got No Feet". The message was about how rich, white suburban churches had no contact with inner-city residents, just a few miles away, who lived with the daily effects of poverty, drug abuse, alcoholism and crime. The body of Christ, in the suburbs, never carried the message of salvation to those just a few miles away. Hence, it had no feet.

Yet, the Bible tells us that our God is love. And, He demonstrates that love to us and for us. He fed the hungry and healed the sick, and then wept over a city that had rejected Him. He physically touched a leper and a funeral bier. He allowed a bleeding woman to touch His garment. This behavior no doubt shocked His first century Jewish audience. In short, He didn't love from a distance; He was right there in the moment.

The same is true of the cross. Jesus didn't stay in heaven, while He sent someone else to die; instead, He Himself came to suffer and die for our sins. The Bible says that "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." The issue isn't that God didn't care enough, because He came. It isn't that He didn't do enough, because He died for our sins. It isn't that He didn't love enough, because He wants us to live with Him in heaven forever. The issue is whether you have received as a gift what God has already done for you.

Just as God's love is evident, ours should be too. The Bible tells us that the world will know that we are Christians because of our love. We can spot a law enforcement officer by his or her badge, a graduate by the mortarboard and tassel, and a bride by her dress, but will others know that we are Christians by our love?

In 1 Corinthians 13:4-8, the Bible tells us what love is. It is patient and kind. It is glad when others do well, while keeping us quiet about ourselves. It is not pompous. Love keeps us humble and unselfish. It keeps us from easily getting mad. Love blocks evil thoughts, and it keeps us from enjoying evil actions. It will also prompt us to tell the truth. And, love can put up with a lot. It will keep us from being suspicious; instead, it will make us hopeful. Such love will endure and won't let us quit. Is that you? Is that how your best friend would describe you?

Should we talk about love? Yes. And should we demonstrate love as well? Yes. It is true godliness. James 1:27 reads, "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world." That means we need feet.

The Bible tells us that in the end times, the love of many will wax cold. In other words, Christians are going to stand out more and more as we show love for others.

Finally, always remember, that we are not called to be rich, or a genius, or popular. But, we are most certainly called to love.