



Christianity 101 – Revisited  
Matt. 22:37, John 13:34,35  
4/19/2009

Pastor Rick introduced the sermon with these points:

1. Regarding religion: the United States is now a nation of freelancers
2. More than ever before, people are making up their own “stories” about their religious beliefs.
3. For too many, religion has become a hobby or a fashion statement.
4. The percentage of “nones” (the response to “What is your religious identity?”) has risen from 8% in 1980 to 15% in 2008.
5. Religion is defined as man’s attempt to reach God; Christianity is defined as God’s attempt to reach man through the acts of Jesus Christ (a personal relationship).
6. The deepest counteraction to what many (particularly non-Christians) are saying about Christians is the expression of Christlike love.
7. Our core focus as Christians should be a demonstration of the love Jesus calls for in Matt. 22:37

### **BARE BONES OUTLINE**

- I. Starts with a deep personal love for God (Matt 22:37)
  - A. We also need a passion for the Lord
- II. Continues with a genuine love for one another (John 13:34, 35)
  - A. Foot-washing Christianity
  - B. This love transcends all barriers
  - C. Onward Christian soldiers
- III. Results in the unbelieving community (“nones”) wanting to know who we are (John 13:35)

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

#### **OPEN IT**

1. What does “loving God” look like to you? How does someone express their love for God in our church culture today?
2. What comes to mind when you think of the word “passion”?

#### **EXPLORE IT**

3. In Matt. 22:37, Jesus states that a disciple should love God with their whole being. What are the elements of your “whole being”? What is the difference in how you express your love through each of these elements?
4. Matt 22:37 suggests that if we truly love God with all our heart, soul, and mind, that our entire person is focused on giving ourselves to Him.
  - a. How will this affect our intimacy with God?
  - b. How will this affect our obedience to Him?
  - c. What are the areas of your life where you struggle with intimacy with God or obedience to Him?
5. As Jesus prepared for his teaching of the new commandment in John 13:34, 35, he washed the disciples’ feet (John 13:1-17).
  - a. What did Jesus model as He washed the feet of the disciples?
  - b. What is the significance of Jesus not asking for His feet to be washed?
6. What are ways we can demonstrate to Christian brothers and sister the same humility that Jesus demonstrated to the disciples as He washed their feet?
7. What are some of our barriers in the church to overcome in order to demonstrate the humility that Jesus demonstrated to the disciples?
  - a. What are some of your personal barriers that you must overcome to demonstrate humility to a Christian brother or sister? Or to a nonbeliever?
8. The love Jesus mentions in John 13:34 is taken from the Greek word “Agapao”, which is a sacrificial, unconditional form of love.
  - a. How is this type of love different from what our culture describes as love?
  - b. What if you don’t think the one to whom this love is expressed is deserving of the love?

### GO FOR IT

9. If you were to demonstrate “footwashing Christianity” what is the biggest area of your life that would need to be moved aside? What would you have to change?