

WHAT IS LOVE?

One of the most misunderstood words in the English language is love.

Ahava #157 (Hebrew), means to have a lot of affection for. Back in ancient times those who were obedient to their king were told they loved him. Our King has explained this concept in many ways throughout the scriptures. Those who truly are born again and love Him, are obedient to His Word, it's as simple as that (John 14:15). One can talk all day about love but until your actions show your obedience and respect for something/ someone, in this case, the King of Kings, your words mean nothing.

All adults have been in love at one time or another. We all know that we can tell our spouse or girlfriend we love her all day, but until we prove our love with ACTIONS that are appropriate, our words mean nothing. If we love Yeshua we will keep His word, how much more simple can it be?

Our Adonai is "agape" love in its 100% pure form (1John 4:8:12). Love is "giving". Yahveh gave us His own Son to show us His selfless love (John 3:16). Love needs no knowledge, wisdom, time, etc.. Love is all. **John 1:1 "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with Yahveh, and the Word was Yahveh."** Yah is love (1John 4:8). The word is love! The word became flesh! Yeshua was the word! The Torah was Yeshua, the word which was and is love. We are made in His image, so we are made in the image of love.

The true love of Yahveh flows down the channel, or riverbed of the Ten Commandments. Ultimate love is giving to your enemies. Ultimate love is laying down our lives for our Brothers (1John 3:16). Yeshua tells us that because of lawlessness true love will grow cold (Matt. 24:12).

The reason the Pass-over Feast is called the "Love Feast" is because Yah gave His own Son for us at this Feast, to be remembered during the Last Supper as His blood and His body, the ultimate giving of a Father.

We often hear Believers talking about how much Adonai loves them, and this is of course true, but how do those who willingly accept His love, return LOVE to Adonai?

Love is an "VERB" (active), for those who say they love Adonai, the question is; how do they show their love for Adonai. John 14:15 and 21 explains clearly. John 14:15 "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments." That is how we show Yah that we love Him. It is straight forward and simple. Most Believers claim they want Yah to REVEAL Himself to them, and yet how many of them meet the condition required by El Shaddai to receive revelation, as clearly stated in: **John 14:21 "He who has My commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves Me; and he who loves Me shall be loved by My Father, and I will love him, and will disclose Myself to him."** This isn't a gray area that is hard to understand! It is straight forward and simple! There are requirements that our Father has in order for us to receive His divine presence and revelation. The first thing we MUST do in order for Him to reveal Himself to us is obvious, **"follow the commandments"**. That means all of them, including the fourth. You don't need to be a rocket scientist to understand.

A verse that is often quoted to encourage Believers to ask for what Yah has prepared for us, is usually not looked at closely, or these people would take the Ten Commandments more seriously. **1Cor. 2:9 "but just as it is written, THINGS which eye**

*has not seen and ear has not heard, AND {which} HAVE not entered the heart of man, **ALL THAT YAH HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM.***

1John 3:14 *“We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brethren. **He who does not love abides in death.**”*

If we love the world and the things in it we are not in love with Yah. **1John 3:17** *“But whoever has the world’s goods, and beholds his brother in need and closes his heart against him, **how does the love of Yahveh abide in him?**”*

John 15:10 *“If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father’s commandments, and **abide in His love.**”*

1John 4:16 *“And we have come to know and have believed the love which Yahveh has for us. **Yahveh is love, and the one who abides in love abides in Yahveh, and Yahveh abides in him.**”*

1John 4:18 *“There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and **the one who fears is not perfected in love.**”*

Many say His law has been replaced by love, but His law teaches us how to love. Whenever we fail His law He gives us mercy. Mercy is a part of the law, one of the weightier things of the law as described in **Matt. 23:23** *“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cummin, and have **neglected the weightier provisions of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness;** but these are the things you should have done without neglecting the others.”*

Those who show their love for Adonai will receive a crown of life. Each and every promise of Yah is built upon four foundations: namely, Yah’s righteousness, Yah’s holiness, Yah’s grace, and Yah’s truth. Yah’s righteousness keeps us from being unfaithful! Yahveh’s holiness keeps us from being deceitful! Yah’s grace keeps us from being forgetful, and Yah’s truth keeps us from being changeful!

1John 3:18 *“Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth.”*

John 5:42-47 *“but I know you, that you do not have the love of Yahveh in yourselves. “I have come in My Father’s name, and you do not receive Me; if another shall come in his own name, you will receive him. “How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another, and you do not seek the glory that is from the {one and} only Yahveh? “Do not think that I will accuse you before the Father; the one who accuses you is Moses, in whom you have set your hope. “For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote of Me. “But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?”*

LOVE IS THE ROYAL LAW

The 10 Commandments as a whole, may in one case, be referred to as LAW, “royal law”. This verse can be found in **James 2:8** *“If, however, you are fulfilling the **royal law,** according to the Scripture, “**YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF,**” you are doing well.” Is “following not all the commandments” being referred to, or the “Royal Law” being referred to when it says you cannot forget one commandment? **James 2:10-11** *“For **whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one {point,} he has become guilty of all.** For He who said, “**DO NOT COMMIT ADULTERY,**” also said, “**DO NOT COMMIT MURDER.**” Now if you do not commit adultery, but do commit murder, you**

have become a transgressor of the law.” I believe the royal law spoken of here is the summary of all the laws and commands of Yahveh. **“LOVE”** is being referred to here! If the instructions of Yahveh aren’t followed in love, there is no point in following them at all. The love has to be in ones circumcised heart before it can be manifested through following the Torah.

We must ask ourselves: “who is our neighbor”?? This is a question pondered by many. I believe our neighbor is whoever we are in the presence of. Whether we are at home with friends and relatives, or standing in line at the grocery store. Our neighbor is the person close to us wherever we are at the time. Using this scenario, you can easily understand how important it is to LOVE every human being.

LOVE AND COVENANT RELATIONSHIP

Through the blood of Messiah those who follow the Word have gained citizenship into Israel and Yah’s family. We are now sons and daughters of the God of Israel. Before, a Gentile had to undergo circumcision to be considered a citizen of Israel. Now our hearts have been circumcised by Messiah and we are now members of Yahveh’s family, equal sharers with Israel and the covenant blessings. Circumcision was never eliminated, it was just changed from an outward physical expression to an inner circumcision of the heart in the Re-newed Testament.

There is an obvious relationship between friends, love, and the commandments, as expressed in the book of John. If one truly wants to be a friend of Yahveh and a covenant partner, then one must follow His commands. This is the proof that we love Elohim. **John 15:12-15** *“This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you. **“Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends. “You are My friends, if you do what I command you. “No longer do I call you slaves, for the slave does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you.”** Friends are only those who are in covenant and have accepted the conditions of the covenants. This is explained in detail in this book under the heading of, “Covenants of Yah”.*

Love is the fulfillment, the meaning and purpose of the law. When the word fulfill is used in Matt. 5:17 it means the same as it does in **Rom. 13:8-10** *“Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another; for he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled {the} law. For this, **“YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY, YOU SHALL NOT MURDER, YOU SHALL NOT STEAL, YOU SHALL NOT COVET,”** and if there is any other commandment, it is summed up in this saying, **“YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.”** Love does no wrong to a neighbor; **love therefore is the fulfillment of {the} law.”** Notice some of the commandments are spoken of here immediately after the word fulfill is used. If fulfill meant finalized why would it show up here with the commandments.*

The love of Yah coincides with our ability to repent: **Rev. 3:19** ***“Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline; be zealous therefore, and repent.”*** Repentance is the hurt that leads to healing.

May/16 Jerry Hennig