

## A CASE FOR LOVE

For most people, the mention of 'love' conjures up feelings of: admiration; affection; enamor; fondness; devotion; tenderness; passion; and lust. And all of these certainly have their place in the context of love, but the expression of love I wish to address today is the kind of love we should have for one another in the sense of "brotherly love" and the kind of love we are to have toward our Heavenly Father.

The Scriptures or Debarim have much to say concerning both, and our correct practice of "brotherly love" is largely dependent on a proper understanding and practice or application of love toward The Almighty One. So we will begin with defining our love of The Almighty Ones; or as referred to in Hebrew, Elohim.

First and foremost, we must acknowledge that our Father Above has a Name! Lord and God are not names they are titles; just as doctor; professor; or judge are not names but titles. It should be noted here for clarity that god was used by the pagans to refer to one of their idols as a name; as in "Ba'al God"; which translates to "lord god"! That being said we need to consider just who are we addressing when we come before the Father's Throne in prayer?

When asked what was the "greatest Commandment" our Master replied "...you should love Master YHWH your Elohim with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might; and with all your mind." (Matt.22:37 AENT Aramaic English New Testament).

Looking forward to the time of 'the Restoration' and a "New Jerusalem, King David wrote: "The seed (children) of His (YHWH) servants shall inherit it; and they that **love His (YHWH's) Name** shall dwell in it." (Ps. 69:36 RSTNE Restoration Scriptures True Name Edition) What that means is that those who love His True Name will live with that Name; it will be a part of their lives and who they are.

Isiah/YeshaYahu also wrote of this future event and those who love His Name: "Even to them will I give in My House and within My walls, a place and name better than that of sons and daughters: I will give them an everlasting name, that shall not be cut off. Also the sons of the ger/stranger that join themselves to YHWH; to serve Him, and **to love The Name of YHWH**, to be His avadim/servants, every person that **guards the Shabbat** from polluting it, **and takes hold of My Brit/Covenant.**" (Is./YeshaYahu 56:5+6 RSTNE)

While there are many other Scriptures which deal with the importance of loving His Name, I will only add two more.

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YeshaYahu/Is. 52:6 “Therefore; **My people shall know My Name**; and they shall know in “that day” that **I AM He that does speak this; it is I** “.

Yochanan/John 17:6 “**I have made Your Name known** to the sons of men whom You have given Me from the world. They were Yours and You gave them to Me, and **they have kept Your Word**”. (AENT)

Loving and using His Name is only one way in which we display our love for Him. Another important way we display our love for Him is through obedience! **Yes; we are Commanded to be obedient, if we truly love Him!**

Yochanan/John 14:15 “**If you love Me, keep My Commandments**”.

Yes! I know this is our Savior speaking, but have you not read:

Yochanan/Jn. 10:30 “**I and The Father are One!**” and verse 38b “...Believe that **My Father is in Me, and I am in My Father!**” Add to this the message or teaching our Messiah gives us in Matt. 5:17-20!

Our Father; YHWH, gave us His Commands as instructions on how to live happy; abundant; and righteous lives. Those Commandments never failed mankind; mankind failed them! This is why YirmeYahu/Jeremiah was inspired to write: Jer. 31:31, which speaks of a time when The Messiah would “write the Commands/Law on our hearts”. II Yochanan/2 John 6 “**And this is love; that we walk according to the Commandments. This is the Commandment, as you have heard from the beginning that we should walk in it.**”

Obedience; walking in His Commands is how we show YHWH that we love Him!

I Yochanan/1 John 5:3 “**For this is the love of Elohim that we keep His Commandments**; and His Commandments are not burdensome.”

At this point we need to bring together the two things that prove our love for YHWH. Turn with me to: Shemoth/Ex.20:7, The third Commandment! “You shall not bring The Name of YHWH your Elohim to vain emptiness: for YHWH will not hold him guiltless that brings His Name to vain emptiness.” (RSTNE) This is the literal translation of the original Hebrew. It needs to be stated here that after the Pharisees came into authority, they put a ban on anyone using The Father’s Name; which is one of the reasons for their contempt for The Savior, because He used That Blessed Name.

Now; there is one more aspect of our love for The Father that we need to consider and that is our love for each other. Just prior to His death, The Messiah gave us a “new” Command! Its concept was not ‘new’ as it can be found throughout The Torah, but the

acknowledgement that it is now a Command for YHWH's people, is new. And as we have already seen, keeping The Commandments is one of the ways we display our love for YHWH! Yochanan/John 13:34 **"A 'new' Commandment I give you: Be loving one to another, just as I have loved you, so you should love one another."**

There are many other Scriptures which discuss this topic and I encourage the reader to go to I Peter; as well as I, II, and III John as they have much to say on this topic. I will give two more Scriptures on this subject though. Yochanan/John 15:12+13 **"This is my Commandment, that you love one another just as I have loved you. There is no love that is greater than this; that a man lay down his life for the sake of his friends."** MattisYahu/Matthew 5:43+44 **"You have heard that it has been said to love your neighbor and hate your enemy. But I say to you to love your enemies and bless those that curse you and do that which is pleasing to those that hate you. And pray for those that take you by force and persecute you."**

It is easy to love those who love us, and to do good to those who do good to us, but the real trial of our faith comes from our reaction to those who do us wrong!

Our Savior left us the perfect example of this leading up to His death. For this; we first turn to Lucas/Luke 22:62-65 where we read that He (our Messiah) is brought before the high priest. Here He is mocked; struck in the face; and blasphemed in the presence of His own people; the Jews. In Yochanan/John 18:20-23 we see He is hit in the mouth by one of the Temple guards just for answering a question. Yet; through all of that, He does not rebuke His tormentors, nor does He show any sign of anger.

Now; someone may say: "It's easy to forgive your own kind." Fair enough! Let's see how He was treated; and His reaction in the hands of the Romans! Matt. 27:26-30 tells us He was "scourged"; this was a severe beating using several implements designed to cause extreme damage and pain! They shoved a "crown" of thorns upon His head; mocked His Kingship; spat upon Him; beat Him on the head with sticks; and finally marched Him off to Golgotha to be nailed to a stake and hung up for all to see. **Not one utterance of hostility passed our Savior's lips. In fact; quite the opposite, He asked The Father YHWH to forgive them their ignorance,** Luke 23:34. This same attitude was displayed by Stephen when he was stoned to death for his testimony regarding The Messiah, Acts 7:59+60.

In closing; it was mentioned earlier that the concept of loving/caring for others was not limited to the Renewed Covenant; it is found throughout The Torah! See: Shemoth/Ex. 22:21-23; Wayiqra/Lev.23:22; Bamidbar/Num.9:14; 15:15; 35:15; Debarim/Deut. 1:16; 10:17-19; 16:11+12; 27:19. All of these speak of treating others/strangers as one of our

own! The parable of the Samaritan; in Luke 10:33-37 is a perfect example. The Samaritans were reviled by the Jews, yet in this story, a man; whose people are hated and mistreated because of their race, provides care for one of his oppressors who had been waylaid and beaten. This is “brotherly love” something the world desperately needs today!

One last note concerning our love for Father YHWH.

I Yochanan/Jn.4:20 **“If someone says, “I love Elohim” and hates his brother [fellow man] he is a liar. For the one not loving his brother whom he has seen, how is he able to love Elohim whom he has not seen?”**

The Commandments are; in fact, a study in love. The first four tell us how we are to love YHWH, while the last six tell us how to love our fellow man.

When we look at the situation in our nation’s politics today, we see anything but love. What we do see is what happens when there is a lack of love and loving concern for others. Could this be a reason for the many mass shootings going on today? Our courts removed The Commandments from our schools and courtrooms, thus opening the door for hatred; contention; and rebellion. It is now up to us as individuals to restore that love for fellow man, by putting into practice the concepts outlined in The Commandments and The Law/Torah! This is more than a Jewish thing, it is a YaH thing!