

Love One Another!

Deuteronomy 6:4-5. "Sh'ma, Yisra'el! ADONAI Eloheinu, ADONAI echad [Hear, Isra'el! ADONAI our God, ADONAI is one]; ⁵ and you are to love (Ve'ahavta (Root Ahav): **Human love for another, includes family, sexual, human appetite for objects such as food, drink, sleep, wisdom; human love of God, God's love toward man, act of being a friend**) ADONAI your God with all your heart, all your being and all your resources

Love, Ahav is a verb, an action, something we do! As I have shared before Love is command from God, we choose to Love or as its stated in the Hebrew we choose what we desire. The Shema which we recite every week is the affirmation of our trust, love, and obedience to Adonai. The Shema functions both as our pledge of allegiance and a hymn of praise! The Shema is the affirmation of God's singularity and kingship, whom we are commanded to love. The Shema tells us that we are to desire Adonai and give complete devotion to Him.

The paradox of commanding love is resolved by recognizing that love is not an emotion, it's a choice. Loving God is not a sentiment or a warm emotion (warm fuzzy), it's devoted loyalty, a strong desire of action (With all your heart and being) toward God and your neighbor. Contrary to pop culture, social media, romance novels, movies and television love is not sex, it's not physical attraction, is not something you fall into or out of! Love is outlined and defined in:

I Corinthians 13:4-7. Love (agape {ag-ah'-pay}): **Love, brotherly love, affection, good will, charity, benevolence** is patient and kind, not jealous, not boastful, ⁵ not proud, rude or selfish, not easily angered, and it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶ Love does not gloat over other people's sins but takes its delight in the truth. ⁷ Love always bears up, always trusts, always hopes, always endures.

Commonly recited at weddings in our culture today, this chapter was written by Sha'ul to the Messianic Congregation in Corinth regarding how they related to each other! This scripture is part of a letter that Sha'ul had written to a Messianic Congregation he had started in the Greek City of Corinth that was suffering great division and factionalism. In the culture of that day, gifted orators, sophisticated speakers were put on pedestals. Rather than submit to each other and Sha'ul in humility the Corinthians chased after their favorite speakers like pop-stars.

They also suffered grave ethical issues which also brought division over matters such as extramarital affairs, sexual immorality, incest, lawsuits against fellow believers, and dietary understandings. Love doesn't mean accepting this type of behavior. In fact, Sha'ul wrote to the Corinthians in

I Corinthains 5:9-10. In my earlier letter I wrote you not to associate with people who engage in sexual immorality. ¹⁰ I didn't mean the sexually immoral people outside your community, or the greedy, or the thieves or the idol-worshippers - for then you would have to leave the world altogether! ¹¹ No, what I wrote you was not to associate with anyone who is supposedly a brother but who also engages in sexual immorality, is greedy, worships idols, is abusive, gets drunk or steals. With such a person you shouldn't even eat!

IN verse 13 he says: "Just expel the evildoer from among yourselves." **They weren't mature enough in the Lord to effectively resolve their issues or even discern how their culture was influencing their trust and relationship with Adonai rather than being transformed into the Likeness of Yeshua and the Kingdom of Adonai.**

Corinth, founded as a Greek City became the Empire's third largest city after Rome and Alexandria, incorporated Greek religion and god's into their culture. They worshipped Poseidon, the Greek god of the seas and Aphrodite, the goddess of love. In the ancient world, "To Live like a Corinthian" meant to live a life of vice, iniquity, and debauchery. The Temple to Aphrodite had more than 1,000 male and female temple prostitutes. It was customary in Greco/Roman plays of the time to portray Corinthians drunk.

Sha'ul, Paul defines what true love really is in I Cor 13 which is the base foundation for how we are to interact with each other within the Congregational and life setting. We shouldn't have separate behaviors, one for services and one for home. We should be the same person at Wal-Mart that we are here on Shabbat. Scripture defines who we are to love, We are to Love Each Other:

Leviticus 19:18. Don't take vengeance on or bear a grudge against any of your people; rather, love your neighbor as yourself; I am ADONAI.

We are also to love those whom we don't know, those who aren't like you, a critical message for us today as our society suffers racial bigotry, racism, and rampant Anti-Semitism:

Leviticus 19:34. Rather, treat the foreigner staying with you like the native-born among you - you are to love him as yourself, for you were foreigners in the land of Egypt; I am ADONAI your God.

Too love God (Again, Love is a verb-Love requires action) is to be obedient to Him and His word, there is a divine, direct connection between love and obedience:

Deuteronomy 11:1. Therefore, you are to love ADONAI your God and always obey his commission, regulations, rulings and mitzvot.

Sha'ul clarified this in:

Romans 13:10. Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fullness of the Torah.

This is a profound truth about love and its connection to how we treat others. It emphasizes the essence of love as not only a feeling but also as an action that guides our behavior towards others. The verse suggests that when we love our neighbors, we are essentially fulfilling the requirements of Torah. But what does it mean to love our neighbors in this sense? It means treating them with kindness, respect, and compassion, and refraining from actions that would harm or cause suffering to them. This kind of love is not self-seeking or harmful but rather seeks the well-being and good of others. This verse challenges us to reflect on the motives behind our actions by stating that love is the fulfillment of Torah. This verse encourages us to prioritize love in all our interactions, recognizing that true love does no harm and instead seeks to build up and support others. It reminds us that our ultimate goal should be to cultivate a spirit of love that guides us in living a life that is in harmony with the principles of kindness, empathy, mutual respect, and Torah based. We see other scriptural examples of love in scripture. God said He loved His Son, Yeshua:

Luke 3:22. the Ruach HaKodesh came down on him in physical form like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, whom I love; I am well pleased with you."

Here is one of the most crucial aspects of Love. Yeshua said the world would know who we are based upon our love for each other! In fact, he commanded us to do so:

John 13:34-35. (TLV) "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, so also you must love one another. ³⁵ By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

In giving this command, Yeshua did something the world had never seen before. He created a group identified by one thing: love. There are many groups in the

world, and they identify themselves in any number of ways: by skin color, by uniform, by shared interest, by alma mater, etc. One group has tattoos and piercings; another group abstains from meat; yet another group wears fezzes. The ways people categorize themselves are endless. But the Body of Messiah is unique. For the first and only time in human history, Yeshua created a group whose identifying factor is love. Skin color doesn't matter, language doesn't matter. There are no rules about diet or uniforms or wearing funny hats. Followers of Messiah are identified by their love for each other.

You may be the only bible a person every sees, will they see love and compassion in you? Love is revealed by our actions, not just words. The Brit Chadesha has more than 50 passages that deal directly with our relationship with "One Another" The majority of which directly apply us.

Around one-third of the "one another's" specifically deal with unity among other believers in the greater body such as "bearing with one another" (Ephesians 4:2), not "grumbling among one another" (John 6:43), being "at peace with one another" (Mark 9:50), not be conceited, not "provoking" or "envying" one another" (Galatians 5:26), and "confessing sins to one another", "praying for One Another" (James 5:16) and "Be Kind to One Another" and "forgiving one another" (Ephesians 4:32). The next one-third of the one another's deal directly with our loving one another.

Romans 12:9-10. Don't let love be a mere outward show. Recoil from what is evil, and cling to what is good. ¹⁰ Love each other devotedly and with brotherly love; and set examples for each other in showing respect.

Numerous Brit Chadesha scriptures command us to "love one another," "love one another earnestly," "love one another with brotherly affection," and "love one another as I have loved you." Loving, bearing with, and being at peace with one another is tough enough but loving one another as Messiah has loved us... next to impossible yet Yeshua said in John 13:35 that it is by the love that we have for one another that all people will know that we are His Talmidim, His Disciples. Love tops the list of attributes for believers:

I Peter 4:8. More than anything, keep loving each other actively; **(ektenes {ek-ten-ace'}: Actively, earnestly, fervently, zealously)** because love covers many sins.

More than anything, keep zealously, fervently, actively loving one another. Love covers a multitude of sins, Love covers character flaws, Love covers shortcomings, Love covers offence, Love covers arrogance, pride, conceit,

slander, and insults! Love doesn't walk out or abandon. Love is what makes a Kehillat, a congregation work! Love is why we came back every Shabbat! In fact:

I Corinthians 16:14. Let everything you do be done in love.

This love for one another comes from those who trust in Yeshua, those who have rivers of living water flowing from their inmost being, from hearts circumcised by the word to love Adonai and each other as ourselves! Love isn't based on how others treat you, Yeshua said to even love our enemies! Self-righteousness keeps one from loving others! We must put others before ourselves, serving vice being served as Yeshua Himself said He didn't come to be served but to serve. Lastly, we must be submitted and obedient to Adonai.

I John 3:17-18. If someone has worldly possessions and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how can he be loving God? ¹⁸ Children, let us love not with words and talk, but with actions and in reality!

This is a foundational key of our preparedness and having extra provisions! Acts of Kindness open eyes of blindness! Loves is an action, a reality grounded in the word of God! We must constantly be dependent on and trust Adonai in order to love one another. Viewing people through Gods eyes and not our own. We have experienced so many times in these past 20 plus years of ministry people telling us "We Love You" but displaying polar opposite actions and behaviors. The book of James says:

James 2:17-18. Thus, faith by itself, unaccompanied by actions, is dead. ¹⁸ But someone will say that you have faith and I have actions. Show me this faith of yours without the actions, and I will show you my faith by my actions!

I will say that the same holds true for Love. Love without action is dead. The bible is often referred to as God's love letter to humanity and I agree. Love is powerful and overcomes many sins. Sin is the direct disobedience to the known will of God; the will of God is to love Him and His creation. Evil eradicates love, but the real Truth is: God's love overcomes evil. Another way to say this is that love eradicates the lack of love. Fascinating!

Think about this for a moment, Adonai has all of these attributes: position, wealth, power, yet He uses love. God distributes His gifts freely to us to be used for His Kingdom that we may Love One another and make disciples of the nations! What it isn't is the currently popular Hyper-Love theology. Those who espouse Hyper-Love emphasize the love of God to the exclusion of obedience and

submission which leads to His holiness and righteousness, Hyper-love is contrary to His word and Kingdom:

Psalm 89:14. Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne; grace and truth attend you.

To only focus on one attribute of God to the exclusion of the other attributes makes our relationship with Him unbalanced, it presents an incorrect view of Adonai's character and nature. The Hyper-Love theology quotes that God is love from:

I John 4:16. Also we have come to know and trust the love that God has for us. God is love; and those who remain in this love remain united with God, and God remains united with them.

Yet they ignore Scriptural references that deal with Adonai's judgment for disobedience:

Ephesians 5:3-6. Among you there should not even be mentioned sexual immorality, or any kind of impurity, or greed; these are utterly inappropriate for God's holy people.⁴ Also out of place are obscenity and stupid talk or coarse language; instead, you should be giving thanks.⁵ For of this you can be sure: every sexually immoral, impure or greedy person - that is, every idol-worshipper - has no share in the Kingdom of the Messiah and of God.⁶ Let no one deceive you with empty talk; for it is because of these things that God's judgment is coming on those who disobey him.

This passage is a clear and resolute command against engaging in any form of sexual immorality. It highlights the importance of maintaining purity and integrity within one's thoughts, words, and actions. The phrase "not even a hint" instead of not be mentioned in some translations sets a high standard, emphasizing the need for believers to distance themselves completely from any behavior or attitude that is contrary to God's standards of morality. This is even more so for those in positions of leadership (zero tolerance). Reflecting on how sexual immorality affects individual spiritual well-being and has broader consequences within personal relationships, families, and communities is crucial in the context of this verse. Believers are challenged to uphold a higher moral standard and strive for holiness in their conduct. Verse 3 ultimately serves as a reminder of the importance of personal integrity and honoring God with our bodies. It prompts us to consider the significance of our actions in relation to our faith and challenges us to cultivate a lifestyle that reflects biblical values,

teachings, and morality. We must strive to live in a way that aligns our behavior and actions with God's will and brings glory to His name.

John, who wrote "love is from God " also said in the same letter that those who practice sin are of the devil and are lawless because sin is lawlessness

I John 3:4-8. (TLV) Everyone practicing sin also practices lawlessness—indeed, sin is lawlessness (**Anomia-Without Torah**). ⁵ You know that Yeshua appeared in order to take away sins, and in Him there is no sin. ⁶ No one who abides in Him keeps on sinning; no one who sins has seen Him or known Him. ⁷ Children, let no one mislead you! The one who practices righteousness is righteous, just as Yeshua is righteous. ⁸ The one who practices sin is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. Ben-Elohim appeared for this purpose—to destroy the works of the devil.

Adonai's Torah, His word, His love letter is filled with Mitzvahs, with commands and instructions that outline our relationship with Him. God reveals His love to us and that love requires actions, requires deeds and actions that lead us to holiness, purity, and righteousness.

I John 5:3-4. For loving God means obeying his commands. Moreover, his commands are not burdensome, ⁴ because everything which has God as its Father overcomes the world. And this is what victoriously overcomes the world: our trust.

Loving God means obeying His commands! People profess love while at the same time are immoral, are disobedient to God's word, refuse to submit to authority, and behave and act in their own self-interest are ungodly. This is rampant within the body of Messiah today, it's occurred here within this congregation. Their motives are not in line with Gods will and word, they are disobedient which is sin.

I've shared this many, many times. Rebbetzin and I live a biblical, Torah based lifestyle, we keep a biblical Kosher diet, we honor and keep Shabbat and the Feast Days not because we're legalistic, not because we have too, we have a choice! We choose to live this way because we love and fear Adonai which requires submission, obedience, and righteousness. Loving God means obeying His commands. God is Love, it is the very essence of His perfect nature and why He sent us Yeshua, it was an act of love:

John 3:16. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only and unique Son, so that everyone who trusts in him may have eternal life, instead of being utterly destroyed

It's interesting to note that The Rabbinic interpretation of Love means "one is willing to give their life for God!" Yeshua commanded us to love as did Adonai! This is exactly what Yeshua said and did for us:

John 15:12-13. "This is my command: that you keep on loving each other just as I have loved you. ¹³ No one has greater love than a person who lays down his life for his friends.

The word of God is inherently consistent, in harmony with itself. All scripture is able to reconcile with itself. Adonai did not make a statement in Genesis that Yeshua contradicts! Yeshua commands us to love one another just as Adonai did! Truth does not contradict truth. As Yeshua stated, Ahavah/love is the force behind binding, unbreakable unity-We are commanded to Love each other; indeed, the Hebrew word ahavah has the same gematria (numerical value) as echad ("one") thirteen-the same as Mayim, water. Living water! We are created in the image of God so love is an inherent, critical foundation of who we are! It defines our relationship with God and each other. Love also reveals a profound mystery to us in the current chaos of our world:

I John 4:18. (TLV) There is no fear in love, but perfect love drives out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and the one who fears has not been made perfect in love.

America is seized, gripped by the spirit of Fear and panic when it needs to be gripped by perfect love which drives out dear! To everyone who calls upon the God of Israel fear not! Love is a choice, love is free and must be given freely! Love is living a righteous, upright, holy life! To Love like Yeshua we must stop judging people and start loving them as we desire to be loved and accepted, it's the Golden Rule:

Matthew 7:12. "Always treat others as you would like them to treat you; that sums up the teaching of the Torah and the Prophets.

We decide how we want to be treated then so treat others the same; catch this, YOU determine how your treated by others! The happiest people are those who have invested in others and love them!!!

There is a transition happening in the Kingdom, from the Gentile age unto the Messianic age. We are the tip of the spear of what is to come. God is elevating the Messianic movement and community to assume our biblical role, as a community, to lead the greater body of Messiah into the Messianic reign. It is our biblical destiny but we can't do this unless we learn to Love, to love one another here, right now, to model it! It's not talking about this in terms of

scriptural context but it's doing it, living it, modeling it. Its' engaging people, learning names, genuinely being concerned for them and about them. It's not the latest fad or being hip. People can always sense genuineness, whether you're real or not!