



Loving God & Neighbor

By Rabbi Reuel Dillon

Loving God, with whole heart, mind, and soul, and loving neighbor as yourself is the spirit in which one is to keep God's instructions. And, that is what "Torah" means, "instruction". But, the two great commandments do not replace the rest of God's instructions. Rather, they are the how we are to keep the rest of His instructions. The new commandment which was given by Yeshua (Jesus) was to love each other with the same sacrificial love that Yeshua loved us....

"A new commandment I give unto you, That you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another." - Yochanan (John) 13:34

The only reason this was a new commandment was because before Yeshua The Messiah came to show us how to love personally as a human himself...He couldn't have given us the commandment to do so. The above scripture passage also does not replace the rest of God's instructions found in His Word. Let us take a look at the following passage found in the book of Mattityahu (Matthew)...

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart"...

I will quote a Torah Teacher at Yashanet.com.... "Yeshua is quoting from the Shema (Deuteronomy 6:4), the fundamental "statement of faith" of Judaism. Note the means that God gives for how we are to love Him, as found in the verses surrounding Shema. Love for God is not based on emotions, but on following His Torah:"

"Now these are the commandments, the statutes, and the judgments, which your God commanded to teach you, that you might do them in the land whither you go to possess it: That you may fear ADONAI your God, to keep all his statutes and his commandments, which I command you, you, and your son, and your son's son, all the days of thy life; and that thy days may be prolonged. Hear therefore, O Yisrael, and observe to do it; that it may be well with you, and that you may increase mightily, as ADONAI God of your fathers has promised you, in the land that flows with milk and honey. Hear, O Yisrael: ADONAI our God is one ADONAI: And you shall love

ADONAI your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. And these words, which I command you this day, shall be in your heart: And you shall teach them diligently unto your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise up. And you shall bind them for a sign upon your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. And you shall write them upon the posts of your house, and on your gates." - Devarim (Deuteronomy) 6:1-9

"You shall love your neighbor as yourself." - Matthew 22:39

This very concept of loving your neighbor as yourself comes from the Torah...it is a Torah commandment....

" 'Do not hate your brother in your heart, but rebuke your neighbor frankly, so that you won't carry sin because of him. Don't take vengeance on or bear a grudge against any of your people; rather, love your neighbor as yourself; I am ADONAI.
- Vayikra (Leviticus) 19:17-18

The Truth is, the whole of Torah is what perfect love really looks like, and we saw this demonstrated through Yeshua (Jesus) The Messiah. He walked in perfect love, and kept Torah. The Spirit will guide us in the study of God's Word and it is profitable for instruction in righteousness....

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." - 2Timothy 3:16-17

Keep in mind when this was written the only established scripture was the Torah, and Prophets...and the above passage most certainly includes these texts. The problem with Judaism when Yeshua came was many had a wrong focus...The proper perspective that Yeshua our Rabbi wanted to teach them is communicated in the following saying,

"On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets." - Matthew 22:40

What this means is on these two principles all of Torah is founded. If we take a look at the "Ten Commandments" we will find this to be true. The first four primarily deal with loving God. The fourth commandment actually bridges the next five commandments, which deal with loving your neighbor.

"This teaching (verses 37-40), is reflective of the thought of Rabbi Hillel as well as Rabbi Sha'ul (Paul)":

Talmud, Mas. Shabbath 31a - "What is hateful to you, do not to your neighbor: that is the whole Torah, while the rest is the commentary thereof; go and learn it."

Romans 13:8-10 states, "Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loves another has fulfilled the law. For this, You shall not commit adultery, You shall not kill, You shall not steal, You shall not bear false witness, You shall not covet; and if there

be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, You shall love your neighbor as yourself. Love does not do harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fullness of The Law."

"Neither Yeshua, Hillel or Paul taught that the "law of Moses" is "done away with," and replaced by some emotional concept of "love."" We see from Romans 13:10 that if you are loving you neighbor you are fulfilling the Torah...literally. This is what loving God, and neighbor looks like....

"By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous." - 1John 5:2-3

As we will see in next verse, we must have the right focus while keeping our Heavenly Father's Torah (without leaving the lesser commandments undone)....

"Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for you pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these should you to have done, and not to leave the other undone." - Mattityahu (Matthew) 23:23

We are saved by grace through faith, and not of works. We should not keep Torah (God's commandments) to be saved...but because we are already saved! This is part of the New Covenant promise....

"Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you. A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and you shall keep my judgments, and do them." - Yechezk'el (Ezekiel) 36:25-27

Who is stopping you from Biblically loving your neighbor??

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