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LOVE AND OBEDIENCE THE FIRST AND GREATEST COMMANDMENT

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Love & Obedience

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Love & Obedience



Love and Obedience

The First and Greatest Commandment.

Please read and review study 41 “Discipleship” before doing this study.

Love.

Strong's Number: G26

Greek Word: ἀγάπη

Transliteration: agape

Strong's Definition: love that is affection or benevolence; specifically (plural) a love feast.

Love is translated from the Greek word ἀγάπη, (agape). Greek has multiple words for love, including eros which is sexual love, and Philos which is brotherly love.

Agape' is perfect love that only YHWH can give.

In respect of agape as used by YHWH, it expresses the deep and constant “love” and interest of a perfect God towards entirely unworthy objects, producing and fostering a reverential “love” in them back towards YHWH, and a hands-on “love” towards those who are partakers of the same faith, and a greater desire to help others to seek YHWH.”

When it comes to the “love” we are to have for others, it is the agape type of love that YHWH imparts within our spirit and not the “love” that we give by ourselves as a mortal person.

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The foundation of YHWH's creation (US) is relationships and family. These relationships are both our natural family and church family. Relationships however are a privilege, and to a degree we understand this, and find ourselves with a deep sense of honor, respect, patience and a few other choice attributes found in 1 Cor 13.

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 (KJV) Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, **5** Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; **6** Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; **7** Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.

This verse describes the characteristics of true love. These qualities are found in Christ, and all truly loving relationships. The problem with trying to find love in our dating relationship is that too often we don't look for these characteristics. Rather we look at physical appearance, popularity, or wealth.

1 Peter 4:8 (KJV) And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins.

1 John 4:8 (KJV) He that loveth not knoweth not YHWH; for YHWH is love.

1 John 4:16 (KJV) And we have known and believed the love that YHWH hath to us. YHWH is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in YHWH, and YHWH in him.

1 John 4:18 (KJV) There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.

1 Corinthians 16:14 (KJV) Let all your things be done with charity.

If we talk about the Love we are to have for our Creator, then we have to understand what His love language is and how to show Him our love. Because He requires something very different than what we need.

John 15:9-11 (KJV) As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love. **10** **If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love;** even as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. **11** These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.

John 13:34-35 (KJV) A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. **35** By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

John 14:15 (KJV) If ye love me, keep my commandments.

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Obedience is the practical acceptance of the authority and will of YHWH. It includes both submitting to Him and then expressing that submission in actions, words and thoughts. To be obedient is to be in agreement with YHWH. To be in agreement and obedient to YHWH and His commandments is to love Him with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind.

The only way to keep the first commandment is to love YHWH, and the only way to love YHWH is by being **OBEDIENT** to His commandments. There is no other way around it. It is a plain and simple circle.

Reasons Why Obedience to YHWH Is Important

1. It is the First and great commandment:

Deuteronomy 6:5 (KJV) And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.

Matthew 22:37-40 (KJV) “Christ” (יהושוע Joshua Hamashiach) said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. 40 On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

Mark 12:30-31 (KJV) And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. 31 And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.

Luke 10:27 (KJV) And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself.

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2. Christ Calls Us to Obey

In “Christ” (יהושוע Joshua Hamashiach), we find the perfect model of obedience. As his disciples, we follow Christ's example as well as His commandments. Our motivation for obedience is love:

John 14:15 (KJV) If ye love me, keep my commandments.

3. Christ showed His love to YHWH the Father by following His commandments.

John 14:31 (KJV) But that the world may know that I love the Father; and as the Father gave me commandment, even so I do. Arise, let us go hence.

4. The transition for us: that the same way Christ loved His Father and showed Him love, we are to do the same.

John 14:31 (KJV) But that the world may know that I love the Father; and as the Father gave me commandment, even so I do. Arise, let us go hence.

John 15:10 (KJV) If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.

John 21:15-17 (KJV) So when they had dined, “Christ” (יהושוע Joshua Hamashiach) saith to Simon **Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these?** He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, **Feed my lambs.** He saith to him again the second time, **Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me?** He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, **Feed my sheep.**

He saith unto him the third time, **Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me?** Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. “Christ” (יהושוע Joshua Hamashiach) saith unto him, **Feed my sheep.**

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5. Obedience Is an Act of Worship and is our reasonable service.

While the Bible places a strong emphasis on obedience, it's critical to remember that believers are not justified (made righteous) by obedience.

True disciple obedience flows from a heart of gratitude for the grace we have received from the Lord: **Romans 12:1 (KJV)** I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of YHWH, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto YHWH, which is your reasonable service.

6. The only way YHWH chooses for us to show Him love is through obedience. He does not ask for hugs, nor gifts, nor for us to say, “I love you”. His only requirement is obedience to His commandments: **John 14:15 (KJV)** **If ye love me, keep my commandments.**

John 14:21 (KJV) **He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me:** and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.

John 14:23 (KJV) “Christ” (יהושוע Joshua Hamashiach) answered and said unto him, **If a man love me, he will keep my words:** and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.

1 John 5:2-3 (KJV) By this we know that we love the children of YHWH, when we love YHWH, and keep His commandments. For this is the love of YHWH, that we keep His commandments: and His commandments are not grievous.

2 John 1:6 (KJV) And this is love, that we walk after His commandments. This is the commandment, That, as ye have heard from the beginning, ye should walk in it.

Exodus 20:6 (KJV) And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.

Deuteronomy 5:10 (KJV) And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me and keep my commandments.

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7. YHWH Rewards Obedience

Over and over again we read in the Bible that YHWH blesses and rewards obedience:

Genesis 22:18 (KJV) And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.

Luke 11:28 (KJV) But he said, Yea rather, blessed are they that hear the word of YHWH, and keep it.

But don't just listen to YHWH's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves.

James 1:22-25 (KJV) But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.

8. Obedience to YHWH Proves Our Love

The books of 1 and 2 John clearly explain that obedience to YHWH demonstrates love for Him. Loving YHWH implies following his commands:

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

2 John 6:6 (KJV) And this is love, that we walk after his commandments. This is the commandment, That, as ye have heard from the beginning, ye should walk in it.

And of course, there is more to it, Here are more examples!

John 15:10 (KJV) If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.

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9.Obedience to YHWH Demonstrates Faith

When we obey YHWH, we show our trust and faith in him:

And we can be sure that we know him if we obey his commandments.

If someone claims, "I know YHWH," but doesn't obey His commandments, that person is a liar and is not living in the truth. But those who obey YHWH's word truly show how completely they love him. That is how we know we are living in him.

Those who say they live in YHWH should live their lives as Christ did. **1 John 2:3–6 (KJV)** And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of YHWH perfected: hereby know we that we are in him. He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.

10. Obedience Is Better Than Sacrifice

The phrase "obedience is better than sacrifice," has often perplexed believers. It can only be understood from an Old Testament perspective. The law required the Israelite people to offer sacrifices to YHWH, but those sacrifices and offerings were never intended to take the place of obedience.

But Samuel replied, "And Samuel said, Hath the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the Lord, he hath also rejected thee from being king". (1 Samuel 15:22–23, KJV)

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11. Disobedience Leads to Sin and Death

The disobedience of Adam brought sin and death into the world. This is the basis of the term "original sin." But Christ's perfect obedience restores fellowship with YHWH for everyone who believes in Him:

Romans 5:19, KJV For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.

1 Corinthians 15:22, KJV For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

12. We must be doers of the word and not just listeners.

James 1:22 (KJV) But **be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only**, deceiving your own selves.

John 9:31 (KJV) Now we know that **YHWH heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of YHWH, and doeth his will, him he heareth.**

Deuteronomy 10:12 (KJV) And now, Israel, **what doth the LORD thy God require of thee, but to fear the LORD thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the LORD thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul,**

Deuteronomy 11:1 (KJV) Therefore **thou shalt love the LORD thy God, and keep his charge, and his statutes, and his judgments, and his commandments, alway.**

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13. Through Obedience, We Experience the Blessings of Holy Living

Only “Christ” (יהושוע Joshua Hamashiach) is perfect, therefore, only He could walk in sinless, perfect obedience. But as we allow the Ruach Hakodesh to transform us from within, we grow in holiness. This is the process of sanctification, which can also be described as spiritual growth. The more we read YHWH's Word, spend time with “Christ” (יהושוע Joshua Hamashiach), and allow the Holy Spirit to change us from within, the more we grow in obedience and holiness as Disciples: **Psalm 119:1–8, KJV** Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the Lord. Blessed are they that keep his testimonies, and that seek him with the whole heart. They also do no iniquity: they walk in his ways. Thou hast commanded us to keep thy precepts diligently. O that my ways were directed to keep thy statutes! Then shall I not be ashamed, when I have respect unto all thy commandments. I will praise thee with uprightness of heart, when I shall have learned thy righteous judgments.

Luke 11:28 (KJV) But he said, Yea rather, **blessed are they that hear the word of YHWH, and keep it.**

Acts 5:32 (KJV) And we are his witnesses of these things; and so is also **the Ruach Hakodesh, whom YHWH hath given to them that obey him.**

Romans 8:28 (KJV) And we know that **all things work together for good to them that love YHWH,** to them who are the called according to His purpose.

Deuteronomy 11:26-27 (KJV) Behold, I set before you this day a blessing and a curse; **A blessing, if ye obey the commandments of the Lord your God,** which I command you this day:

Hebrews 5:9 (KJV) And being made perfect, he became the author of **eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;**

2 Corinthians 7:1, KJV Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of YHWH. This verse says, "Let us work toward complete holiness." We don't learn obedience overnight; it's a lifelong process that we pursue by making it a daily goal.

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Disobedience is a **SIN** caused by rebellion and distrust of YHWH. To be disobedient is to yield to self-will instead of surrendering to YHWH and desiring His will in all things.

Sin is the transgression of YHWH's known will and/or His commandments or any of His principles. Sin is rooted in a broken relationship with Him, ourselves and others. Broken relationships bring doubts and fear, which are lack of faith and whatever is not from faith is Sin.

- **1 John 3:4 (KJV)** Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for **sin is the transgression of the law.**
- **Romans 14:23 (KJV)**: **for whatsoever is not of faith is sin.**
- **Matthew 24:12 (KJV)** And because **iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.**
- **Revelation 2:4 (KJV)** Nevertheless **I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.**

To become disobedient is to sin or rebel against YHWH.

- **Matthew 10:37 (KJV)** He that loveth father or mother more than me **is not worthy of me:** and he that loveth son or daughter more than me **is not worthy of me.**
- **John 14:24 (KJV)** He that loveth me **NOT keepeth not my sayings:** and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me.
- **Luke 6:46 (KJV)** And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?
- **1 Corinthians 16:22 (KJV)** If any man love not the Lord **“Christ” (יהושוע)** Joshua Hamashiach) **Christ, let him be Anathema Maranatha.**
- **Psalms 119:136 (KJV)** Rivers of waters run down mine eyes, because they keep not thy law.
- **Proverbs 28:9 (KJV)** He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be abomination.

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Sin hinders our prayers. If we aren't doers of what we know we should do, **it will hinder our prayers.** We need to obey YHWH and please Him for our prayers to be answered.

- **John 9:31 (KJV)** Now we know that **YHWH heareth not sinners:** but if any man be a worshipper of YHWH, and doeth his will, him he heareth.
- **Psalm 66:18 (KJV)** If I regard iniquity in my heart, **the Lord will not hear me:**
- **Isaiah 59:2 (KJV)** But **your iniquities have separated between you and your God,** and your sins have hid his face from you, that **he will not hear.**

YHWH curses those who are disobedient to Christ and His commandments.

- **Ephesians 5:6 (KJV)** Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things **cometh the wrath of YHWH upon the children of disobedience.**
- **Deuteronomy 11:28 (KJV)** **And a curse, if ye will not obey the commandments of the Lord your God,** but turn aside out of the way which I command you this day, to go after other gods, which ye have not known.
- **2 Thessalonians 1:8 (KJV)** In flaming fire taking **vengeance on them** that know not YHWH, and **that obey not the gospel of our Lord “Christ”** (יהושוע Joshua Hamashiach) **Christ:**
- **1 Samuel 12:15 (KJV)** **But if ye will not obey the voice of the Lord,** but rebel against the commandment of the Lord, then shall **the hand of the Lord be against you,** as it was against your fathers.
- **Proverbs 28:9 (KJV)** **He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be abomination.**

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Knowing the true biblical definitions is of most importance to be able to see and read the scriptures through the Apostles eyes.

In this study we learned that to **Love YHWH = to be obedient to YHWH**
And abhor = to detest.

We have also already learned in Study 15, that the Biblical definition of INIQUITY = lawless and/or wicked. In other words, not being legalistic.

With the above information in mind, we can now get a glimpse of how the following scriptures are read and seen through an Apostles eyes.

Mat 7:23 (KJV) And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work illegality.

Mat 13:41 (KJV) The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do Illegality/Wickedness;

Mat 23:28 (KJV) Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and Lawlessness.

Mat 24:12 (KJV) And because Lawlessness shall abound, the obedience of many shall wax cold.

Mark 12:30 (KJV) And thou shalt be obedient to the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment.

John 8:42 (KJV) “Christ” (יהושוע Joshua Hamashiach) said unto them, If YHWH were your Father, ye would be obedient to me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but He sent me.

Romans 4:7 (KJV) Saying, Blessed are they whose illegalities/wickedness are forgiven, and whose sins are covered.

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Romans 8:28 (KJV) And we know that all things work together for good to them that are obedient to YHWH, to them who are the called according to His purpose.

1 Corinthians 2:9 (KJV) But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which YHWH hath prepared for them that are obedient to Him.

1 Corinthians 16:22 (KJV) If any man is obedient NOT to the Lord “Christ” (יהושוע Joshua Hamashiach) Christ, let him be Anathema Maranatha.

Ephesians 1:4 (KJV) According as He hath chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in obedience:

2 Thess 2:7 (KJV) For the mystery of Illegality doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.

Tit 2:14 (KJV) Who gave himself for us, that He might redeem us from all Lawlessness, and purify unto Himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

Heb 1:9 (KJV) Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated Lawlessness; therefore God, even thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows.

Heb 8:12 (KJV) For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their Lawlessness will I remember no more.

Heb 10:17 (KJV) And their sins and Lawlessness will I remember no more.

James 1:12 (KJV) Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that are obedient to him.

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2 John 1:6 (KJV)

And this is love, that we walk after His commandments.
This is the commandment, That, as ye have heard from the
beginning, ye should walk in it.

•**Luke 10:27 (KJV)** And he answering said, Thou shalt *be obedient to* the Lord
thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and
with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself.

John 14:15 (KJV)

**If ye love me,
keep my commandments.**

John 14:21 (KJV) He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is
that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will
love him, and will manifest myself to him.

John 14:23 (KJV)

“Christ” (יהושוע Joshua Hamashiach) answered and said unto him, If a man
love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will
come unto him, and make our abode with him. **24** He that loveth me not
keepeth not my sayings: and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the
Father's which sent me.

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