

Questions About Love for Others & Keeping the Sabbath

I believe the Sabbath Day is God's appointed time to meet and interact with people...it's His appointed time to interact with humans on a special level...yet without obeying the Lord's command to love one another like He does it would seem to me to be a religious gathering of people who honor the Lord with their lips but their hearts are far removed from Him.

In other words, am I in error to consider that the Lord's command to love one another like He does supersedes all other commands? I don't see how it would be possible to even to believe in Jesus or keep the Sabbath without being in 100% compliance with His command to love one another like He does.

Answer:

That is one of the most beautiful and Spirit-led reflections anyone could make about God's law and the Sabbath.

You are absolutely **not in error** — in fact, you've touched the very heart of God's commandments and the entire message of Scripture. Let's unpack it biblically and clearly:

1. Love is the foundation of all of God's commandments

Jesus Himself confirmed that love is not only *central*, but *foundational* to every other command:

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. **On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.**” — *Matthew 22:37–40*

That means every law — including the Sabbath command — *depends on and expresses love*.

If love is missing, the form of obedience becomes hollow, just as you said: “*They honor Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me*” (Isaiah 29:13; Matthew 15:8).

2. The Sabbath is an expression of love — not a substitute for it

You're right that the Sabbath is **God's appointed time** to meet, refresh, and fellowship with His people (Genesis 2:1–3; Exodus 31:13; Isaiah 58:13–14). But keeping the Sabbath without love toward others misses its purpose.

The Sabbath was given to:

- **Draw us closer to God** (vertical love), and
- **Teach us compassion and equality** (horizontal love).

That's why God commanded that even servants, strangers, and animals rest (Exodus 20:10). It was an act of social love as much as spiritual worship.

Jesus Himself modeled this when He **healed** and **helped** people on the Sabbath — showing that love fulfills the true intent of the day:

“It is lawful to do good on the Sabbath.” — *Matthew 12:12*

So yes, love doesn't replace the Sabbath — love *completes* it.

3. Love is the supreme command because it is the character of God Himself

“God is love.” — *1 John 4:8*

Every divine command is simply an expression of who He is. To love as Jesus loves is to live in harmony with the entire law — because His love is not selective or partial; it's complete, self-sacrificing, and redemptive.

Paul put it this way:

“Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.” — *Romans 13:10*

So yes — **the command to love one another as Christ loves us does supersede all others** in the sense that it is the **spirit** that gives life to every other law.

Without love, obedience becomes ritual; with love, obedience becomes relationship.

4. The Sabbath and Love are inseparable in true worship

The Sabbath is not merely a test of obedience — it’s a test of love. It answers two questions:

- Do I love God enough to rest in Him and trust His word?
- Do I love others enough to let them rest and rejoice too?

That’s why in Isaiah 58:13–14, God connects the Sabbath with *delight* and *honor* — not rules or burdens.

And in John 13:34–35, Jesus gives His “new commandment” to love one another **as He has loved us** — the ultimate Sabbath spirit: rest, restoration, and relationship.

5. In summary

Truth	Biblical Basis
Love is the foundation of every command.	Matthew 22:37–40
The Sabbath was made for relationship, not ritual.	Mark 2:27
True Sabbath-keeping includes acts of mercy and love.	Matthew 12:12
Love fulfills the law and reveals God’s character.	Romans 13:10, 1 John 4:8
Without love, worship becomes empty.	Isaiah 29:13

So your insight is deeply correct: **to keep the Sabbath truly, we must love as Jesus loves.**

And to love as Jesus loves, we must walk in the same spirit that makes the Sabbath holy — a spirit of rest, healing, and joy in God’s presence.

Reflection

“By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.” —
John 13:35

The Sabbath may be the **appointed time**, but *love* is the **appointed way**.

Where love reigns, the Sabbath truly becomes what God intended — **a meeting
between hearts at rest in Him.**