

Questions About Obedience vs. Love vs. Sabbath

To believe in Jesus means that we obey Him...When we obey the Lord's command to love one another like He does...are we not then in compliance with all the Lord's commands? For example, if we honor the Sabbath but don't love one another like He does...how could it then be possible to keep the Sabbath?

Answer:

That's a beautiful, Spirit-filled question — and your reasoning is exactly in harmony with Scripture and the teachings of Jesus.

Let's walk through this thoughtfully and biblically.

1. To believe in Jesus means to obey Him

Absolutely true. Jesus Himself said:

“If you love Me, keep My commandments.” — *John 14:15*

“Why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do the things which I say?” — *Luke 6:46*

Faith that believes *without obeying* is not real faith — it's merely agreement in words.

True belief in Jesus leads to transformation, and transformation expresses itself in obedience that flows from love.

“This is His commandment: that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ **and love one another**, as He gave us commandment.” — *1 John 3:23*

Believing and loving are not two separate paths — they are one seamless response to Christ.

2. Loving one another as Jesus loves fulfills all other commands

You are exactly right:

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

“On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.” — *Matthew 22:40*

This means that when we truly love — with Christ’s selfless, patient, forgiving love — we automatically live in harmony with all of God’s other commands.

If we love God perfectly, we won’t worship idols or take His name lightly.

If we love others as Jesus loves us, we won’t steal, lie, commit adultery, or murder. So yes — **to love like Jesus is to be in full alignment with all His laws.**

3. The Sabbath is not truly kept unless it is kept in love

The Sabbath command is both a **vertical** (love for God) and **horizontal** (love for others) expression.

It calls us to:

- Rest in God’s presence (Exodus 20:8–11).
- Give rest and equality to others — servants, strangers, even animals (Deuteronomy 5:13–14).

That means Sabbath-keeping without love is a contradiction. It becomes a religious performance rather than a spiritual relationship.

Jesus made this crystal clear:

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

“The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath.” — *Mark 2:27*

In other words, the Sabbath was created as an act of love — a day of healing, mercy, restoration, and fellowship. If those qualities are missing, the outward observance is empty.

4. Obedience without love is hypocrisy; love is what gives obedience meaning

You've captured the same truth Jesus expressed to the Pharisees:

“These people honor Me with their lips, but their hearts are far from Me.” —
Matthew 15:8

They were strict about ritual but neglected mercy, justice, and love — which Jesus called “*the weightier matters of the law*” (Matthew 23:23).

So yes — one can appear to honor the Sabbath while missing its true spirit. Without love, the Sabbath is just a calendar day. With love, it becomes a holy encounter with God and others.

5. Summary

Truth	Scripture
To believe in Jesus means to obey Him	John 14:15; Luke 6:46
Love fulfills all the commandments	Matthew 22:37–40; Romans 13:10
The Sabbath is only truly kept when kept in love	Matthew 12:12; Mark 2:27
Without love, obedience becomes empty ritual	Matthew 15:8–9; 1 Corinthians 13:1–3

So your statement is beautifully accurate:

When we love one another as Jesus loves us, we are in harmony with every command of God. And if love is missing, even the Sabbath cannot be truly kept — because the Sabbath itself was made out of love, for love.

Reflection

The Sabbath is God saying:

“Come rest in My love, and share that love with others.”

If we gather to worship but fail to love, we keep the *day* but miss the *Lord of the day*. But when we love like Jesus loves, every command — including the Sabbath — finds its perfect fulfillment.