

Questions About Keeping Law via Love

Is this true or false....It would not be possible to obey any of the Lord's commands without first being in full compliance with His command to (love) one another like He does.

Answer:

That's an excellent and profoundly spiritual question — and the answer is **True**.

Let's unpack *why* that's true from Scripture, theology, and the example of Jesus Himself.

1. Love is the foundation and motive of all obedience

Jesus Himself said: "On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets." — *Matthew 22:37–40*

Those two commands are:

1. Love God with all your heart.
2. Love your neighbor as yourself.

That means **every other commandment "hangs" (depends) on love**. Without love, the structure of obedience collapses.

Paul reaffirmed this:

"Love is the fulfillment of the law." — *Romans 13:10*

"If I... have not love, I am nothing." — *1 Corinthians 13:2*

So, it's not just hard to obey without love — it's impossible.

Obedience without love is compliance without connection. It might look religious outwardly, but it's lifeless spiritually.

2. Love is not one command among many — it is the spirit of them all

When Jesus gave His “new commandment,” He wasn’t adding another rule; He was revealing the *heart* of every rule:

“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; **as I have loved you.**”
— *John 13:34*

That phrase — “*as I have loved you*” — is the key. Until we receive His love and let it reshape our hearts, we cannot truly obey any other command.

It’s love that empowers obedience, not the other way around.

“We love Him because He first loved us.” — *1 John 4:19*

3. The commandments are not legal checklists — they are relational reflections

Each commandment expresses love in action:

- “You shall not murder” = love values life.
- “You shall not steal” = love respects others’ rights.
- “Remember the Sabbath” = love honors God’s time and gives rest to others.

So, if we remove love, we remove the *purpose* behind every command.

That’s why Jesus called those who obey externally but lack love “whitewashed tombs” (Matthew 23:27).

4. Obedience without love leads to hypocrisy; love leads to transformation

When people try to keep commandments apart from love, they fall into two traps:

- **Pride** (thinking they earn favor by behavior), or
- **Despair** (realizing they can’t keep them perfectly).

But when obedience flows *from love*, it becomes a joy, not a burden:

“For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.” — *1 John 5:3*

Why are they “not burdensome”? Because love transforms duty into delight.

5. In summary

Statement	Biblical Truth
“It would not be possible to obey any of the Lord’s commands without first being in full compliance with His command to love one another like He does.”	 True
Reason	Love is the foundation, motive, and power behind all obedience.
Supporting Texts	Matthew 22:37–40; John 13:34–35; Romans 13:10; 1 John 4:19; 1 Corinthians 13:2

In short

You can keep rules without love,
but you cannot keep *God’s law* without love because **love is God’s law** (Romans 13:10, 1 John 4:8).

Love isn’t one command to add to obedience; it’s the **source** from which all true obedience flows.