

Issues on Love and the Law



By Nyron Medina

1. There are some people that seek to escape the need for keeping the Law of the Ten Commandments by doing away with words that refer to keeping it; they try to relegate its obedience to a past time not relevant to today. Here are some points we are investigating.
 - a. Love thy neighbour as thyself. Lev. 19:18,34.
 - b. Love one another. Jn. 15:17.
 - c. Love one another as Jesus has loved us. Jn. 13:33,34.
2. The theory presented by some is that “love thy neighbour as thyself” is out-dated and is a lesser form of love belonging to the Old Testament, but “love one another as Jesus has loved us” is a higher form of love than the law, and belongs to the New Testament. This, however, is our position as seen in the chart.

LOVE ONE ANOTHER

LOVE ONE ANOTHER AS JESUS LOVED US

LOVE THY NEIGHBOUR AS THYSELF

LOVE GOD AND KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS

3. First, we need to recognize that the phrase “love one another” is just a shortened form of saying “love one another as Jesus has loved us”. Jn. 13:33,34; Jn. 15:12.
4. The next thing that we see is that “love one another” is also “love thy neighbour as thyself” they are both the same in Scripture. Rom. 13:8-10.
5. We are told that “love thy neighbour as thyself” is the same as “love is the fulfilling of the law” and this “fulfilling of the law” is the same a teaching the Law and doing it. (Rom. 13:9,10; Matt. 5:17-19).
6. Since fulfilling the Law is “doing and teaching it” this is the same as love for God, which is keeping His commandments. 1 Jn. 5:2,3.
7. In the New Testament, the eternal commandment is that we “love one another” this is keeping God’s commandments as love from the very beginning, since it is inscribed in the Ten Commandments on the two tables of stone. (2 Jn. 5,6; Ex. 20:6).
8. The “new” commandment is “love your brother”. 1 Jn. 2:8-10.
9. This is the commandment as a message from the beginning, that we “love one another”. 1 Jn. 3:10,11.
10. This is the same old commandment from the beginning it is the “word” or the Law of God. (1 Jn. 2:7; Ex. 34:28; Deut. 10:4).
11. The Old Testament (First Witness) is full of the concept that love to God is keeping all the Ten Commandments of God. Deut. 5:10; Deut. 7:9; Deut. 10:12,13; Deut. 11:1,13,22; Deut. 13:3,4; Deut. 19:9; Deut. 30:6,16,20; Josh. 22:5; Josh. 23:11; Neh. 1:5; Dan. 9:4.
12. Thus the concept of “love God to keep His Commandments” is not an out-dated Old Testament concept; it is rather an eternal reality in both the Old and New Testament. 1 Jn. 5:2,3.
13. In fact Jesus said that the whole Ten Commandments, was love to God and love to one’s neighbour as oneself. This cannot be a lesser love as if the Commandments has lesser and higher love within it. Mk. 12:28-33; Matt. 22:35-40.

14. In the New Testament “love thy neighbour as thyself” love as service to one’s neighbour which is doing all the Law, this is not a lower form of love. Gal. 5:13,14.
15. Jesus tells us that He kept His Father’s Commandments to abide in His love, so we are to keep His (Jesus’) Commandments to abide in His love. Jn. 15:10.
16. Then He tells us that His commandments, is to love one another as He has loved us. Jn. 15:12.
17. Greater love is laying down one’s life for one’s friends. Jn. 15:13.
18. We are told that we also are to lay down our lives for our brethren. 1 Jn. 3:16.
19. But the question is, is this a greater love than keeping the Commandments of God? The answer is seen in the fact that this love is to be done in deed and truth, and is “love for one another” according to the Commandments. 1 Jn. 3:16-19,22-24.
20. Thus Jesus Commandments are not different to God that gave the Ten Commandments. (Jn. 1:18; 1 Cor. 10:1-4).
21. Also, God’s love for us is presented as a salvific love; we are told that we are to love in this way also. 1 Jn. 4:7-12.
22. But salvific love is the same as “Loving God” and “Loving our brother” which is the keeping of the Ten Commandments. (1 Jn. 4:19-21; 1 Jn. 5:2,3).
23. But salvific love is an Old Testament concept. Ps. 91:14-16; Isa. 38:17; Isa. 63:9.
24. Thus “loving our neighbour” is keeping the whole law which we shall be judged by. Jam. 2:8-12.
25. Final illustrated chart.

LOVE TO GOD

KEEPING ALL THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

LOVE ONE ANOTHER

LOVE TO OUR NEIGHBOUR

LOVING ONE ANOTHER AS

JESUS LOVED US

SALVIFIC LOVE

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