

## Love Thy Neighbour – Part 2



### Love Thy Neighbour *a how to guide straight from Scripture*



*A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.* Proverbs 17:17

If you have read my previous article on this subject, you will remember that Messiah Yahusha and His apostles were very clear on the subject of loving one another and how it is the second most important commandment, coming directly after loving Yahuah. This time I want to talk a little about the very clear and specific instructions that Yahuah provided throughout Scripture about how exactly we are to love our neighbour.

Unfortunately, most believers are unaware that we are given quite detailed instructions on how to love one another – and the instructions are called the Torah! Many believe that “loving others” is a new concept that Yahusha introduced, putting the concept of general “love for ‘God’ and others” above the Law, or even cancelling the Law out with the Two Commands of Messiah.

Some of the most direct and simple instructions on how to actually, physically, actionably love others can be found in the Ten Commandments that most of us learnt about as children. Commandments 5-10 are all about what we should and shouldn't do to others, so we'll be looking at each of those individually, and then move on to some of the other less-known instructions from the Torah on how to love our neighbour.

### **The 5<sup>th</sup> Commandment – Honour Thy Father and Thy Mother...**

This is a commandment that is not being taught very much in this world! So many people these days, even churchgoers, believe that you need to cater to your children's feelings, rather than focusing on discipline and sound instruction. Looking around, I see so many children and teenagers straight-out disrespecting their parents, teachers and other elders they come in contact with!

But what can we expect? The enemy is leading the agenda in schools and on the media, even in many mainstream churches! Children watch cartoons in which children are disrespectful and rude to their parents. Their own parents are distracted and worried constantly about being "politically correct", and so many teachers in public schools around the world actively teach children that their parents are clueless!

*This simple commandment starts at home! Remember the word tells us: "And these Words which I am commanding you today shall be in your heart, and you shall impress them upon your children, and shall speak of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise up..." Deuteronomy 6:6-7*

As we raise our children up in the way YAHUAH intends, we lovingly teach them this commandment, keeping in mind that if we don't teach them, the world certainly will!

*"Respect your father and your mother, so that your days are prolonged upon the soil which YAHUAH your Elohim is giving you." Exodus 20:12*

*"Respect your father and your mother," which is the first command with promise, in order that it might be well with you, and you might live long on the earth. And you, fathers, do not provoke your children, but bring them up in the instruction and admonition of the Master. Ephesians 6:2-4*

As the writer of Ephesians states, this commandment comes with a promise of a long life. Respecting our elders is an important commandment! And an easy place to start.

## **The 6th Commandment – Thou Shalt Not Kill.**

This is one of the more “obvious” commands that churches still acknowledge for the most part. Life is precious, and taking life by willingly murdering another is a great sin against them and the Father!

*“You do not murder.” Exodus 20:13*

*‘And a man who strikes the being of any man shall certainly be put to death.’  
Leviticus 24:17*

*“You heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not murder,’ and whoever murders shall be liable to judgement. But I say to you that whoever is wroth with his brother without a cause shall be liable to judgement...” Matthew 5:21*

*“But only your blood for your lives I require, from the hand of every beast I require it, and from the hand of man. Whoever sheds man’s blood, by man his blood is shed, for in the image of Elohim has He made man.” Genesis 9:5-6*

*Because this is the message that you heard from the beginning, that we should love one another, not as Cain who was of the wicked one and killed his brother. And why did he kill him? Because his works were wicked but those of his brother were righteous. 1 John 3:11-12*

Taking the blood of the innocent is a sin against YAHUAH, and is definitely not a way to show love to others.

## **The 7th Commandment – Thou Shalt Not Commit Adultery.**

*“You do not commit adultery.” Exodus 20:14*

*Let marriage be respected by all, and the bed be undefiled. But Elohim shall judge those who wore, and adulterers. Hebrews 15:4*

*“This is your lot, your measured portion from Me,” declares YAHUAH, “Because you have forgotten Me, and trust in falsehood. I shall even draw your skirts over your face, and your shame shall be seen, your adulteries and your neighings, the wickedness of your whoring! I have seen your abominations on the hills in the fields. Woe to you, O Yerushalayim! How long before your would be made clean? Jeremiah 13:25-27*

*For the lips of a strange woman drip honey, and her mouth is smoother than oil; but in the end she is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a two-edged sword. Her feet go down to death, her steps lay hold of She’ol. She does not consider the path of life; her ways are unstable – you do not know it. So now, listen to me, you children, and do not turn away from the words of my mouth. Keep your way far from her, and do not come near the door of her house, lest you give your splendor to others, and your years to one who is cruel; lest strangers be filled with your*

strength, and your labours go to the house of a foreigner. Then you shall howl in your latter end, when your flesh and your body are consumed, and shall say, "How I have hated discipline, and my heart has despised reproof! And I have not heeded the voice of my teachers, and I have not inclined my ear to those who instructed me! In a little while I was in all evil, in the midst of an assembly and a congregation." Drink water from your own cistern, and running water from your own well. Should your springs be scattered abroad, rivers of water in the streets? Let them be only your own, and not for strangers with you. Let your fountain be blessed, and rejoice with the wife of your youth – a loving deer and a pleasant doe! Let her nipples satisfy you at all times. And be captivated by her love always. For why should you, my son, be captivated by a strange woman, and embrace the bosom of a foreigner? For the ways of man are before the eyes of YAHUAH, and He considers all his paths. The wrong one is entrapped in his own crookednesses, and he is caught in the cords of his sin. He dies for lack of discipline, and in the greatness of his folly he goes astray. Proverbs 5:3-23

My son, watch over your father's command, and do not forsake the Torah of your mother. Bind them on your heart always; tie them around your neck. When you are walking about, it leads you; when you lie down, it guards you. And when you have woken up, it talks to you. For the command is a lamp, and the Torah a light, and reproofs of discipline a way of life, to guard you against an evil woman, from the flattering tongue of a strange woman. Do not desire her prettiness in your heart, neither let her captivate you with her eyelids. For because of a whore one is brought to a crust of bread. And an adulteress hunts a precious life. Would a man take fire to his bosom, and his garments not be burned? Would a man walk on hot coals, and his feet not be scorched? So is he who goes in to his neighbour's wife; none who touches her goes unpunished. They do not despise a thief if he steals to satisfy his appetite when he is starving. Yet if he is caught he repays sevenfold; he gives all the wealth of his house. He who commits adultery with a woman lacks heart; he who does it destroys his own life. He finds smiting and shame, and his reproach is not wiped away. For jealousy enrages a man, and he does not spare in the day of vengeance. He does not regard any ransom, nor accept your bribe, however great! Proverbs 6:20-35

And He said to them, "Whoever puts away his wife and marries another commits adultery against her. And if a woman puts away her husband and marries another, she commits adultery." Mark 10:11-12

"You heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not commit adultery.' But I say to you that everyone looking at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart." Matthew 5:27-28

Adultery is a running topic throughout the Old Testament! Yashar'el committed adultery against YAHUAH by worshipping false elohim and running after all their sins. Committing adultery is painful to the parties involved and is a sure way to destroy relationships. Divorce without adultery as a reason becomes adultery in itself, and even lustful thoughts are considered to be the sin of adultery! Scripture is very clear on the hurtful and sinful nature of adultery, and yet our society upholds it everywhere you look.

Movies and television shows glorify adultery, it is a major topic in books as well. Celebrities parade around bragging about "open marriages" and are in and out of relationships constantly. We are called to be set-apart, not of this world, and these worldly examples are definitely not for believers!

Pornography is also a major problem in this regard, with even children easily getting access to it on their smart phones and other devices. Pornography destroys the model of a healthy relationship!

Adultery hurts the soul of those who commit the sin, as well as hurting all those who are involved. In order to keep this command, we need to be fully committed to our spouse and remain pure in body and mind.

### **The 8th Commandment – Thou Shalt Not Steal.**

Stealing something that belongs to someone else is definitely not a way to show them love.

*"You do not steal."* Exodus 20:15

*Let him who stole steal no more, but rather let him labour, working with his hands what is good, so that he has somewhat to share with those in need.*  
Ephesians 4:28

*"When a man steals an ox or a sheep, and shall slaughter it or sell it, he repays five cattle for an ox and four sheep for a sheep. If the thief is found breaking in, and he is struck so that he dies, there is no guilt for his bloodshed. If the sun has risen on him, there is guilt for his bloodshed, he shall certainly repay. If he has not the means, then he shall be sold for his theft. If the theft is indeed found alive in his hand, whether it is an ox or donkey or sheep, he repays double." Exodus 22:1-4*

*Do not trust in oppression. And do not become vain in robbery; if riches increase, do not set your heart on them.* Psalm 62:10

Theft was to be punished with a return of whatever was stolen, with interest! If the thief couldn't afford to do this, he or she would have to be a servant for a time to repay the debt.

Stealing causes extra expenses to those who have been stolen from, and often other issues like fear and anxiety. We have experienced theft many times, as I'm sure that all of you have experienced too, and it feels like a very personal attack, often costs us more to recover our losses, and makes us feel unsafe.

### **The 9th Commandment – Thou Shalt Not Bear False Witness Against Thy Neighbour.**

This verse is about lying, speaking falsely, to others. I also understand this verse to mean that we should not lie about our neighbour for any reason or slander about anyone or gossip.

*“You do not bear false witness against your neighbour.” Exodus 20:16*

*I have hated falsehood and loathe it, your Torah I have loved. Psalm 119:163*

*Lying lips are an abomination to YAHUAH, but those who deal truly are His delight. Proverbs 12:22*

*A trustworthy witness does not lie, but a false witness breathes out lies. Proverbs 14:5*

*Excellent speech is not fitting for a fool, much less lying lips for a noble. Proverbs 17:7*

*“You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you wish to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and has not stood in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks the lie, he speaks of his own, for he is a liar and the father of it.” John 8:44*

*Brothers, do not speak against one another. He that speaks against a brother and judges his brother, speaks against Torah and judges Torah. And if you judge Torah, you are not a doer of Torah but a judge. James 4:11*

Lying breaks down trust between people, and hurts people in almost every instance. If you lie to or about someone, you are not showing them love.

### **The 10<sup>th</sup> Commandment – Thou Shalt Not Covet.**

*“You do not covet your neighbour’s house, you do not covet your neighbour’s wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, or whatever belongs to your neighbour.” Exodus 20:17*

*For the wrongdoer boasted of his cravings; and the greedy one cursed and despised YAHUAH. Psalm 10:3*

*One oppresses the poor to increase his wealth, another goes to the rich, only to come to poverty. Proverbs 22:16*

*Let your way of life be without the love of silver, and be satisfied with what you have. For He Himself has said, "I shall never leave you nor forsake you."*  
Hebrews 13:5

This is another sin that is very prevalent today. "Keeping up with the Jones's" is so popular these days; people feel like they have to have that fancy television or new sports car or whatever, and will go to any lengths to have those things in many cases. These days there is theft all around us, looting is happening more and more often, people are in so much debt, all because of envy and wanting what others have.

Coveting what others has causes jealousy and dissatisfaction, which can lead to greed, theft, lying, adultery and murder in order to get what you unrightfully desire. Covetousness can cause you to go into debt as well. Coveting more and more physical possessions makes those things idols in our lives, we are placing physical "things" before our relationship with the Most High.

And then, of course, the case of coveting your neighbour's spouse is already mental adultery and could lead to physical adultery.

We should all learn to be satisfied with what we have, instead of always wanting more!

### **More on how to love...**

Now that we've had a look at the well-known Torah Commandments relating to loving others, let's have a look at some further details from Scripture on the subject:

There are laws governing fairness for servants (Ex 21:1-11), laws about manslaughter (Ex 21:12-21), laws for those who have been hurt accidentally (Ex 21:22-36), laws about theft (Ex 22:1-15), laws about adultery and fornication (Ex 22:16-24), laws concerning usury (Ex 22:25-31), laws about slander and bearing false witness (Ex 23:1-9), laws about a rest time for the people and the land. The Old Testament truly has an answer for everything! Most, if not all, of the laws governing how to treat other people should really be common sense solutions, even in modern life.

*"When any being sins, and committed a trespass against YAHUAH, and has lied to his neighbour about a deposit, or about a pledge, or about a robbery, or shall extort from his neighbour, or has found what was lost and has lied concerning it, or did swear falsely, so that he sins in regard to any one of all these that a man does, then it shall be, when he sins, and shall be guilty, that he shall return what he took by robbery, or what he has extorted, or the deposit which was deposited with him, or the lost item which he found, or all that about which he*

*swore falsely. He shall repay its total value, add one-fifth more to it and give it to whom it belongs, on the day of his guilt offering.” Leviticus 6:2-4*

*‘Do not steal, do not lie, do not deceive one another. And do not swear falsely by My Name and so profane the Name of your Elohim. I am YAHUAH. Do not oppress your neighbour or rob him. The wages of him who is hired is not to remain with you all night until morning. Do not curse the deaf or put a stumbling-block before the blind, but fear your Elohim. I am YAHUAH. Do no unrighteousness in right-ruling. Do not be partial to the poor or favour the face of the great, but rightly rule your neighbour in righteousness. Do not go slandering among your people. Do not stand against the blood of your neighbour. I am YAHUAH. Do not hate your brother in your heart. Reprove your neighbour, for certain, and bear no sin because of him. Do not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the children of your people. And you shall love your neighbour as yourself. I am YAHUAH.’ Leviticus 19:11-13*

The rest of Leviticus 19 and 20 have some more instructions on how to love and treat others, and chapter 25 (from v39) has laws on how bondmen (servants) should be treated. These verses are so clear and obvious! It clearly states that this is about how we feel about others in our hearts, as well as how we treat them in reality! Not some abstract concept like saying “I love you” and not showing it in any concrete way.

*These six matters YAHUAH hates, and seven are an abomination to Him: A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands shedding innocent blood, a heart devising wicked schemes, feet quick to run to evil, a false witness breathing out lies, and one who causes strife among brothers. My son, watch you’re your fathers command, and do not forsake the Torah of your mother. Proverbs 6:16-20*

The Father truly hates the corruption of these sins! We are warned time and again to stay away from them. The damage our relationships with others and our relationship with the Father.

*Remove falsehood and a lying word far from me; give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me my lawful bread; lest I become satisfied and deny You, and say, “Who is YAHUAH?” And lest I be poor, and steal, and seize the Name of my Elohim. Proverbs 30:8-9*

These verses really stand out to me. It is quite an interesting prayer! I definitely agree with this, to pray for having exactly enough to provide for our needs in order to rely on YAHUAH for everything, rather than resorting to worry and theft, and also not to have so much that we forget that He is our provider. Wow!

*Hear the word of YAHUAH, you children of Yashar’el, for YAHUAH has a case against the inhabitants of the land: “For there is no truth or loving-commitment or*



*knowledge of Elohim in the land. Swearing, and lying, and murdering, and stealing, and committing adultery have increased. And bloodshed follows bloodshed.” Hosea 4:2*

The Most High holds all of these unrepented sins against His people. He saw how people were treating Him and each other and it grieved Him – it still does, even today! He cannot be a just Elohim if He allows these sins to go unpunished; He has reminded us, His people, time and time again to repent and turn from our sins, to love Him and love one another, and this passage reminds us about His anger and grief when His people walk away from love.

*And He said, “What comes out of a man, that defiles a man. For from within, out of the heart of men proceed evil reasonings, adulteries, whorings, murders, thefts, greedy desires, wickednesses, deceit, indecency, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness. All these wicked matters come from within and defile a man.”*  
Mark 7:20-23

Yahusha knew that the heart of man is deceitful and can lead man so easily to sin and his own destruction (see also Jeremiah 17:9). That is why He and the Scriptures constantly remind us to love! Loving others goes against the sinful, selfish nature of human beings, and so it is something we need to remind ourselves of often, and always strive towards.

*“The thief does not come except to steal, and to slaughter, and to destroy. I have come that they might possess life, and that they might possess it beyond measure.”* John 10:10

Yahusha is telling us here that He comes in the opposite Spirit to hasatan. Messiah comes in love and to bring life to those who follow Him, while hasatan comes only to steal, kill and destroy. If we are loving others as He did and as He instructed us to do, we need to walk in the Ruach that Yahusha came in!

*Become, then, imitators of Elohim as beloved children. And walk in love, as Messiah also has loved us, and gave Himself for us, a gift and an offering to Elohim for a sweet smelling fragrance. But whoring and all uncleanness, or greed of gain, let it not even be named among you, as is proper among set-apart ones – neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather thanksgiving. For this you know, that no one who whores, nor unclean one, nor one greedy of gain, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the reign of Messiah and Elohim.* Ephesians 5:1-5

This is another example showing us how to walk in love, as Messiah did. If we walk in this life as Yahusha did, loving the Father and loving those around us, we are walking in the Ruach, but if we live in sin, being greedy and selfish and unclean, we are walking in the spirit of hasatan and will not live to receive our inheritance from YAHUAH.

*“The one who overcomes shall inherit all this, and I shall be his Elohim and He shall be my son. But as for the cowardly, and untrustworthy, and abominable, and murderers, and those who whore, and drug sorcerers, and idolaters, and all the false, their part is in the lake which burns with fire and Sulphur, which is the second death.” Revelation 21:8*

This describes the ultimate punishment for sinners who are not walking in love. We should all take this as a reminder to turn from sins and to walk as Yahusha our Messiah walked, loving all those around us in thought and indeed, using the Scriptures as a guide so that we can know how to act in different situations and relationships.

*All Scripture is breathed out by Elohim and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for setting straight, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of Elohim might be fitted, equipped for every good work. 2 Timothy 3:16-17*

At the time that this letter was written, “Scripture” was not the Bible as we have it today, but it was the collection of the Torah, prophets, psalms, proverbs and other Biblical texts such as the book of Enoch, Sirach and more. The Law is there to teach us how we should behave, how we should treat others and how we should worship YAHUAH. It is our guidebook to life – a fulfilled life in service to our Creator and to those around us.

Keeping the Law, especially the instructions on how to treat other people, helps to grow the Fruits of the Ruach in us! We learn how to love, to be joyful and peaceful, patient, kind, good, trustworthy, gentle and how to have self-control (Galatians 5:22-23), by keeping the Torah. How amazing is that!

And now, to bring this around full-circle and conclude with Messiah’s words that I mentioned in part 1, here is something to always keep in mind when considering whether or not we are showing righteous and godly love to those around us:

*“By their fruits you shall know them. Are grapes gathered from thorn bushes or figs from thistles? So every good tree yields good fruit, but a rotten tree yields wicked fruit. A good tree is unable to yield wicked fruit, and a rotten tree to yield good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. So then, by their fruits you shall know them –” Matthew 7:15-20*

What do our fruits say about us? Are we truly loving the people around us in thought as well as in deed, or are we just speaking the words without proving them to be true with meaningful actions? Are we thoughtful, respectful and mindful in our relationships, or are we actually breaking the Commandments with regard to others, whether in action or only in our thoughts?

In this world today, it is easy to fall into the traps of sin, but YAHUAH is greater than this world, and if we lean on Him and learn His ways, we will be able to live a life of love to all those around us!