

- Today there are extremes of easy grace and also of Law observance being taught. Yeshua explained the correct character of the new era that God was now starting by His Messiah's death and resurrection. Love and kindness is at the center. Believing Gentiles are now also to be included into the Spiritual life of Israel by the changes in the New Covenant.
- LOVE THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT
- <sup>MT 22:35</sup> One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: <sup>36</sup> "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?"
- <sup>MT 22:37</sup> Yeshua replied: " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' <sup>38</sup> This is the first and greatest commandment. <sup>39</sup> And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' <sup>40</sup> All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."
- (This is what the famous Hillel taught too).
- This word Love used here, what does this mean?
- MT 22:37,39 Love. The Greek verb is not phileo, which expresses friendly affection, but agapao, the commitment of devotion that is directed by the will and can be commanded as a duty. We choose to love. It is a commitment.
- LOVE FULFILLS THE MORAL LAW
- <sup>RO 13:8</sup> Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law. <sup>9</sup> The commandments, "Do not commit adultery," "Do not murder," "Do not steal," "Do not covet," and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this one rule: "Love your neighbor as yourself." <sup>10</sup> Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore genuine love is the fulfillment of the law.
- This is the clear teaching of the New Testament scriptures.
- Note: These items listed are moral laws, and not just the 10 commands and they do not include the ceremonial laws.
- KEEP ON LOVING
- <sup>RO 13:8</sup> continuing debt. To love is the one debt that is never paid off. No matter how much one has loved, he is under obligation to keep on loving one another.
- This Includes not only fellow Christians but all people, as the second half of the verse makes clear ("your fellowman/neighbor").
- The "The law" here means the heart of the Mosaic law, which lays down both moral and social responsibilities.
- LOVE FOR NEIGHBOR COVERS ALL
- MT 13:9 Further explains the last statement of v. 8, namely, that love of neighbor encompasses all our social responsibilities.
- Your neighbor. - Yeshua taught that our neighbor is anyone in need (see Lk 10:25-37 the parable of the Good Samaritan), which is probably the idea Paul has in mind here.
- <sup>LK 10:25</sup> On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" <sup>26</sup> "What is written in the Law?" he replied. "How do you read it?"
- STORY OF GOOD SAMARITAN
- <sup>27</sup> He answered: " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind' ; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' <sup>28</sup> "You have answered correctly," Yeshua replied. "Do this and you will live." – All based on love.
- <sup>29</sup> But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Yeshua, "And who is my neighbor?" <sup>30</sup> In reply Yeshua said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he fell into the hands of robbers. .. But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and ..he took pity on him.... gave him money etc.

- <sup>36</sup> "Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?" <sup>37</sup> The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him." Yeshua told him, "Go and do likewise." - This is agape love.
- THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT
- GAL 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no Law. We are not Law breakers as the unrighteous are.
- Those who lead truly Spirit led righteous lives will no longer be sinners but saints.
- <sup>24</sup> Those who belong to Messiah Yeshua have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. <sup>25</sup> Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. <sup>26</sup> Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.
- NOT UNRESTRAINED OR SELFISHNESS
- Christian character is produced by the Holy Spirit, not by the mere moral discipline of trying to live by Law.
- And Paul makes it clear that justification by faith does not result in throwing off moral restraint. The indwelling Holy Spirit produces Christian virtues in the believer's life. And we are to purify ourselves with His help.
- RO 6:15 What then? Shall we sin because we are not under (Mosaic) Law but under grace? By no means!
- LEGALISM
- Legalism is common to all religions. It is manmade effort to follow rules. It can often lead to a self righteous religious pride. It is in opposition to a Holy Spirit led life.
- The letter. The "tablets of stone" on which the letter of the Law was originally written (see Ex 24:12; 31:18; 32:15-16).
- The Spirit. The writing of the law "with the Spirit of the living God . . . on tablets of human hearts," which was the promise of the New Covenant as foretold by the prophets (see Jer 31:31-34; 32:39-40; Eze 11:19; 36:26).
- THE LETTER VS THE SPIRIT
- The point of the promised future Holy Spirit spoken in Jeremiah and Ezekiel is not fully understood by most believers.
- (Note: God's plan for the Gentiles was not so clear at that time. But the promise for God to bless the nations was known)
- COL 1:26 the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the saints. <sup>27</sup> To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Messiah in you, the hope of glory.
- 2CO 3:3 You show that you are a "letter" from Messiah, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone (OT) but on tablets of human hearts (NT)...
- <sup>6</sup> He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant--not of the (Law) letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.
- THE CHARACTER OF THE NEW COVENANT
- "The letter kills, but the Spirit gives life". This does not mean that the external, literal sense of Scripture is deadly or unprofitable while the inner, spiritual (mystical or mythical) sense is alive.
- "The letter" is synonymous with the law as an external standard before which all people, because they are lawbreakers, stand guilty and condemned to death. Therefore it is described as the "ministry that brought death" and the "ministry that condemns".
- On the other hand, the Spirit who gives life is the "Spirit of the living God" who, in fulfillment of the promise of the New Covenant, writes that same law inwardly "on tablets of human hearts" (v. 3). He thus provides the believer with love for God's (moral) law, which previously he had hated, and with power to keep it, which previously he had not possessed.
- THE LAW/ TORAH OF MESSIAH

- Now we are under the Law or Torah of the Messiah. This is genuine serving love (agape) and unselfishness. We are following the Messiah now.
- JN15:12 My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.<sup>13</sup> Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.<sup>14</sup> You are my friends if you do what I command.
- GAL 6:1 Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. ..<sup>2</sup> Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the Law of Messiah. - His teaching.
- WHAT LAWS NOW?
- We are now in a new dispensation under the Messiah. In The New Covenant the Spiritual believer is led to Moral Commandments. Love, respect, kindness, do not steal, sexual purity. Good principles and freedom not legalism.
- As explained in Hebrews the Temple system is gone and priesthood is changed. The Temple related laws are all gone.
- All the laws related to separation of Jews and Gentiles are done away with. We are now one in the Messiah. Yeshua has broken down the middle dividing wall between the Gentiles and the Hebrews (like existed in the Temple). The door is open for the Gentiles to come to God.  
EPH 2:14 For He himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, by abolishing in his flesh the law with its commandments and regulations. (This is especially here talking about laws on separation of Jews and Gentiles).
- So ceremonial and ritual cleanliness laws are gone. Washing rules etc.
- The food laws are gone! Yeshua said "What goes into a man does not morally defile". By this He declared all food clean.
- ROM14:17 For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit,<sup>18</sup> because anyone who serves Messiah in this way is pleasing to God and approved by men.
- ROM 14:20 Do not destroy the work of God for the sake of food. All food is clean, but it is wrong for a man to eat anything that causes someone else to stumble.  
So kosher laws not essential. But respect for others is!
- CEREMONIAL AND FEAST LAWS
- The ceremonial laws and food and drink are not mandatory. It's up to you.
- COL 2:16 Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day.<sup>17</sup> These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Messiah.
- Note: the Feasts and the Sabbath can still be a blessing when done in faith. They're prophetic of God's plan & are blest, God given "Shadows" of things done & things to come and are useful for the Church.
- THE NEW DISPENSATION.
- So a New Dispensation has come with Yeshua's death and resurrection. Now He is our centre and our teacher. **He is not just a good example!**
- MT23:10 Nor are you to be called 'teacher,' for you have one Teacher, the Messiah. (As Moses was before).
- Now our relationship with God is based upon faith in Yeshua and what he has done for us on the cross by dying for our sins. This is what the prophets all looked forward to.
- Our response to God's mercy is to live as righteous servants led by the Holy Spirit.
- God has placed us (like a grafted olive branch) into believing Israel, no longer strangers but blessed! This is all because of the Messiah.