

John 47 – If You Love Me: Keep My Commandments

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John 14:15

Love Is Indiscernible

- “If you love me, you will keep my commandments.”
(Jn 14:15)
 - Logic statement (*Modus tollens*): $P \rightarrow Q$
 - If P is true Then Q must be true
 - However this *if* statement is unknowable
 - The *then* statement reveals the truth of this *if* statement
 - Sins forgiven revealed by Rise up and walk (Mt 2:9)
 - Thus Q reveals P (*Modus tollens variant*)

Love is Like Faith – Dead Alone

- Faith alone is also invisible and thus unknowable (Jn 2:18)
 - A faith affirming statement cannot be corroborated since Faith is non-empirical (Jn 19:15; Mt 28:30)
 - Faith is only revealed by its fruit: the words and deeds observed in one’s life (Mt 7:15-20)
 - Like Faith, Love is also non-empirical
 - Therefore, proof of Love is what it produces in one’s life

Love Comes Before Evidence

- Love (ἀγαπάω): Present Active Subjunctive (If)
 - Love must be present in one's life - Foundation
 - Obedience reveals the existence of Love
- Keep (τηρέω): Future Active Indicative (Then)
 - Keeping His commandments flows from love - Future
 - Without His Love (New Covenant salvation) one cannot keep His commandments (2Co 5:17)

Without Faith...No Salvation

- "...without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists..." (He 11:6)
 - If the fruit of one's life does not reveal Faith then you are not saved, believe in God; ergo, God does not hear your prayers
 - Just claiming faith is of no value without evidence: Keeping His commandments (Two or three witnesses) (He 10:28)

If God is Love, Then...

- Since God is Love His Logos, and by implication Christ's Logos, can only produce love (1Co 1:15-20)
 - Since we are made in His image (Logos) we can also produce works of love imperfect while in the flesh (Ro 8:29-30; 2Co 3:17-18)
- How can we know we have His love; i.e., are saved?
 - Decreasing Fear of Punishment from God for sin (1Jo 4:18)
 - Keeping His commandments flows from love (Jo 14:15)

Without Love...No Salvation

- "God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him." (1Jo 4:16)
 - Love of God in you is *synonymous* with salvation
 - The evidence of God's love is confession (audible) that Jesus is God's Son (1Jo 4:15)
 - Living God's love is increasingly revealed by the maturation process, completed when we see Him (1Co 13:12-13; 1Jo 4:17)

Which Commandments?

- When Christ talks of commandments; what does He mean?
 - Commandment {ἐντολή}: Noun Accusative {Direct Object} of the verb - keep...
 - Commandment is an injunction, or order from an authority to those under that authority; or His words
 - Jews erred in defining God by commandments {Halakah} - These do not produce life {Backwards} (Ge 15:6; Ro 4:3-5, 11)
*Keeping the Commandments does not change one's nature
Changed nature naturally keeps His Commandments*

Foundation of All Commandments

- Father spoke from Heaven giving Jews the Ten Words (Ex 20:1-19)
 - Jews begged Moses to be their intercessor; they did not want to hear from the Father again {Veiled} (2Co 3:12-16)
 - Ten Words - God's morality *instilled* in all peoples (Ro 1:18-25)
 - The Ten Words define inward Love's outward effects
 - Toward God
 - Toward Man

Old Testament salvation still evidenced by a changed or new heart; Difference? No indwelling Holy Spirit {Example: Saul} (1Sa 10:1-9)

Ten Words Given - Analyzed

Perceived by Jews

Intended by God



Just as Ten Words written on Stone, the Jews had hearts of stone [keeping Commandments without a change nature] New Covenant: God will give them, and all who believe, hearts of flesh; ergo, indwelling Spirit (Ez 11:19-20, 36:26-32)

God's Love in the Ten Words

Love Your God (Mt 22:37-40)

Love Your Neighbor (Mt 22:39)

- Loving God evidenced by (Mt 22:37)
 - No other gods
 - Recognizing His holiness
 - Resting in Him
 - Honoring Parents
- If you Love Him these will be evident in your life - Saved
- Loving one's neighbor evidenced by (Mt 22:39)
 - No Covetousness; i.e.,
 - No Murder
 - No Adultery
 - No Stealing
 - No Lying
 - These no's flow from love

Christ affirmed the distilled of the Ten Words into these Two Summations
Quotations from two different passages of the Law (Dt 10:12-14-41)

Who is Your Neighbor? (Lk 10:29-37)

- Good Samaritan parable: anyone who has a need you can meet is your neighbor {Blessed are the merciful} (Mt 5:7)
 - Love impartially meets the needs of others (Lk 2:8-9)
 - Rich Young Ruler sought redemption keeping the Law; but, giving to poor would also not save him: Designed to show him his failure and so he could repent (Mt 19:16-23)
 - Christ gave up everything in Love for His own (Jn 2:1-8)
- Even if the Young Ruler had given up everything to feed the poor, it would not bring salvation [works]
The task was designed to show him the power of his flesh; i.e., that he was not saved so he could repent

Christ's New Command-Very Old

- Christ's new command, "Love the Brethren" (Jo 13:34-35)
 - Actually an old command: Ten Words (Jo 2:7-11)
 - "Love the brethren" a subset of "Love your neighbor"
 - God's love revealed from the beginning of Scriptures
 - Promise of salvation to Adam and Eve *after* sin (Ge 3:8-24)
 - Spoke with Cain, who had no love, about his responsibility as messiah; yet, murdered helpless Abel (Ge 4:1-8)

"Love your Neighbor" is outward toward the Lost showing them what God's Love looks like
"Love the Brethren" is inward, unifying the body of Christ though each person different

Christ-like Maturity

- The outward evidence of His indwelling love is the keeping of His commandments
 - Flows naturally from one's new nature
 - Hagiazo Process reveals our fleshly lack of love
 - Immature seek to keep commandments proving their love (Same error as the Jews)
 - Mature live as He lived; frequently at odds in the World

Christ *Always* Upheld Ten Words

- Christ said heaven and earth will pass away before the Ten Words change (Ma 5:17-19)
 - Paul writes that Love fulfills the Ten Words (Ro 13:8-10)
 - God adamant against substituting man's religious traditions (Philosophies) for His Ten Words (Ma 15:1-9)
- Ten Words reveals the Lost who cannot live them as it reveals the saved who live them in the Spirit

The Saved reveals their maturity by the degree to which God's love is exhibited
Notice the first fruit of the Spirit: Love; it precedes all others (Ga 5:22)

All Christ Said Flowed from Love

- "For I have not spoken on my own authority, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment – what to say and what to speak. And I know that his commandment is eternal life. What I say, therefore, I say as the Father has told me." (Jn 12:49-50)
 - Trying to list Jesus' *commandments* is similar to the Jews listing 613 *commandments* of Mosaic Law – Works

From Love Flows Faith (1Co 13:13)

- Love is not just the foundation of faith: it is the essence of God distilled into the Ten Words then expanded into the very visible person of Christ, Logos of the Father, into whose image Christians are being matured into until all are unified (1Jo 3:20)
 - Faith flows from Love
 - Hope, which we cannot yet see, flows from Faith—Love (Ro 8:23-25; He 11:1)

Christians Without Love: Lost

- Paul makes a *reductio ad absurdum* argument showing that without Love there is no evidence of salvation (1Co 13:1-3)
 - If his words, though persuasive, lacked love – Noise
 - If he had all knowledge but lacked love – Empty (Satan)
 - If his faith moved mountains but lacked love – Magic
 - If he died for his beliefs but lacked love – Futile (Ro 5:6-8)
 - Ergo, without Love, one is not saved

Commandments Are Love

- The implementation of God's Logos spring from the very nature of Christ dwelling in us, New Nature (Ep 4:20-24)
 - Just as only sin flows from the *old man*
 - Only those desires consistent with Christ flow from the *new man* while our sins flow from our *flesh*
 - Every utterance of Christ flowed from God's Love (Logos) to complete us as sons of God (Our Logos) (Ro 8:15)

Thus, at salvation our new nature cries out, "Abba, Father" showing that we are sons of God

Visualization of Law

- Cart Before the Horse
- Deeds may outwardly *appear* gracious but nature remains unchanged
- Keeping commandments is arduous, unrewarding work that avails nothing



Love From Self - Impossible

- It is impossible to have God's love without obedience, keeping His commandments, (Ja 1:24-25)
 - Hallmark of the New Covenant - New Nature (2Co 5:17)
 - New Nature is the love of Jesus and of the Father
 - New Nature inexorably linked to the indwelling Spirit
 - Thus, Christ reveals the coming Holy Spirit's ministry: the first fruit of our salvation of love (Ro 8:23, 26)