

What Does *Adonai* Your God Require of You?

♪¹² “So now, O Israel, what does *Adonai* your God require of you, but to fear *Adonai* your God, to walk in all His ways and love Him, and to serve *Adonai* your God with all your heart and with all your soul, ♪¹³ to keep the *mitzvot* of *Adonai* and His statutes that I am commanding you today, for your own good? (Deut. 10:12-13)

Do we have any requirements in our life as a Believer? Of course we do. Perhaps none as compelling as the partial recitation of Deut. 6:5 (the *VeAhavta* prayer) in Deut. 10:12 with the addition of the verb *serve*. Last week I shared that the verb *love* (Hebrew, *oheb*) appears more times in this book of *the law* than in any other book in the *Tanakh* (17 times). God is love (1 John 4:8b) and He requires love from us.

Without love, our obedience becomes powerless, religious works rooted in an attempt to be good enough for God. We are good enough. He sent His one and only son just for me, and just for you. Even in Torah, God the Father was way more interested in the hearts of His children, than He was in their rote obedience. This week’s portion speaks directly to the heart of the matter, and the interestingly most of the body thinks it’s a New Testament theology. However, Deut. 10:16 says, “¹⁶ Circumcise the foreskin of your heart therefore, and do not be stiff-necked anymore.” Our heart condition matters so much to God. It’s the difference between a pleasing/acceptable sacrifice and strange fire. The idea of heart circumcision is throughout the TNK, and is continued all through the *B’rit Chadasha*. But it started in Torah. “²⁵ Circumcision is indeed worthwhile if you keep the Torah; but if you break the Torah, your circumcision has become uncircumcision. ²⁶ Therefore, if the uncircumcised keeps the righteous decrees of the Torah, will not his uncircumcision be counted as circumcision? ²⁷ Indeed, the one not circumcised physically who fulfills the Torah will judge you who—even with the written code and circumcision—break the Torah. ²⁸ For one is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision something visible in the flesh. ²⁹ Rather, the Jew is one inwardly, and circumcision is of the heart—in Spirit not in letter. His praise is not from men, but from God” (Romans 2:25-29).

No wonder the Prophet Joel stated: “¹³ Rend your heart, not your garments, and turn to *Adonai*, your God. For He is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger, abundant in mercy, and relenting about the calamity due” (Joel 2:13). Surely need the foreskin of our hearts removed. Circumcision of our heart opens the door to greater relationship, revelation, power, impact, abundance, and joy. Our effectiveness for God and others is directly tied to the depth of love we walk in with our Father God. I want more, do you?

Without love we are useless, uselessly to God and most certainly to others. That’s not what we were created for. We are created to experience the fullness of God’s love daily and to share that love one with another. The world is starving for love, yet all we can show is disgust and religious indignation.

Ian said in his message two years ago: “God’s love is NOT just relevant, it’s revolutionary! It eternally changed the world through Messiah’s death and resurrection, and it still can today!” I couldn’t agree more.

Look, if we can’t love God, we can’t love others. It’s that simple. God is love. Therefore, loving Him and receiving His love, increases our ability to love. Ever wonder why there is so much hate/anger/bitterness in this world? It’s the lack of love. If we aren’t walking with God, in love, then we cannot walk with people and love them when they fail. God doesn’t stop loving us when we fail, remember the prodigal. He even put a chapter together for us on love...

“¹If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels but have not love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ²If I have the gift of prophecy and know all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith so as to remove mountains but have not love, I am nothing. ³If I give away all that I own and if I hand over my body so I might boast but have not love, I gain nothing...¹³But now these three remain – faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love” (1 Cor. 13)

♪⁷ “Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. ⁸He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love” – 1 John 4:7 and 8” ♪