

# LOVE

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## I. Words for "love" in original Biblical languages

- a. Hebrew words
  - i. Hebrew word *ahab* - spontaneous, impulsive love (250 times in OT)
  - ii. Hebrew word *hesed* - deliberate choice of affection and kindness
  - iii. Hebrew word *raham* - to have compassion, brotherly love
- b. Greek words
  - i. Greek word *eros* - get English word "erotic"
    - 1. *Eros* was Greek Yahuwah of love - sensual, sexual, impulsive
    - 2. Plato defined this love as aspiring for and delighting in the value of its object; loving that which is lovable.
    - 3. This Greek word not found in New Testament
  - ii. Greek word *philia* - get English words philosophy, philanthropy, philology, bibliophile, Philadelphia, Philip, etc.
    - 1. Greeks used as love for friend, spouse, children
    - 2. Ex. of NT usage: Matt. 10:37; Luk. 12:4; 14:12; Jn. 11:3,36
  - iii. Greek word *agape*
    - 1. Seldom used in secular Greek literature
    - 2. When used referred to selective desire for something or someone.
    - 3. Greek OT (LXX) used over 300 times to refer to Yahuwah's selective and exclusive love for HIS people.
    - 4. Predominant word for love in new covenant (over 250 occurrences in NT). Invested with new meaning.
    - 5. Representative Biblical references employing *agape*
      - a. Matt. 5:43,44 - "love your enemies"
      - b. Matt. 22:36-40 - "great commandment...love Yahuwah..."
      - c. Jn. 3:16 - "Yahuwah so loved the world He gave His only Son"
      - d. Jn. 13:34; 15:12 - "new commandment...love one another.." Jn. 17:26 - "love wherewith Thou loved Me may be in them" Rom. 5:5 - "love of Yahuwah poured out within our hearts"
      - e. Rom. 13:10 - "love is the fulfillment of the law" I Cor 13:1-13 - "...the greatest of these is love" II Cor. 5:14 - "the love of Ha'Mashyach controls us" Gal. 5:6 - "faith working through love"
      - f. Gal. 5:22 - "fruit of the Ruwach is love..."
      - g. I Jn. 4:7 - "everyone who loves is born of Yahuwah"

## II. Divine basis of love

- a. Character of Yahuwah - "Yahuwah is love" - I Jn. 4:8,16
  - i. Essentially
  - ii. Absolute and independent, non-necessitated
  - iii. immutable and uncompromising
- b. personal, relational, fundamental to Father Yahuwah
- c. Self-giving; other-oriented; desires the best for all others, and the best in Himself.
  - i. Comprehensively
    - 1. All-encompassing expression of Yahuwah's character
    - 2. Rom. 13:9 - "summed up in 'you shall love your neighbor'" Gal. 5:14 - "whole law summed up in 'love your neighbor'" James 2:8 - "royal law...'you shall love your neighbor'"
    - 3. Other attributes of Yahuwah's character expressed in love
    - 4. Exod. 20 - honor, respect, truth, loyalty, fidelity,
    - 5. I Cor 13 - patience, kindness, truth, eternality
    - 6. Gal. 5:22 - joy, peace, patience, goodness, faithfulness...
  - ii. Expression of Yahuwah's character

## III. Objectively

- a. Yahuwah's love is expressed by His grace - Eph. 2:4,5
- b. Yahuwah's grace realized in Amanuwal Ha'Mashyach - Jn. 1:17;3:16; Titus 3:4

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- c. Yahuwah's love expressed in redemption - Rom. 5:8; Gal. 2:20; I Jn. 4:10; Rev. 1:5

IV. Subjectively

- a. Yahuwah's character of love to be expressed in behavior of man
- b. Requires regenerative presence of Yahuwah's character
- c. Jn. 17:26 - "love may be in them, as in Me" Rom. 5:5 - "love of Yahuwah shed in our hearts" Gal. 5:22 - "the fruit of the Ruwach is love"
- d. I Jn. 4:7 - "everyone who loves is born of Yahuwah"
- e. Only Yahuwah can express His character of love
  - i. Love not a virtue, value, ideal, moral principle
  - ii. Love not a feeling, sentiment, impulse, passion
  - iii. Love not romance, benevolence, amicability
  - iv. Love not psychological predisposition, physical genetics, social habit
  - v. Love expressed only as derived from Yahuwah - *ek theos*
  - vi. Love is spiritual character of Yahuwah in the begotten child of Yahuwah
- b. Love commanded of the begotten children - Jn. 13:34; 15:12; Eph. 5:2
  - i. Freedom in the receptivity of His character
  - ii. Yahuwah is the dynamic of His own demands

V. Practical features of the expression of Yahuwah's love

- a. Love is not defined by the act, but by the character of Yahuwah within the act
- b. Love precludes hypocrisy and play-acting.
- c. Love is unselfish; not based on self-need or want.
- d. Love is not conditioned on reciprocity or calculation of repayment.
- e. Love doesn't care who gets the credit.
- f. Love is active; not merely passive or theoretical; love doesn't loiter.
- g. Love believes, trusts and expects Yahuwah to overcome all things.
- h. Love is directed toward people; not things, ideas, doctrines, principles...
- i. Love of neighbor desires them to have everything you have, and more.
- j. Love precludes resentment and covetousness
- k. Love seeks to commend, not condemn.
- l. Love is not conditioned on the lovability or action of the recipient.
- m. Love is not fickle; it is unchanging and limitless
- n. Love precludes despair at the loss or absence of the person loved
- o. Love precludes favoritism and aversion.
- p. Love does not engage in comparison.
- q. Love is not possessive, seeking to own or control another person.
- r. Love does not find its identity or life in the one loved.
- s. Love is the antidote to fear and paranoia - I Jn. 4:18
- t. Love seeks the highest good of the other, with no thought of benefit to oneself.
- u. Love involves self-denial, self-renunciation, personal sacrifice, humility
- v. Love is willing to suffer slights, hurts, abuse.
- w. Love builds others up, nurtures, edifies; it is constructive, not destructive
- x. Love seeks to avoid grieving or offending another - Rom. 13:10; 14:15
- y. Love of one's enemy removes his relation of power - Matt. 5:40
- z. Love precludes partiality, preference, distinction, exclusivism; it is universal and equal
- aa. Love does not take the situation into one's hand to resolve the problem.
- bb. Love does not preclude confrontation, opposition and discipline - Heb. 12:6; it is not always capitulatory or soft ("tough love"); cf. Matt. 10:34; Luk. 12:49
- cc. Love cannot be coerced or obliged by law or moral principle and program.
- dd. Love is not retaliatory (Rom. 12:17); it turns the other cheek (Matt. 5:39)
- ee. Love does not dictate performance standards or expectations to others
- ff. Love prompts one to take the initiative to be the first to act - (Matt. 7:12)
- gg. Love dissolves the emotional blocks which keep us from sensitivity to others
- hh. Love does not demand its personal rights

VI. Love excludes suspicion and mistrust

- a. Love allows one to be free to be man as Yahuwah intended man to be.