

## Love Does No Harm

**Rom 13:10** – “*Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.*” If I am doing this (loving my brothers), I give them what they need, not what they don’t need. And the one who does the giving is the one discerning what his brother needs — not what he desires or wants, but what he needs. For example, a child can say, “I want some ice cream!” And the world might see this as good, but it’s not what the child needs. Give him an apple; that’s what’s good for him, not what he thinks he wants.

Verse 10 says, “*Love does no harm...*” That’s talking about the right kind of love – not flattery, but going to your brothers and showing them their faults; considering how to stimulate them to good deeds.

1 Jn 4 was written to Christianity for the sake of those who think they’ve passed out of death and into life. It exposes the Gnostic belief of thinking you can love your brothers and not have to lay down your life for them (a sacrificial life). There’s no way you can do this apart from laying down your life the same way our Master did. He said that we *ought* to lay down our lives for one another. We live for the benefit of others. That’s what our life is for. What we do is not for ourselves, but for others.

What we are taught by what’s in 1 John is amazing. We need to do what it says before we teach it to the Christians. They’re exposed by what’s in 1 John. It exposes their Gnostic religion. Read 1 John – it exposes us, really. Do we *really* love the way it says we should love? Do we love with the kind of love that shows we have passed out of death and into life? This is something we always need to consider. We should read 1 John for a month. If we have this revelation in our hearts first, then our life will expose Christians and where they’re at.

**Hosah:** What Yoneq shared reminded me of what a brother told me a while ago. He said one night at the minchah, “Let’s all read 1 John. And in the morning we can all come and share one thing we got out of it.” And I read it and the thing that really stood out to me that I still remember (and still have underlined in my Bible) is in 1 Jn 4:16 which says, “*God is love.*” It *totally* affected me and I went to the minchah the next morning and shared it.

Also, it says in 1 Jn 4:7-8 – “Beloved (Dear friends), let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God; and knows God. He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.”

*Everything* about God is love. We serve the God who *is* love. And He is teaching us how to love. If we learn to love we come to know about our God more. And if we love God then our unity will come out of it.

**Huldah:** The reason love has to rule in our lives is because love will be ruling the earth. I remember reading 1 John growing up and it became real to me. There was a certain brother I lived with who irritated me and I didn’t want to be around him. My imma said, “You need to read 1 John every day. If you can’t love your brother then you’re not loving God.” What I read went into me.

If it’s not in us first, how can we say *anything* to Christians? It’s just a mystical thing. It becomes real by this happening every day in our lives – how we do the things we do and say the things we say.

I’m thankful to be learning the reality of what’s in 1 John. The standard is so high. It’s going up and I want to go up with it.

**Barak:** I was reading the first verse in 1 John about seeing and hearing the Word of life and I’m thankful for what I hear in the minchah every day. We can hear the truth. People like Martin Luther King didn’t have the spirit of our Father, but how many people were deceived by him? How many people are deceived by what’s happening in Yugoslavia? Everyone thinks that what the Americans are doing is right. There’s only a few people who know the truth. Martin Luther King was a false prophet.

I used to think about what it says in 1 Jn 4:20 – “If someone says, ‘I love God,’ and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?” I used to think about this because when we first lived in Island Pond, Mr. Robideau (who lives next door to the Maples) would faithfully go to church every day, but curse us if we walked on his lawn. I couldn’t understand how he

could do that – go to church and curse us at the same time. It was obvious to us that he wasn't loving God. (It's not the same anymore; he is nicer to us now.) But here in our midst it is a more subtle thing. The standard is higher for us. If we're loving ourselves more than our brother then we're not loving God. It's so easy for us to do; to provide for our own needs. But if we're loving like our Master we'll think of our brother first.

1 Jn 4:17 – This is the only confidence we can have in the day of judgment. We won't have boldness in that day if we're not giving our brothers what they need. And if we're not then we're hating them (some translations actually say, "murdering"). It's seeing your brother perishing before your very eyes and not doing anything to help him (reaching out in compassion); that's what it means to see your brother in need and not to give him what he needs like verse 17 says. And if we're not giving him what he needs how can the love of God be in us? It's a high standard. If we're not doing this we'll have no confidence in the day of judgment. You'll think you're loving and then go to the judgment and find out that you weren't. You're knees will buckle under you. He won't say, *"Well done, good and faithful servant; enter in to the joy I have prepared for you"* because you didn't lay down your life for your brother.

We have to have a conscious awareness of what we're doing every day. We can't take things for granted. Chets Barur never used to be like this, but now he sees; he's realizing this. Our first born are coming forth and speaking and leading and it's amazing what our Father is putting in their hearts! I'm proud of them.

**ha-emeq:** When we were first talking about God today and the things that Hosah was saying, I was thinking about the first time I ever thought to read what was in 1 John. I hated reading the Bible because I couldn't stand what Christians were like. So when I read it I was so *shocked!* I remember where I was sitting when I was reading it and thinking, "It says that in the Bible?" The things it was saying were real – it was talking about love and I was in the throes of being confused. I was 13 and the "hippie movement" was forming and everyone was talking about love – our parents said, "Love" and then drove Cadillacs. Everything was changing and it was scary. My family was a quiet family and then things got wild all around us – Elvis Presley, Las Vegas – there was a real movement.

I remember in junior high school I would write "LOVE" everywhere; not meaning the kind that says, "I love so and so," but the word "LOVE" that meant the whole concept – love among people. Everywhere you'd hear about "LOVE" and the Beatles sang a song about it, but *then* the definition of the word was the hard part. We said, "Let's love," (but who will take out the garbage?). We tried to act with love, walking around saying, "Oh, Wow! Love!" It was a mystical thing. Then it got perverted with sensual and physical things; drugs, sex, pregnancy, abortion, venereal diseases.

That's when I met Yoneq when I was 21 years old and I said, "What happened? What's love? Everyone is stoned! What is love, anyway?" I remember calling my sister and saying, "You know the Bible? You ought to get one and read it. It's some kind of religion, but it's weird. What it says is so shocking." But she never read it or saw what I saw.

But the hard thing is living it out. John wrote about it in 1 John and got specific because when he wrote to our people and said, "Love God," other things were growing up among them. He saw that love was being defined as "passing out of death and into life" in the wrong way. He saw that it was like Christianity is today.

It reminded me of a story that Yoneq told one time about when John was really old and there was a religious gathering and he came to it and people were asking him, "What do you have to say to us?" And he said, "Beloved, love one another." Then he got up and left. That was all he said, all he could say. Living out the word "love" is the definition here; the proof of this is that we ought to lay down our lives for one another (our brother). When we see a brother in need, how can we love with the love of God? It's not just words, but a real thing — actual and genuine.

1 John goes on and on defining what love is. I'm thankful I can hear these words. We can say the word, but it has to be "fleshed out." It takes all the grey out and makes it clear.

**Chets Barur:** I'm thankful we are the home He wants to dwell in. 1 Jn 4:12 is clear – if we don't love one another, He doesn't live in us. It's not a feeling and doesn't change with our mood swings. It's something you either have or you don't. If His spirit is in us we're going to lay down our lives (sacrifice them) for one another.

I'm thankful Yahshua loved us first. It's amazing that we can love one another. I'm thankful I grew up here. I used to be dull to it. When you grow up in the Body you can grow up having a mentality like a Christian and not be zealous and take our life for granted.

I want to be *filled* with our Master and pour it out on others. I'm thankful for salvation; that I've been saved from death.

**Eben:** A person who loves his brother discerns what he needs. If we are loving we're *going* to know what others need. What we said is simple, "If we're not loving our brothers, we don't know God. In 1 Jn 4:20 it says, *"If someone says, 'I love God,' and hates his brother, he is a liar, for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?"* It takes it out of the mystical realm. If we're not loving our brother who's in front of us, then we're not loving God.

To ignore your brother is the highest form of hatred (to treat him like dirt). Back in the early days we used to sing a song, "Love, love, love, love, Christians this is your call" (we changed it to "follow our Master's call"). And there were so many people back then who sang it, but it was only mystical to them because they're no longer here. It was just in their heads. But those who *are* loving are still here laying down their lives.

**Jesse:** If His love is truly in our hearts, and we have the same heart as His, then we'll truly die every day.

We're driven by one of two things: 1) by love, or 2) selfish ambition. People in the world who are driven by selfish ambition seek money, cars, fame (all kinds of things), but here we're driven by love. We're not seeking our own selfish desires, but we're just loving our brother. I'm thankful I'm not driven by selfish ambition, but I'm driven by love.

**Labeshu:** There's so much that hinders us from being like this; laying down our lives. There's so much in me that hinders me to love my brothers.

I'm so thankful for the morning and evening Minchot where I can hear His Word. If we hear His Word and *do* it then He'll purify our souls. I'm thankful for what I heard this morning. I need to hear it so I can *do* it. It's not mystical. He's found His home with us. I'm thankful people can come to Him and find a home.

**Naomi:** We can have His love in our hearts, but if we don't use it, it stays dormant. If we do what we hear then love will well up in our hearts.

When I go somewhere I see children who are so selfish; this is such a selfish generation. They are so wasteful and get everything they want. And I think, how can we handle them if they come to the Body? But our Father knew us and that He could start with us; that we'd hear Him and that's the answer. Yahshua said, *"if we see a brother in need ...When people come we have to discern their needs and not let them take over. We have to be careful with our children as they grow up that we would put into them to work hard and not just hand over their needs to them. And when children come in we have to lead them to the true love of our Master Yahshua. We have to hear and act, leading people in love."*

**Hayah:** We need to encourage each other so much. If we don't our brothers won't get what they need and they'll lack vision. I'm thankful we can give encouragement to each other so we'll make it together

**Amaz:** Our God isn't on the earth now, but we are. And if we can just love people who've been messed up by society, then people will come in. Our Father wants to have many sons. I'm thankful we can be this way. We can love people who are messed up just like we are. (They did the same things we did.)

**Hadassah:** The only reason we have the power to love like this is because we have our Master's spirit in us. So many people want to love, but they don't have the power. They don't have our Master's spirit. I'm thankful we can love because we have our Master's spirit.

It's so wonderful what's been shared tonight. This should go out to all the Twelve Tribes. What Jesse said was wonderful (and our other young people). The people who are the most astute need to help the others. We are progressing. Chets Barur looked at me when Jesse was speaking to see if I had approval. This man is changing. It's a miracle that Jesse can be saved (as hard a time as he went through). Our children are being saved. They were some of the worst sorts (like Chets Barur or Amaz – they were horrible and our Father is saving them).

They are the most perceptive ones and they need to help the others.  
We have a beautiful life, don't we?