

Obeying His Commandments

Now by this we know that we know Him... (1 Jn 2:3)

We know, we realize, understand, have revelation and deep conviction if we keep His commandments. There is a commandment that says, “Obey your father and mother.” You honor your parents by obeying them. We can know that we know Him if we obey all of His commandments. It takes a community in order to obey His commandments. There is no way possible you can obey all of His commandments except in the environment He has provided for us to be separated in order to become purified (1 Cor 1:2).

He who says I know Him and does not keep His commandments is a liar. (1 Jn 2:4)

All men have lied, but not all men are liars. There are many who say, “I know Him and keep His commandments,” but they don’t even live in an environment where they *can* keep His commandments. All liars have their place in the lake of fire. That is not speaking of people who have lied, because everyone has lied, but a liar is someone who continues to lie and say, “I know Him,” but does not keep His commandments. You have to live in an environment where it is possible to keep His commandments.

Whoever is of the truth will hear the voice of the shepherd. Whoever keeps His word, truly the love of Yahweh (*agape* in Greek or *ahavah* in Hebrew) is perfected in him. It is impossible without being set apart in a particular place for His love to be perfected in us (1 Cor 1:2). “Whoever keeps His word” means you will be made into what some translations call *saints*. You are not perfected in your love if you ignore a brother. Hating is simply not loving (1 Jn 4:20). Whoever says he loves God but does not love His brother is a liar (verse 21).

1 Jn 2:5 — “... the love of God is *perfected*” — made complete, just as in Jn 17:23 our unity is *perfected*; it’s the same word (#5048) meaning to complete, accomplish, carry through to the end, reach a successful outcome, reach a goal, fulfill or bring to maturity.

If the love of God is not brought to completion in us, what does that mean? It means Rev 2:11 — you fall short. Does everyone have ears? Whoever can hear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the communities and is passed on. He who overcomes whatever would keep him from loving his brother shall not be hurt by the second death. What is the second death? A thousand years of torment.

There are some people we don't love because we think bad of them, we have accusations, they irritate us so we ignore them, but to ignore someone is the highest form of hatred.

Most assuredly I say to you, if anyone keeps My commandments He shall never see death. (Jn 8:51)

For us that means a thousand years — not eternal death, but you miss the glory.

The Jews said to him, "Now we know that you have a demon! Abraham died, as did the prophets, yet you say, 'If anyone keeps my word, he will never taste death.'" (Jn 8:52)

Our Master said, "see death," but the Jews said, "taste death." Probably our Master talked to them for awhile, and said it in different ways for them to understand. What does that *tasting* mean? Seeing or experiencing the agony and the torment of death. Is death *torment*? You might suffer to die, but death is torment for a thousand years, or eternally. How do we know that death is torment? Lk 16:28 — The story of the rich man that went into death. It was a place of torment.

Our Master suffered agony in death. Many people have suffered physically to the extent that He suffered on the cross. I am not taking away the suffering He experienced on the cross, but where He really experienced torment was in death. Acts 2:24 tells that He actually went into death (*sheol*) and experienced torment. In Acts 2:24,27,31 it says that He went into death. He didn't just die on the cross, but He went into death and paid for our sins in death. We are saved from eternal death, but not from the second death that we have to experience if we do not obey Him. Our sins aren't being forgiven if we

aren't confessing our sins, judging ourselves, knowing that we offended someone and going to him and repenting.

Rev 2:11 — We will experience death if we don't overcome these things that hinder us — all of the iniquities that we have inherited or accumulated from being touched by the evil one in some way. We have to overcome that. We have to keep our Master's word (1 Jn 2:5; Jn 8:51-52). We have a great environment right here in the Community to keep His word. We are saved and baptized into this environment, into the Body of Messiah where we can keep His word. His commandments are related to our relationship with Him in the Body. They do not apply to those outside the Body; that is where the natural law applies.

He who has My commandments and keeps them, is the one who loves Me, and I will love him and will manifest Myself to him. (Jn 14:21)

If we love Him we will keep His word, therefore we will shine because He reveals Himself to us and lets us see our failings, our shortcomings, so we can repent for them. My daddy only knew to do good deeds. He would help the old lady across the street, pick up trash. He did the best he could do, as many Christians do.

1 Jn 2:6 — He who says he abides in Him ought to also walk as He walked, live as He lived. Got it? Jn 15:12 — If we do that, His love will be perfected in us. Verse 17 — How can anyone outside of the Body have the opportunity to love? Love is not a feeling, but a *verb*. But you can work your hands to the bone and it still be for your own glory. Someone washes the dishes, who do they do it for? Themselves or others? If someone cooks or buys groceries, who do they buy them for? For others. We don't muzzle the ox, but whatever we do is for the whole Body.

We want His love to be perfected, brought to completion. To reach the goal, one thing we have to do is forget the past (Phil 3:12-14). Whatever you have been forgiven, you need to forget it, because our Father forgets it. That is not a fault. It is a fault that we can't forget.

ha-êmeq — “Whoever has an ear...” Our Master was not under the impression that everyone was understanding Him. He knew there were some people in the room thinking, “What is he saying, that I’m not saved or something?” But He knew there were a few ears around the room that were *hearing* what He said.

I thought of a picture I saw in a museum around the time Yônêq first told me about our Master. I did not know the Bible at all, and there was a picture with two crosses. I was trying to figure out what was going on, but I realized I was not getting the picture. Then I saw that down below there was another cross with the one they call Jesus. It was down on the ground. It had not been stood up yet. I wondered, “How many saviors were there?” I had an ear and an eye, and I could at least realize that people got killed on crosses.

People get mad at us for saying that salvation was more than just Him dying on the cross, but that He actually had to go into death. They think it is blasphemy. They say, “He paid for our sins on the cross.” But what did those other two men pay for on the cross? They just paid for their own sins, but He died in exactly the same way and He paid for all of us. You need an ear and an eye to understand that.

John said, “You are a liar if you say you know Him but do not keep His commandments.” What was he trying to say? “I am not saved by works, so does that mean I am a liar?” To be able to hear His word you have to have an ear. If you say to Kefarah, “You need to obey your parents to honor them,” she would say, “Yes.” But a Christian would say, “So are you saying that I am not saved if I don’t honor my parents?” It just switches into this religious mode and keeps a person from hearing.

Jn 8:43-44 — Our Master asked, “Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot bear to hear My word. You are of your Father, the devil.” The rich young ruler could not bear to hear what he had to do in order to have eternal life. He was like a Christian who would say, “Just tell me I’m saved, ok?” But our Master told him he wasn’t, and he couldn’t bear to hear it.

Our Master had to die. We are not taking away from the excruciating pain of His suffering on the cross, but that is what He had to go through in order to go into death. He could not go into *Sheol* unless He died. No one else can either. We will have to die in order to go into that place of suffering if our love is not perfected. Our Master cried out

in desperation, “Abba, why have you forsaken me?” That was His entrance into death. He went through the gate at that point. It was horrible. He took all of our sins upon Himself and went into death. But we have to continue to confess our sins or else we will go there too.