
Love

1 Corinthians 13

A testimony of learning how to love

What to expect

- Commands to love
- Characteristics of love according to 1 Corinthians 13
- What hinders us from loving others?
- Testimony of how I am learning to love

Command to Love

“And you shall **love** יהוה your Elohim with all your heart, and with all your being, and with all your might. “ (Dt 6:5)

“Do not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the children of your people. And you shall **love** your neighbor as yourself. I am יהוה.” (Lev 19:18)

Command to Love

I am commanded to **love** יהוה and other people. I try to work diligently to learn how to **love** יהוה. For example:

- How and when to worship Him (Sabbath and feast keeping)
- Learn who He is and unpack all of the ideas I thought He was but He wasn't.

BUT, what about **loving** my neighbor as myself?

I was taught and picked up on more of what the world knows as love,
but not what יהוה teaches **love** to be. I was also taught a religious love;
still not the **love** of יהוה



How is love defined?

Aheb (H157) *verb, to love* STRONG's

Agapao (G25) *verb, to love; wish well to, take pleasure in, long for; denotes the love of reason, esteem.* STRONG's

- Love to the Mighty One (Dt 6:5) BrownDriversBriggs
- Love to neighbor, particularly stranger (Lev 19:18) BDB

I needed a little more help to better understand what it means to love.

How do I love others?

When I sought יהוה for help in **loving** other people, He consistently led me to 1 Corinthians 13 **love**.

What I have found interesting is that 1 Corinthians 13:4-7, which we will look at closely, is mostly read at weddings. However, this letter talks about ministering to others. As believers, we minister to more people than just our spouses.

1 Corinthians 13 from the Amplified translation struck my heart.

1 Corinthians 13 Amplified

'If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not **love** [for others growing out of יהוה's **love** for me], then I have become only a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal [just an annoying distraction]. And if I have the gift of prophecy [and speak a new message from יהוה to the people], and understand all mysteries, and [possess] all knowledge; and if I have all [sufficient] faith so that I can remove mountains, but do not have **love** [reaching out to others], I am nothing. If I give all my possessions to feed the poor, and if I surrender my body to be burned, but do not have **love**, it does me no good at all.

1 Corinthians 13 Amplified (cont.)

Love endures with patience and serenity, **love** is kind and thoughtful, and is not jealous or envious; **love** does not brag and is not proud or arrogant. It is not rude; it is not self-seeking, it is not provoked [nor overly sensitive and easily angered]; it does not take into account a wrong endured. It does not rejoice at injustice, but rejoices with the truth [when right and truth prevail]. **Love** bears all things [regardless of what comes], believes all things [looking for the best in each one], hopes all things [remaining steadfast during difficult times], endures all things [without weakening]. **Love** never fails [it never fades nor ends].

1 Corinthians 13 Amplified (cont.)

But as for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for the gift of special knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part, and we prophesy in part [for our knowledge is fragmentary and incomplete]. But when that which is complete and perfect comes, that which is incomplete and partial will pass away. When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became a man, I did away with childish things. For now [in this time of imperfection] we see in a mirror dimly [a blurred reflection, a riddle, an enigma], but then [when the time of perfection comes we will see reality] face to face.

1 Corinthians 13 Amplified (cont.)

Now I know in part [just in fragments], but then I will know fully, just as I have been fully known [by *יהוה*]. And now there remain: faith [abiding trust in *יהוה* and His promises], hope [confident expectation of eternal salvation], **love** [unselfish love for others growing out of *יהוה*'s love for me], these three [the choicest graces]; but the greatest of these is **love**.'

—

This photo represents
how I imagined walking
יהוה's path would be.
Walking peacefully with
other believers and
introducing יהוה to others
as well.

But....





—

But this picture better represents how I have felt while interacting with others.

What am I doing wrong?

Am I giving others 1
Corinthian 13 love?

Lets take a look at the
characteristics of love.



1 Corinthians 13:4-7 TS2009

Love is **patient**, is **kind**, love **does not envy**, love **does not boast**, is **not puffed up**, does not **behave indecently**, does not **seek its own**, is not **provoked**, **reckons not the evil**, does not **rejoice over the unrighteousness**, but **rejoices in the truth**, it **covers all**, **believes all**, **expects all**, **endures all**. Love never fails.

Love is patient

Patient: G3114 makrothumeó

- to persevere, to be patient
- to be patient in bearing the offences and injuries of others; to be mild and slow in avenging; to be long-suffering, slow to anger, slow to punish (Strong's)

Love is patient

'A man's discretion makes him patient, And his adorning is to pass over a transgression.' (Proverbs 19:11)

'And we appeal to you, brothers, warn those who are disorderly, encourage the faint-hearted, uphold the weak, be patient with all.' (1 Thessalonians 5:14)

Love is patient

- Long-suffering (Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary)

'in order that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through belief and patience inherit the promises.'
(Hebrews 6:12)

'My brothers, as an example of suffering and patience, take the prophets, who spoke in the Name of יהוה.' (James 5:10)

Love is patient

- A verb with the primary sense of “have patience,” “be patient” in most of the occurrences in which it is found. With regard to human beings, Mt 18:26 & 29; 1 Thes 5:14 contain a plea to be patient with others. In James 5:7, the apostle exhorts his readers to be patient while awaiting the coming of Yeshua. Heb 6:15 contains an exhortation to be patient in enduring persecution. 2 Pe 3:9 speaks of יהוה’s patient forbearance towards all people. Patience is listed in 1 Cor 13:4 as a key characteristic of love. (Vine’s Expository Dictionary)

Love is patient

- Comes from the root word makros which means of long duration

Love is kind

Kind G5541 chresteuomai

- To be kind (BibleHub)
- To show oneself mild; to be kind; use kindness (Strong's)
- Akin to Chrstos "to be kind" is said of love in 1 Cor 13:4 (Vine's Expository Dictionary)
- Found only in 1 Cor 13:4, where Paul declares that "love is kind"

Love is kind

- Comes from the root word chrestos which means serviceable and good. It is used as useful, gentle, pleasant, and kind.
- Serviceable, good, pleasant (of things); good, gracious, kind (of persons), is translated “kind” in Luke 6:35, of יהוה; in Eph 4:32 enjoined upon believers (Vine’s Expository Dictionary)

Love is kind

Rather, **love** your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting none in return. And your reward shall be great, and you shall be sons of the Most High. Because He is kind to the thankless and wicked ones. (Luke 6:35)

And be kind towards one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as Elohim also forgave you in Messiah. (Eph 4:32)

Love does not envy

Envy G2206 zeloo

- to be heated or to boil with envy, hatred, anger (Strong's)

"And the ancestors, becoming jealous, sold Yosëph into Mitsrayim. But Elohim was with him,' (Acts 7:9)

Loves does not envy

'But the Yehudim who did not believe, having become envious, took some of the wicked men from the market-place, and gathering a mob, set all the city in an uproar and came upon the house of Jason, and were seeking to bring them out to the people.' (Acts 17:5)

'You desire, and do not have. You murder, and are jealous, and are unable to obtain. You strive and fight, and you do not possess, because you do not ask.' (James 4:2)

Love does not envy

- Denotes to be zealous, moved with jealousy, Acts 7:9, Acts 17:5; moved with jealousy; both have envieth in 1 Cor 12:4; The distinction between envy and jealousy lies in this, that “envy” desires to deprive another of what he has, “jealousy” desires to have the same or the same sort of thing for itself. (Vine’s Expository Dictionary)

Love does not envy

Comes from root word zeloo which means to be jealous, and is used when “I am jealous of a person” or “I am eager to possess” of a thing.

Which comes from zeo meaning to boil, be hot, and is used as “I boil,” “I am boiling,” or “I burn in spirit, am fervent.”

Love does not boast, is not puffed up

Boastful G4068 *perpereuomai*

- to act as a braggart, i.e. a "show off" who needs too much attention (used only in 1 Cor 13:4). (HELPS Word Study)
- Vain-glorious; to boast oneself to vaunt oneself (Strong's)
- Note in Bible Expository Dictionary: As with boasting in the OT, there is a like emphasis in the NT that distinguishes between legitimate boasting or glorying in the person and character of יהוה and Yeshua, and the selfish arrogant pride of human beings that is universally condemned in Scripture.
- Comes from the word *perpereros* (vainglorious, to brag)

Love does not boast, is not puffed up

Puffed up G5448 phusioo

- (figuratively) swelled up, like an egotistical person spuing out arrogant ("puffed-up") thoughts (HELPS Word Studies)
- To puff up, blow up, inflate (from phusa, meaning bellows), is used metaphorically in the NT, in the sense of being "puffed" up with pride, 1 Cor 4:6, 18 & 19, 1 Cor 5:2, 1 Cor 8:1, 1 Cor 13:4, Col 2:18 (Vine's)

Love...is not puffed up

'And these matters , brothers, I have applied in a figure to myself and Apollos for your sakes, so that in us you might learn not to think beyond what is written, so that none of you be puffed up on behalf of one against the other.' (1 Corinthians 4:6)

...'Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up.' (1 Corinthians 8:1)

Love is....not puffed up

'Let no one deprive you of the prize, one who takes delight in false humility and worship of messengers, taking his stand on what he has not seen, puffed up by his fleshly mind, and not holding fast to the Head, from whom all the Body – nourished and knit together by joints and ligaments – grows with the growth of Elohim.' (Colossians 2:18-19)

Love...is not puffed up

Comes from the word phusioo and means to inflate or puff up, and is used as in “I inflate” or “I am puffed up, arrogant, proud.”

Love does not act unbecomingly

Act unbecomingly G807 aschemoneo

- to act unseemly (literally, "improperly"); (figuratively) to lack proper form and hence thought of as unseemly (indecent, unbecoming). (HELPS Word Study)
- Comes from the word aschemoneo to improperly, or even dishonorably. Which comes from the word aschemon that means lacking proper appeal, lacking respect because improper (HELPS Word Study)

Loves does not seek the things of its own

Seek G2212 zeteo

- to seek by *inquiring*; to investigate to reach a *binding (terminal)* resolution; to search, "getting to the bottom of a matter."

Things G3588 ho, he, to

- your possessions

Of its own G1438 heautou

- of himself, herself, itself
-

Love is not provoked

Easily provoked G3947 paroxuno

- properly, cut close alongside, i.e. to incite ("jab") someone and stimulate their feelings (emotions); (figuratively) "to *provoke feelings, spurring* someone to action" (Souter).
- "become emotionally provoked (upset, *roused to anger*)" (A-S), as *personally* "getting to someone"; (HELPS Word Study)

Love is not provoked

- to irritate, provoke, rouse to anger; to scorn, despise; to provoke, make angry, to exasperate (Thayer's Greek Lex)

Comes from paroxuno to mean to sharpen, to stimulate, and is used as “I arouse anger” or irritate.

Love is not TO provoke

'Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.' (Colossians 3:21)

'And you, fathers, do not provoke your children, but bring them up in the instruction and admonition of the Master.' (Ephesians 6:4)

Love is not TO BE provoked

'But while Sha'ul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was stirred up within him when he saw that the city was utterly idolatrous. Therefore, indeed, he was **reasoning*** in the congregation with the Yehudim and with the worshippers, and in the market-place daily with those who met there.' (Acts 17:16-17)

*This is the process of *giving and receiving* information with someone to *reach deeper understanding* – a "going back-and-forth" of thoughts and ideas so people can better know the Lord (His word, will). Doing this is perhaps the most telling characteristic of the growing Christian! (HELPS Word Studies)

An example of not getting provoked...

“It is not fun being convicted of sin and it is sure not easy when YHWH shows you that He wants you to leave behind the world’s ways (which we tend to favor) and follow Him in His ways. Because by doing this, often, people see you and begin to feel convicted themselves but they tend to blame you rather than YHWH for that conviction. You don’t even have to say a word, all you have to do is live your life differently from how they live theirs and the Father, if it is His leading, will drop the hammer. The reaction is not pleasant.

That is part of why it is so important not to tell people what YHWH says but to get them read it for themselves, because if they attribute YHWH’s words to you they can easily turn away from them, but turning away from YHWH Himself is, hopefully, a more difficult decision to make....”

“...Therefore, my goal is to behave in a manner in line with the fruits of the spirit so that no matter where someone is in their walk, an interaction with me will leave them stronger, more nourished, and a little better off than they were before. If we go after everyone with the intent of yanking them off the path YHWH has them on and with the ultimate goal of bringing them around to **our** way of thinking – we will most likely poison the soil that the Father has so lovingly tended.”
(SeekingScripture.com)

Love reckons (keep account) not the evil

Keep account G3049 *logizomai*...

- the root of the English terms "*logic, logical*") – properly, *compute*, "take into account"; *reckon* (come to a "bottom-line"), i.e. *reason* to a *logical conclusion* (decision). (HELPS Word Study)
- to take into account, to make account of: to pass to one's account, to impute (Thayer's Greek Lexicon)
- to account, reckon; Middle voice from *logos*; to take an inventory, i.e. Estimate (literally or figuratively) -- conclude, (ac-)count (of), + despise, esteem, impute, lay, number, reason, reckon, suppose, think (on). (Strong's)

Love reckons not evil

...of wrongs G2556 kakos

- "inner malice" – properly, inwardly *foul, rotten (poisoned)*; (figuratively) inner *malice* flowing out of a *morally-rotten* character (= the "rot is already in the wood"). (HELPS Word Study)
- evil i. e. what is contrary to law, either divine or human, wrong, crime: (Thayer's Greek Lexicon)

Love does not rejoice over unrighteousness, but...

Not delight G5463 chairō...

- to rejoice exceedingly (Strong's)

...in unrighteousness G93 adikia

- the *opposite* of *justice*; unrighteousness, as a *violation* of יהוה's *standards (justice)* which brings *divine disapproval*; a count (violation) of יהוה's *justice*, i.e. what is contrary to His *righteous judgments* (what He approves). (HELPS Word Study)

Love...rejoices in truth

Rejoices in **truth** : G225 aletheia

- *truth* (true to *fact*), *reality*. [In ancient Greek culture, [225](#) (*alétheia*) was synonymous for "reality" as the *opposite of illusion*, i.e. *fact*.] (HELPS Word Study)

Comes from word aléthés

- *true*, as it accords with *fact* (*reality*), i.e. *attested* because *tested* – literally, "what can't be hidden." stresses *undeniable reality* when something is fully tested, i.e. it *will* ultimately be shown to be *fact* (authentic).] (HELPS Word Study)

Love...rejoices in truth

- **loving the truth, speaking the truth, truthful:** Matthew 22:16; Mark 12:14; John 7:18; 2 Corinthians 6:8 (opposed to πλάνος); of יהוה John 3:33; John 8:26; Romans 3:4 (opposed to ψεύστης). (Thayer's Greek Lexicon)

Love...rejoices in truth

Then they said to Him, “Who are You?” And יהושע said to them, “Altogether that which I even say to you! I have much to say and to judge concerning you. But He who sent Me is true, and what I heard from Him, these Words I speak to the world.”
(John 8:25-26)

Love...rejoices in truth

'And they sent to Him their taught ones with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that You are true, and teach the way of Elohim in truth, and it does not concern You about anyone, for You are not partial to any man.'" (Matthew 22:16)

What is truth? YHVH is truth.

Love covers all

It bears G4722 stego

- properly, to place under *roof*, to *cover-over* (with a roof); (figuratively) to *endure* because *shielded*, i.e. bearing up (forbearing) because under *the Lord's protection (covering)*. (HELPS Word Study)
- to cover over with silence; to keep secret; to hide, conceal: love covereth, i. e. hides and excuses, the errors and faults of others; but it is more appropriately rendered (with other interpreters) beareth. (Thayer's Greek Lexicon)

Love covers all

- by covering to keep off something which threatens, to bear up against, hold out against, and so to endure, bear, forbear
- (forbear, endure; From stego; to roof over, i.e. (figuratively) to cover with silence (endure patiently) -- (for-)bear, suffer. (Strong's)

Comes from word stego to mean to cover closely or endure patiently.

Love believes all

Believes G4100 pisteuo

- *believe* (affirm, have confidence); used of persuading oneself (= human believing) and with the sacred significance of being persuaded by the Lord (= *faith*-believing). Only the context indicates whether *pisteúō* ("believe") is self-serving (without sacred meaning), or the believing that leads to/proceeds from יהוה's inbirthing of faith. (HELPS Word Study)

Love believes all

- to trust; is used in an ethical sense, of confidence in the goodness of men (Thayer's Greek Lexicon)
- believe, put in trust with. From pistis; to have faith (in, upon, or with respect to, a person or thing), i.e. Credit; by implication, to entrust (especially one's spiritual well-being to Christ) -- believe(-r), commit (to trust), put in trust with. (Strong's)

Comes from the word pisteuo that means to believe and entrust, or have faith in. Which comes from the word pistis that means faith or conviction of the truth.

Love expects all (hope)

Hope G1679 elpizo

- to *hope, actively waiting* for יהוה's fulfillment about the faith He has inherited through the power of *His love*. (HELPS Word study)
- to hope (in a religious sense, to wait for salvation with joy and full of confidence): (Thayer's Greek Lexicon)
- hope, expect; From elpis; to expect or confide -- (have, thing) hope(-d) (for), trust. (Strong's)

Comes from elpomai that means to anticipate or to expect.

Love endures all

Endure G5278 hupomeno

- *remaining under* (the load), bearing up (enduring); for the believer, this uniquely happens by יהוה's power (cf. 1 Thes 3:5). (HELPS Word Study)
- to endure, bear bravely and calmly: (for or unto chastening), (Thayer's Greek Lexicon)
- abide, endure, tarry behind.; to stay under (behind), i.e. Remain; figuratively, to undergo, i.e. Bear (trials), have fortitude, persevere -- abide, endure, (take) patient(-ly), suffer, tarry behind. (Strong's)

Comes from the words hupo and meno that mean to stay behind, to await, and endure.

Love never fails

Fails G4098 pipto

- to perish, i. e. to come to an end, disappear, cease: of virtues (Thayer's Greek Lexicon)

יהוה's love compared to the world and religion's love

יהוה's love is...

- Patient
- Kind
- Rejoices in truth
- Covers all
- Believes all
- Expects all
- Endures all
- Never fails

The world and religious love is...

- Envy
- Boast
- Puffed up
- Behave indecently
- Seek its own
- Provoked
- Keeps account of evil
- Rejoice over unrighteousness

Do these look familiar?

The world and religious love is...

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Ten commandments 6-10:

- Thou shall not murder
- Thou shall not commit adultery
- Thou shall not steal
- Thou shall not bear false witness
- Thou shall not covet

Love is יהוה

'Beloved ones, let us love one another, because **love** is of Elohim, and everyone who loves has been born of Elohim, and knows Elohim. The one who does not love does not know Elohim, for **Elohim is love**. By this the **love** of Elohim was manifested in us, that Elohim has sent His only brought-forth Son into the world, in order that we might live through Him. In this is **love**, not that we loved Elohim, but that He **loved** us and sent His Son to be an atoning offering for our sins. Beloved ones, if Elohim so **loved** us, we also ought to **love** one another.' (1 John 4:7-11)

Love is יהוה

What happens when we replace “יהוה” with “love” in the verses of 1 Corinthians?

1 Corinthians 13 TS2009

'If I speak with the tongues of men and of messengers, but do not have **יהוה** I have become as sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophecy, and know all secrets and all knowledge, and if I have all belief, so as to remove mountains, but do not have **יהוה**, I am none at all. And if I give out all my possessions to feed the poor, and if I give my body to be burned, but do not have **יהוה** I am not profited at all.'

1 Corinthians 13 TS2009

יהוה is patient, is kind, *יהוה* does not envy, *יהוה* does not boast, is not puffed up, does not behave indecently, does not seek its own, is not provoked, reckons not the evil, does not rejoice over the unrighteousness, but rejoices in the truth, it covers all, believes all, expects all, endures all. *יהוה* never fails.

Love is a fruit of the Holy Spirit

'For the entire Torah is completed in one word, in this, "You shall **love** your neighbour as yourself." And if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another! And I say: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not accomplish the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh. And these are opposed to each other, so that you do not do what you desire to do. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under Torah.

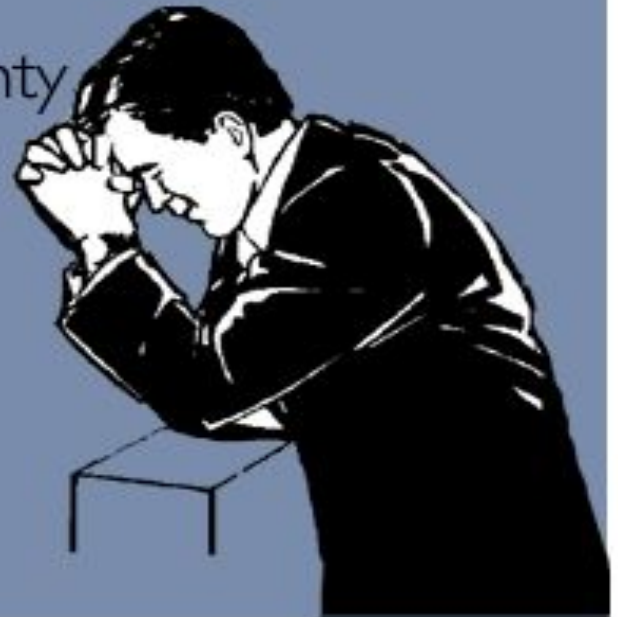
Love is a fruit of the Holy Spirit (cont.)

And the works of the flesh are well-known, which are these :
adultery, whoring, uncleanness, indecency, idolatry, drug sorcery,
hatred, quarrels, jealousies, fits of rage, selfish ambitions,
dissensions, factions, envy, murders, drunkenness, wild parties, and
the like – of which I forewarn you, even as I also said before, that
those who practise such as these shall not inherit the reign of
Elohim. But the fruit of the Spirit is **love**, joy, peace, patience,
kindness, goodness, trustworthiness, gentleness, self-control.
Against such there is no Torah.'

Galatyiim (Galatians) 5:14-23

“Patience” showed up alot

Bless me with patience... Not opportunities to be patient, I've had plenty of those and they don't seem to be working. The actual patience...



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Love is compassionate

Yeshua said: But I say to you who are hearing: **Love** your enemies, do good to those hating you. Bless those cursing you, and pray for those insulting you. And to him who hits you on the one cheek, offer the other also. And from him who takes away your outer garment, do not withhold the inner garment either. And give to everyone who asks of you. And from him who takes away what is yours do not ask it back. And as you wish men should do to you, you also do to them in the same way...

Love is compassionate

“And if you love those loving you, what favour have you? For sinners, too, love those loving them. And if you do good to those doing good to you, what favour have you? For even sinners do the same. And if you lend to those from whom you expect to receive back, what favour have you? For even sinners lend to sinners to receive as much back. Rather, **love** your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting none in return. And your reward shall be great, and you shall be sons of the Most High...”

Love is compassionate

Because He is kind to the thankless and wicked ones.

Therefore be compassionate, as your Father also is compassionate. And do not judge, and you shall not be judged at all. Condemn not, and you shall not be condemned at all. Forgive, and you shall be forgiven.”

Luke 6:27-37

Love is compassionate

Compassionate G3626 oiktirmón

- compassionate, experiencing deep pity (lamentation) as *God has* for people who look to Him for help in their difficult situations.

Comes from root word G3627. Oiktiró

- to respond with deep sensitivity (compassion, sympathy).

Love is compassionate

I am reminded of Abraham. Instead of standing next to the Messenger of יהוה rejoicing in the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, he pleaded with the Messenger to save His people.

Why is it so hard to love in the 1 Corinthians 13 way?

I have needed to do some serious soul searching why it is difficult for me...

Search me, O Ěl, and know my heart; Try me, and know my thoughts; And see if an idolatrous way is in me, And lead me in the way everlasting. (Psalms 139:23-24)

Create in me a clean heart, O Elohim, And renew a steadfast spirit within me. (Psalms 51:10)

Do not judge and criticize and condemn [others unfairly with an attitude of self-righteous superiority as though assuming the office of a judge], so that you will not be judged [unfairly].

For just as you [hypocritically] judge others [when you are sinful and unrepentant], so will you be judged; and in accordance with your standard of measure [used to pass out judgment], judgment will be measured to you. Why do you look at the [insignificant] speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice and acknowledge the [egregious] log that is in your own eye?

(Matthew 7:1-3 AMP)

So that, my beloved, as you always obeyed – not only in my presence, but now much rather in my absence – work out your own deliverance with fear and trembling, for it is Elohim who is working in you both to desire and to work for his good pleasure.

(Philippians 2:12-13)

יהוה showed me that I needed to stop pointing the finger at other people that I have a difficult time interacting with or showing love towards, and focus on the three fingers pointing back at me.



Testimony: Learning to Love

I need to seek יהוה as in Psalms 139 and 51 states to search my heart to find what is holding me back from loving Him and others. It can be difficult to see, but once it is brought to light it can no longer hide in the darkness. Healing and repentance can then begin.

Over three decades of addictive behavior (while being a believer) which went from one dependency to another fed an oppression I was under. It wasn't until יהוה delivered me six years ago that He has been able to teach me how to love His way. Learning what יהוה's love is and how to love Him has been the core to be able to begin the healing, restoration, and repentance in my life.



Testimony: Learning to Love

1) I am learning to stay close to יהוה in His Word and prayer

'Trust in יהוה with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; Know Him in all your ways, And He makes all your paths straight. Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear יהוה and turn away from evil. It is healing to your navel, And moistening to your bones.' (Proverbs 3:5-8)

Testimony: Learning to Love

2) I am learning about forgiveness

"For if you forgive others their trespasses [their reckless and willful sins], your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others [nurturing your hurt and anger with the result that it interferes with your relationship with יהוה], then your Father will not forgive your trespasses." (Matthew 6:14-15 AMP)

Testimony: Learning to Love

For so long I have thought that this directive was a warning or threat--if you don't do it, יהוה won't do it. HOWEVER, I realized recently that if we hold unforgiveness or bitterness then our hearts remain hard.

We cannot receive יהוה's love and forgiveness with hard hearts; our hearts must be soft and submissive toward יהוה. Trusting in Him. Think about the parable of the sower (see Matthew 13).

Testimony: Learning to Love

Not only do we need to forgive others, but we also need to forgive ourselves. Forgive ourselves for all of the choices we made that hurt us mentally, emotionally, or physically.

Forgive ourselves for the choices we made that hurt relationships and other people.

Testimony: Learning to Love

Yeshua said:

The second [commandment] is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself...'

Could how I am loving myself a barometer of how I am loving others? Or, vice versa?

יהוה's love is...

- Patient
- Kind
- Rejoices in truth
- Covers all
- Believes all
- Expects all
- Endures all
- Never fails

Testimony: Learning to Love

3) I am learning to break patterns to experience healing

- Dependencies (addiction) on drugs, alcohol, food, material things, social media, etc. ,
 - Experts think that these physical addictions all stem from addictions to “love,” or people addictions, i.e., worldly and religious love that can include addictions to romance or fantasy, relationships (including friendships, religion), or even sexual addictions, i.e., looking for love in all the wrong places, looking for love in too many faces---other than looking to YHWH

Testimony: Learning to Love

“Human history [is]...the long terrible story of man trying to find something other than [יהוה] which will make him happy.” --*Mere Christianity*, C.S. Lewis

“For My people have done two evils: they have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, to hew out for themselves cisterns, cracked cisterns, which do not hold water.’ (Jeremiah 2:13)

Am I submitting myself to dependencies of the world (substances or people), or am I submitting myself to YHVH to receive from Him? Depending on which I am submitting to will depend on how well I love other people (and myself).

Testimony: Learning to Love

I have learned that if I submit to unbiblical dependencies, then I am unable to submit to יהוה. Unbiblical dependencies keep my heart hardened. Meaning, I have a much more difficult time receiving from Him, for example, His love, His strength, His guidance, etc., not only for myself but to minister to others.

Testimony: Learning to Love

3) I am learning to break patterns to experience healing (cont.)

- Codependency: lack of setting boundaries for myself, and behavior that crosses other people's boundaries (controlling others)

“A codependent person is one who has let another person's behavior affect him/her, and who is obsessed with controlling that person's behavior.”--*Codependent No More*, M. Beattie

Testimony: Learning to Love

I do not want other people to control what I do, and I cannot control what other people do, or believe:

No one is able to come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him. And I shall raise him up in the last day. It has been written in the prophets, And they shall all be taught by יְהוָה. Everyone, then, who has heard from the Father, and learned, comes to Me.

(John 6:44-45)

Testimony: Learning to Love

I cannot make someone's heart move, but YHVH can soften a heart with their willingness.

“And I shall give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you. And I shall take the heart of stone out of your flesh, and I shall give you a heart of flesh, and put My Spirit within you. And I shall cause you to walk in My laws and guard My right-rulings and shall do them.”

(Ezekiel 36:26-27)

Testimony: Learning to Love

'I planted, Apollos watered, but Elohim was giving growth. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is any at all, but Elohim who gives the increase. And he who plants and he who waters are one, and each one shall receive his own reward according to his own labour. For we are fellow workers of Elohim, you are the field of Elohim, the building of Elohim.'

(1 Corinthians 3:6-9)

Testimony: Learning to Love

4) I am learning about repentance, for example, in the following ways I am:

- Unlearning destructive behavior patterns and learning to relate to people differently.
- Learning how to discuss hard stuff in non-competitive interaction instead of debating (competitive interaction) with them.
- Speaking less, listening more--asking more questions to understand another person's experience and perspective, and learning to listen to others to practice being a "safe place" for others to seek יהוה with me.
- Providing more comfort and compassion to others with my words.

Testimony: Learning to Love

I am trying to remember that I don't need to be "right", *instead* I need to *seek* what is right with others, instead of who is right in the interaction.

While loving יהוה and following HIS commands--instead of doing what I see as right in my own eyes on His behalf-- He has changed my heart. I have a desire in my heart to love other people in a way that I did not expect to happen.

My journey of learning to love others is just beginning and prayerfully will continue....

'And above all have fervent **love** for one another, because **love** covers a great number of sins.'

(1 Peter 4:8)

Yeshua said:

A renewed command I give to you, that you **love** one another, as **I have loved** you, that you also **love** one another. By this shall all know that you are My taught ones, if you have **love** for one another.

(John 13:34-35)

Questions I ask myself

How am I loving others? Am I making excuses for not loving someone?

How am I setting up boundaries that allow me to still demonstrate YHVVH's love to someone threatening to me?

What is hindering me from loving others better? How can I respond to someone differently, in a more loving way?

Where am I looking to fill up my own love tank? Am I seeking YHVVH or other things or people to fill me up?

Am I behaving like a Pharisee?

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 TS2009

Love is **patient**, is **kind**, love **does not envy**, love **does not boast**, is **not puffed up**, does not **behave indecently**, does not **seek its own**, is not **provoked**, **reckons not the evil**, does not **rejoice over the unrighteousness**, but **rejoices in the truth**, it **covers all**, **believes all**, **expects all**, **endures all**. Love never fails.