



What is love?

I want to share my heart with you. In the last couple of weeks, I heard the Lord ask me the question, “What is love?” It was so very real. The first thing that came to me was, “I’m not sure if I really have the fullness of the experience of what that means.” Would you agree with me that we haven’t yet entered into the fullness of what God’s love is?! Something was awakened in my heart and I said to the Lord, “I want this! I don’t want to talk about love in my head. I don’t want to just hear messages about love. I don’t want to only love in part. I want to KNOW love! (*heb: yada/know intimately as a man knows his wife*). I want the experience of this love.” Intimately.

The Lord began to show me very plainly and I’ve known this for years that the Bible is very clear when it says, “This is how we know what love is: that Yeshua laid down His life for us and we also ought to lay down our lives for one another.” *1 John 3:16*. Beloved, there is no better definition in the New Covenant that lines up with the love of God than this: “that we lay down our lives!” We were made to give our lives as He has. The Bible says, “The one who says, he knows Him also ought to walk as He walked.”

We are to love one another as He has loved us. *1 John 2:6; John 13:34; John 15:13*

We have heard sermons on the great commandment that says “Love God with all your heart and your neighbor as yourself.” If you’ve heard messages about this, you know what many people teach. They say that you must first love yourself and then you can love your neighbor as yourself. This is psychology, Beloved. This is the wisdom of the world. This is the world’s definition. First yourself. Then the other.

God’s love does not separate you from someone else but it brings you into UNION. It brings you into oneness. The great example that we have of this, Beloved, is when God tells a man to love his wife as Christ loved the Ekklesia. He says to the man, “Her body is your body!” Any man who ever hated his own body, has something wrong with him. Men, love your wives as yourself like Adam did in the beginning saying, “She’s bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh.” Beloved, this is a picture of the union-love of the Godhead, a love that connects us to God and to one another. Why did Yeshua die for us? We were separated because of sin. His salvation brings us back to oneness!

Love is union. Love is seeing the other as a member of yourself. We are members one of another. *Romans 12:5; Ephesians 4:25*. We have not arrived there yet, but this is the goal of Yeshua’s prayer in *John 17*, when He said, “Father, that You may be in me and I in them that they also may be in us, that the world may know that You loved them as You loved me...!” The world will never know the love of God, Beloved, until we abide in this union-love. It’s an organic oneness. It’s not intellectual. If you try to reason, you will never figure it out as it clearly says in *Ephesians 3:19* that this **love of Christ** surpasses knowledge! The love of Christ goes way beyond knowledge, Beloved! The way to love will be blocked and diverted if you stop at what you think you know. You will never experience what Yeshua’s love is until you let go and say, “I will open my heart even if it’s a risk. I will go on the

journey of love and I will not exalt my mind, my logic above the heart knowledge of God. *2 Cor. 10:5*. Beloved, this is the secret: that love is a completely different way!

A couple of weeks ago I was thinking about Moses and Paul the Apostle and I was convicted where it says that Moses said to God, "If You don't forgive them, blot me out of Your book!" Paul the Apostle said pretty much the same thing when he cried, "I could wish that I was accursed for the sake of my people." *Exodus 32:31-32; Romans 9:3-4*. They were both literally saying, "Take MY life that THEY might be saved." Beloved, this is the heart of love that compelled God to come to the earth.

I was thinking of Dietrich Bonhoeffer these same days, the German pastor who along with others in the underground resistance movement, tried to kill Hitler because he felt compelled to rid the world of this monster who was annihilating the Jews. But God didn't let him kill. Instead, he was caught and brought to the death camps. God allowed him to be executed by the Nazis. But a few weeks later, Beloved, the war ended! Hitler committed suicide and the Holocaust ended!

We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that his life may also be revealed in our mortal body. So then, death is at work in us, but life is at work in you. 2 Cor. 4:10-12

Suddenly after years of pondering Bonhoeffer's death, I had the revelation: this German man somehow had to "pay the price," not for sin. Only Yeshua could do that and the glory is His alone. But somehow God was seeking a German who would "pay the price" for the horrendous sin that was committed, someone who would die in Christ's likeness to set the captives free. I can't understand it with my head, but God made it very real to me that when we truly lay down our own lives in love, for the purpose of God, when we don't love our lives even unto death, when we lay down our lives one for another, something happens in the realm of the supernatural. The Father says, "I see my Son in that person's heart! I see Yeshua in that man!" And He begins to move mightily.

My heart has been broken for the people of Israel. I've been crying out, "Lord, why is Israel not saved? Why are our nations not saved?" His word was quickened in my spirit, "Rend your heart and not your garments." *Joel 2:13*

We need to get out of religious limitations! We need to ask God to break our hearts the way His heart is broken. We need to be like Mordecai and Esther. Mordecai tore his clothes, put on sackcloth because his heart was already broken and his torn clothes were the expression of the rending of his heart. Esther's heart was rent as she fell to her knees before the king pleading for her people.

The Lord wants us to rend our hearts. The Lord wants us to go deeper in intercession. We have had an intercession that has gone to one level but God is calling us to identify with the heart of Yeshua. Like the heart of king David during the plague, when he saw the judgement of God fall on his people, he cried out to God, "It's my sin! Why are you killing THEM? Take MY life!" *1 Chronicles 21:17*

Have you cried out to God like that? Have you cried out like that for Israel, for the nations, for your own town, your loved ones, even for one soul? Have you laid down your life to the point of crying out, "God, blot my name out! Erase my name from Your book, but forgive them!" Have we cried out like that?

In spite of His own excruciating pain, Yeshua cried out FOR US on the cross and displayed the highest form of intercession: "Father, forgive them for they don't know what they're doing." *Luke 23:34*. Beloved, we need to go beyond where we've been. We need the heart of the Great Intercessor on the cross, Yeshua. We need intercession in this purest form.

What is love, Beloved? It's the Great Intercessor hanging on the tree, not for any sin of His own, but for ours. Without this unselfish love that lays down its own life for the other, we are just another religion... Only this love sets us apart from every other religion, creed and god. Only this expression of God's love causes Him to move for His very own namesake.

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