

1. Many are familiar with the account in Mark 12 where a scribe questioned Jesus, regarding which commandment is the most important of all?". Yeshua, which is Jesus's original Hebrew name, answered him, "The most important is, 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' [Mar 12:29-30] For years I would frequently hear this verse, and I can remember always internalizing the same question, "How exactly do I love God?"

-Intro-

2. This short video is going to cover quite a bit of scripture. However, in an effort to keep the presentation brief, several of the verses will not be read, and instead simply shown on screen. Viewers are encouraged to pause the video, or look the passages up later in order to facilitate further study on the matter. This video will also repeatedly refer to the proper name of God as Yahweh whenever a verse uses Lord in all capitals. For more information on how the actual proper name of God has been substituted out of the scriptures over 7,000 times, please see my video, The Name of the Lord.
3. Many in the church are familiar with The 5 Love Languages, a book by Gary Chapman that details distinct ways in which people recognize and receive the expression of love. The ideas explained in this book have helped countless people learn to intentionally express genuine heartfelt commitment to those people they hold most dear. If this concept has proven so beneficial for human relationships, how could it be applied to help improve our relationship with our Creator? What is our Heavenly Father's love language? The scriptures are actually quite clear on this, The best way to express love to our Father, is through obedience to his law.
4. It is first interesting to note that the Messiah's words in Mark 12 are a direct quote from Deuteronomy 6 when Moses spoke to the Children of Israel just before they entered the promised land. "Hear, O Israel: YHWH our God, YHWH is one. You shall **love** YHWH your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. [Deu 6:4-5 ESV] In the first 3 verses, and continuing on throughout chapter 6, Moses delivers an impassioned plea for the people of Israel, and their

future generations, to remember to keep every one of the commandments which he gave them, all the days of their lives.

5. Moses delivers a similar speech in Deuteronomy 11, which is definitely worth reading in its entirety, only here he repeatedly makes a direct correlation between obedience and loving God. Furthermore, many of his statements are conditional, meaning the blessings promised in later verses will only come to those remain obedient. [Deu 11:1] "You shall therefore **love** YHWH your God and **keep** his charge, his statutes, his rules, and his commandments always. [Deu 11:13]"And if you will indeed **obey my commandments** that I command you today, to **love** YHWH your God, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul, [Deu 11:22] For if you will be **careful to do** all this commandment that I command you to do, **loving** YHWH your God, **walking** in all his ways, and holding fast to him,
6. In studying how to express love to our Heavenly Father, it would be prudent to examine the life of David, whom Samuel identified as a man after the Father's own heart. While speaking to Saul, Samuel said [1Sa 13:14] But now your kingdom shall not continue. YHWH has sought out a man after his own heart, and YHWH has commanded him to be prince over his people, because you have **not kept** what YHWH commanded you." Acts 13:22 also identifies David in this way, "And when he had removed him, he raised up David to be their king, of whom he testified and said, 'I have found in David the son of Jesse a man after my heart, **who will do all my will.**'
7. So we see in these two verses, that Saul was removed as king because he did not keep what YHWH commanded, and David was anointed because the Father knew that David would obey him. In fact, aside from his transgressions with Bathsheba and her husband, 1Kings 15:5 testifies that the man after God's own heart did remain faithful throughout his life, "because David did what was right in the eyes of YHWH and did not turn aside from anything that he commanded him all the days of his life, except in the matter of Uriah the Hittite." Therefore, the life of David reveals that to pursue the Father's heart, one must be willing to obey him in all things.
8. As Bible believers, we intrinsically understand ourselves to be the children of our creator, and thus refer to him as our Heavenly Father.

Since this is the metaphor scripture uses to help us comprehend our position before our God, the dynamic of the Father and Child relationship should inspire how we interact with him. Every loving parent establishes rules for their children. Because the parent has greater wisdom and experience than their children, a good parent creates boundaries as a way to bless their children, to keep them safe, and to ultimately teach their kids how to become more like them. We see YHWH lovingly affirm this notion in Deu 5:29 when he states, “Perhaps this is precisely why we are commanded to ‘Honor our father and mother’ and why Paul writes in Colossians 3:20, Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord.”

9. So as children of God, when we humbly submit to the authority of our Heavenly Father and obey what he has instructed, it is an intentional expression of genuine heartfelt commitment. It is an act of love. First John, chapter 5 very clearly and directly teaches this fact. “Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome.
10. Christ himself also confirms this sentiment when he declared in John 14:15 “If you love me, you will keep my commandments.” He goes on a few verses later to elaborate on this point, “Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.” [John 14:21] And since we know that Yeshua and the Father are one [John 10:30], and that Yeshua did not do or say anything except that which the Father commanded him, [John 12:49-50] we must take these statements to heart and consider very carefully how we should respond to them.
11. So how do we love YHWH our God with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength? We must make every effort to be as obedient as we can to everything that he has commanded us. We do this because we trust him, and we know that he loves us dearly, which means that he must have very good reasons why he has told us to do certain things, and to specifically avoid doing other things. When you begin to read the Bible with this frame of reference, that loving God is always connected with

obedience to God, you will suddenly see supporting verses everywhere. In Deuteronomy 13, verses 1 through 4, where the Father provides instructions on how to identify a false prophet. In Joshua 22:5, when after their conquest, Joshua is sending out the tribes of Israel to finally receive their inheritance. Deuteronomy, Nehemiah, and Daniel all make mention of our great, awesome, and faithful God “who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, (Deu 7:9, New 1:5, Dan 9:4)

12. But the largest scriptural passage that provides a clear connection between loving god and obeying god, is found in Psalm 119, the longest chapter in the entire Bible. Positioned nearly in the exact center of the Bible, Psalm 119 is actually an acrostic poem that is divided into 22 portions based on the letters of the Hebrew alphabet, Each of the 22 portions features 8 verses that, in the original Hebrew, each begin with the corresponding letter of the alphabet, giving the psalm a grand total of 176 verses. 175 of those verses lovingly and emphatically praise the law of God, calling it a delight and identifying it as **the** source of righteousness, liberty, truth, and freedom! Amazingly, this epic poem praising the Father’s instructions opens with these two verses: Blessed are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of YHWH. Blessed are those who keep his testimonies, who **seek him with their whole heart.**

- Display on screen: The most important is, 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' [Mar 12:29-30]

13. For many modern day believers, recognizing this aspect of obedience is difficult because we frequently don’t identify ourselves as being a member of Israel. So when Old Testament verses mention commands given to the children of Israel, we don’t understand that those apply to us now as well. However, when we are saved by grace through faith we are adopted into the family of God and become siblings with the children of Israel. As such, we are fellow heirs to both the blessings and the curses connected to the covenant the Most High made with his people, and thus have expectations of obedience placed upon us. This is an issue of fundamental importance for all believers to understand. For more information on this, please see my video, “Are You Grafted In”

14. So ultimately, how do we love the Lord our God with all our heart and with all our soul and with all our mind and with all our strength?

Scripture seems to make it abundantly clear. We should strive to be as obedient as we can to all of the commandments the Father delivered through Moses to the Children of Israel. Granted, there are a great many of the commandments that are currently not able to be observed without a temple, or outside of Jerusalem. However, there are still several that are applicable, and we need to realize these commandments are not burdensome, and they are not given to oppress us. Quite the opposite, our loving Father has set boundaries for us that are designed to keep us safe, and when we walk within these boundaries, we actually experience freedom. And our willingness to be as obedient as possible is the most effective way that we can communicate love and gratitude to our Heavenly Father for everything He has done, and continues to do for us.