

1. Love
 - a. The Hebrew word ah-ha-va.
 - b. A common word in the Hebrew just as it is in English.
 - i. Ahava refers to the kind of affection one person shows to another.
 - ii. It can refer to physical affection but has a broader meaning.
 1. Abraham and Isaac (parental love).
 2. Genesis 22:1–2: “After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, “Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” He said, “Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.”
 3. David and Jonathan (brotherly love).
 4. 1 Samuel 18:1: “As soon as he had finished speaking to Saul, the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul.”
 5. Israel for king David.
 6. 1 Samuel 18:16: “But all Israel and Judah loved David, for he went out and came in before them.”
 7. The Hebrew word can also describe loyalty, like the love (loyalty) that Hiram, the king of Tyre, had for David.
 8. 1 Kings 5:1: “Now Hiram king of Tyre sent his servants to Solomon when he heard that they had anointed him king in place of his father, for Hiram always loved David.”
 - c. These are all different kinds of affection described by one word, “Ahavah.”
2. Love is not earned.
 - a. God does not love because we deserve it. He loves because it is in His character.
 - i. Deuteronomy 7:7–8: “It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the LORD set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, but it is because the LORD loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.”
 - ii. We can look at Israel’s behavior throughout their entire history and easily see that God did not love them because they earned His love.
 - iii. Love originates from God’s character; He loves because He loves.
 - iv. Jeremiah 31:3: “the LORD appeared to him from far away. I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you.”
 - v. God’s love has no beginning, nor does it have an end.
 - vi. God’s love is an eternal fact of the universe.
 - b. God’s love is not duty-bound.
 - i. God compares his love for us to the love a husband has for a wife or a parent for a child.
 - ii. Hosea 3:1: “And the LORD said to me, “Go again, love a woman who is loved by another man and is an adulteress, even as the LORD loves the children of Israel, though they turn to other gods and love cakes of raisins.”
 - iii. We often say we feel this love, which is one of our strongest feelings.
 1. We bind ourselves to one another through love (marriage).

2. We give up our wants for that of our children (parenting).
3. We say (although it is incorrect) that we have fallen out of love (divorce).
- c. Love is much more than a feeling.
3. Love is action.
 - a. Action is choice.
 - i. We don't just act without making a conscious choice to act.
 - ii. Deuteronomy 4:37: "And because he loved your fathers and chose their offspring after them and brought you out of Egypt with his own presence, by his great power,"
 - iii. God chose to deliver or redeem Israel from Egyptian slavery.
 - iv. Love is not just a sentiment but something that God does.
 - b. Through the Shema, Israel is called to respond to God's love (ahavah) by showing love (ahavah) in return.
 - c. Just like God's love, human love shows through our actions.
 - i. Deuteronomy 10:12–13: "And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep the commandments and statutes of the LORD, which I am commanding you today for your good?"
 1. Fear.
 - a. Some words in the Hebrew definition are afraid, tremble, dreaded, and terrible.
 - b. Other words are honored and reverence.
 - c. We should fear God.
 - i. Matthew 10:28: "And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell."
 - ii. Isaiah 8:12–13: "Do not call conspiracy all that this people calls conspiracy, and do not fear what they fear, nor be in dread. But the Lord of hosts, him you shall honor as holy. Let him be your fear, and let him be your dread."
 - iii. Isaiah 51:12–13: "I, I am he who comforts you; who are you that you are afraid of man who dies, of the son of man who is made like grass, and have forgotten the Lord, your Maker, who stretched out the heavens and laid the foundations of the earth, and you fear continually all the day because of the wrath of the oppressor, when he sets himself to destroy? And where is the wrath of the oppressor?"
 - iv. We should absolutely be afraid of the Almighty Creator!
 - v. Hebrews 10:28–31: "Anyone who has set aside the law of Moses dies without mercy on the evidence of two or three witnesses. How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has trampled underfoot the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has outraged the Spirit of grace? For we know him who said, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay." And again, "The Lord will judge his people." It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God."
 - d. God should be honored.
 - i. What does it mean to honor God?

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- c. We cannot earn His love; it is just His character.
- d. He is not duty-bound to love us; he just does.
- e. Love is more than feelings; it is action.
- f. Matthew 22:37–39 “And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”