

Title: Faith vs. Law: Upholding Elohim's Commandments Through Internal Transformation Part 1

Objective: To understand the biblical harmony between faith, grace, and obedience and to expose how contemporary interpretations can undermine Elohim's commandments by improperly separating faith from the need for obedience.

Sermon Plan

Introduction

- **Opening Scripture:**
 - *Deuteronomy 10:12-13*: “And now, Israel, what doth YAH thy Elohim require of thee, but to fear YAH thy Elohim, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve YAH thy Elohim with all thy heart and with all thy soul, to keep the commandments of YAH, and his statutes, which I command thee this day for thy good?”
 - *Matthew 5:17*: “Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill.”

 - **Opening Thought:** Elohim has always desired His people to obey Him from the heart. However, the modern church often interprets faith as voiding Elohim’s law. This sermon will explore how obedience is integral to faith and grace, exposing the dangers of antinomianism (the belief that faith nullifies the law).
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Part 1: Elohim’s Original Intent for Israel

A. Obedience from the Heart

- *Deuteronomy 6:5*: “And thou shalt love YAH thy Elohim with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.”
- *Jeremiah 31:33*: “But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith YAH, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their Elohim, and they shall be my people.”

B. External Observance Without Heart Transformation

- Israel often fell into the trap of external observance without internal submission (*Isaiah 29:13*).

- **Isa 29:13 (KJV)** Wherefore the Lord said, Forasmuch as this people draw near *me* with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me, but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men:
14 Therefore, behold, I will proceed to do a marvellous work among this people, *even* a marvellous work and a wonder: for the wisdom of their wise *men* shall perish, and the understanding of their prudent *men* shall be hid.
- Discuss how Elohim’s commandments were not burdensome but given for their good (*Deuteronomy 10:13*).
 - **De 10:13 (KJV)** To keep the commandments of the LORD, and his statutes, which I command thee this day for thy good?
14 Behold, the heaven and the heaven of heavens *is* the LORD'S thy God, the earth *also*, with all that therein *is*.

C. Example of Internal Obedience

- Highlight characters like David, who internalized Elohim’s law (*Psalms 119:97-98*: **Ps 119:97 (KJV)** MEM. O how love I thy law! *it is* my meditation all the day.
98 Thou through thy commandments hast made me wiser than mine enemies: for they *are* ever with me.

The Shema

- The Shema is one of the most significant and central declarations of faith in the Bible. It is recited daily by devout Jews and encapsulates the essence of Israel's relationship with Elohim.
- **Deuteronomy 6:4-9 (KJV):**

"Hear, O Israel: YAH our Elohim is YAH: And thou shalt love YAH thy Elohim with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates."

Verse-by-Verse Analysis

1. “Hear, O Israel: YAH our Elohim is one LORD” (v. 4)

- **"Hear"** (*Shema*): This is a call to attention. It means more than just listening—it calls for active obedience and response.
- **"YAH our Elohim is one YAH"**:

- Declares the **oneness** and **uniqueness** of Elohim. In Hebrew, this phrase emphasizes the singularity and unity of Elohim (a key rejection of polytheism and trinitarianism).
- For those adhering to **Oneness theology**, this aligns with the understanding that Elohim is one indivisible Spirit who has revealed Himself in various ways.
- This verse forms the foundation for Israel’s covenantal relationship with Elohim, affirming their allegiance to Him alone.

2. “And thou shalt love YAH thy Elohim with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might” (v. 5)

- This commandment sets the standard for a total and complete devotion to Elohim:
 - **Heart:** Represents the inner being, including thoughts, emotions, and will.
 - **Soul:** Represents one’s life, personality, and individuality.
 - **Might:** Encompasses all physical strength, resources, and capacities.
- **Key Insight:** Love for Elohim is not a mere feeling; it’s an all-encompassing action that involves every facet of a person’s life.
- In the New Testament, Yahoshua cites this as the greatest commandment (Matthew 22:37). **Mt 22:37 (KJV)** Yahoshua said unto him, Thou shalt love YAH thy Elohim with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

3. “And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart” (v. 6)

- Elohim’s laws were not just external rules; they were to reside in the **heart** (the seat of thought, emotion, and intention).
- This verse stresses internalization, not mere external observance. Elohim wanted His commandments to shape His people’s lives from within.

Connection to the New Covenant: In Jeremiah 31:33 and Hebrews 8:10, Elohim promises to write His laws on the hearts of His people.

Jer 31:33 (KJV) But this *shall be* the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith YAH , I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.

Heb 8:10 (KJV) For this *is* the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith YAH ; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a Elohim, and they shall be to me a people:

4. “And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children” (v. 7)

- **Teaching the next generation:**
 - Parents have the primary responsibility to pass down Elohim’s commandments.
 - “**Diligently**” suggests consistent, deliberate, and passionate instruction.

- This is done **informally and formally**, incorporating Elohim’s Word into everyday life ("when thou sittest in thine house... walkest by the way... liest down... risest up").
- The command emphasizes that faith is communal, not just individual. It’s meant to be shared and transmitted.

5. “And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes” (v. 8)

- Binding the commandments to the **hand** and **forehead** symbolizes living out Elohim’s Word:
 - **Hand:** Represents actions.
 - **Forehead:** Represents thoughts and intentions.
- This was later interpreted literally by some Jewish groups (e.g., wearing *tefillin* or phylacteries), but the deeper meaning is to keep Elohim’s Word central in all aspects of life.

6. “And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates” (v. 9)

- Writing Elohim’s Word on **doorposts** and **gates** signifies that every household and community must be marked by Elohim’s commandments.
- It’s a public declaration of faith and commitment to Elohim’s law.
- Many Jewish homes today display a *mezuzah* containing the Shema on their doorposts.

Theological Themes in the Shema

- Elohim’s Oneness and Sovereignty:**
 - The Shema is a foundational declaration of monotheism.
 - It emphasizes that there is no other Elohim beside Him (Isaiah 45:5).
 - **Isa 45:5 (KJV)** *I am the LORD, and there is none else, there is no God beside me: I girded thee, though thou hast not known me:*
- Total Devotion to Elohim:**
 - Love for Elohim must involve every aspect of life—heart, soul, and might.
 - This kind of love naturally results in obedience (John 14:15: *“If you love me, keep my commandments.”*).
- The Generational Responsibility:**
 - Elohim’s Word is to be taught and lived out so future generations will know Him (Psalm 78:4-6).
 - **Ps 78:4 (KJV)** *We will not hide them from their children, shewing to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and his strength, and his wonderful works that he hath done.*
5 For he established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers, that they should make them known to their children:
6 That the generation to come might know *them*, even the children *which* should be born; *who* should arise and declare *them* to their children:

- The Shema underscores the importance of family discipleship.
4. **Living a Marked Life:**
- The commandments are not confined to religious rituals but are integrated into daily life, shaping behavior, conversations, and priorities.
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Practical Applications of the Shema

1. **Love Elohim Holistically:**
 - Evaluate if your thoughts, actions, and resources reflect your love for Elohim.
 - Challenge yourself: Are you loving Elohim with all your heart, soul, and might?
 2. **Teach the Next Generation:**
 - Make Bible study and prayer a consistent part of family life.
 - Share testimonies of Elohim’s goodness with your children and others.
 3. **Live a Marked Life:**
 - Ensure that your faith is visible in your decisions, priorities, and lifestyle.
 - Just as Israel wrote Elohim’s Word on their gates, Christians are called to be the “light of the world” (Matthew 5:14-16).
 - **Mt 5:14 (KJV)** Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.
15 Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.
16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven
 4. **Prioritize Obedience:**
 - Love and obedience are inseparable. Internalize Elohim’s Word so that it transforms your life (Psalm 119:11).
 - **Ps 119:11 (KJV)** Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.
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Contrasting the Shema with Contemporary Christianity

- In today’s church, there’s often a disconnect between faith and practice.
 - The Shema teaches us that love for Elohim is demonstrated through action and obedience, yet many Christians separate faith from works, often misinterpreting grace as a license to neglect Elohim’s commands (James 2:17).
 - **Jas 2:17 (KJV)** Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.
 - **Key Point:** True worship isn’t about external rituals but internal transformation that overflows into obedience to the external rituals.
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Conclusion

The Shema calls believers to love Elohim fully, live out His commandments daily, and teach future generations to do the same. It is as relevant today as it was when first spoken to Israel. In reciting and living the Shema, we affirm our devotion to the one true Elohim and reflect His glory in every aspect of our lives.

- **Closing Scripture:** *“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven”* (Matthew 5:16).