

6.7a.B(48). House Commanded to Love God: Sacrificial Love. Mark 12:28-30

As a shepherd of a household in the House of God, know that a defining and foundational characteristic of our family is love! For, it is this *steadfast love* that exists forever as the foundation of Elohim's oneness—a sacrificial love shared between Father, Son, and Holy Spirit that is from the beginning, for “God is love” (1 John 4:8)—not simply that God loves, but that God-Elohim *is* love—it defines who he is.

God-Elohim loves God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

The definition of the *love* God shares as Elohim given to Father, Son, and Spirit, is a *chesed*—a covenantal love that is:

- **Everlasting:** the *steadfast* love of God is “everlasting” in that it is unending, eternal,

unbreakable. It is the love which family members share between one another that is impervious to changing circumstances or developments. Seen in the love a parent has for his child, it is a possessive love shown to those who “belong” with one another. Strangers, outsiders, or the detached are bypassed by this love, but a *parent will love a child forever* for they become part of *who they are*.

- **Subject:** This *chesed*, covenantal and steadfast love, is subject—it puts the needs and interests of the other ahead of one’s own self-interests. In fact, to be subject is to *defer, put under, consider the other* higher and more important than one’s own needs. Again, this *subjection* is characteristics of families, in which a *son is subject to his father*. While it is often thought of in terms of authority, it also means a *responsibility*

and an obligation to consider the other's interests. The opposite of being subject is to be completely detached, unencumbered, and capricious. (NOTE: herein, we see how Islam, in calling on the capricious and solitary *Allah*, and even Judaism, *which redefines Elohim as the insulated Elohe*, miss the mark of the Bible's Elohim who is bound to his people in love, regardless of the horror of their transgressions). Another way to think of *family subjection* is to show preference, favor, or grace upon another in the family, even if it costs the highest price.

- **Sacrificial:** Finally, *chesed* is sacrificial—it gives all that it has for the sake of one's family member. This is seen when parents give their last morsel of food to their hungry children, or when a father endures the most demanding of physical labor that his family might be provided for and safe. This is even

why men willingly go to war, to protect their homes and their loved ones. This willingness to “give up” all displays the value and honor given the *loved one* in the family.

In this way, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit demonstrate this *chesed* from the very beginning. Consider God’s love for his Son and the Son’s love for his Father:

⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the **firstborn** of **all creation**. ¹⁶ For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities — all things were created **through him** and **for him**. ¹⁷ And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ And he is the head of

the body, the church. He is the beginning, the **firstborn** from the **dead**, that in everything he might be preeminent. ¹⁹ For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰ and through him to **reconcile** to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.
Colossians 1:15-20

- From the beginning, God created all things *through* and *for* the Son, whom he appoints his Firstborn. So, the Father is willing to give *all* creation in heaven and earth to the Son!
- But, the Son pours out all his life as “blood of his cross” to “reconcile” to God all things, especially his children who had been

condemned and dead in their sins. So, the Son gives his life on the cross to give *rebirth* to the children of God's household, returning them back alive and forgiven to the Father!

Here, we see *love* on a total scale—a love spanning the heavens and the earth, a love bridging death to life. This is a powerful love, and this is a love that becomes our family heritage if we are reborn into God's House!

Sharing in God's steadfast love.

So, as a Shepherd, lay this foundation of love between Father, Son, and Spirit as the foundation of your Household! We show ourselves to be true members of this family if this family resemblance shapes us into the image of our God!

So, we are *brought into* this eternal *chesed* between the members of Elohim, being reconciled to God through our Lord Jesus, to share in the

inheritance which the Father lavishes upon him as his Firstborn Son and Heir!

This is why, how can we, his children, not but reciprocate this love with all that we have, given to God for his pleasure and glory.

We give our God, as his due, all of who we are in pleasing sacrifice:

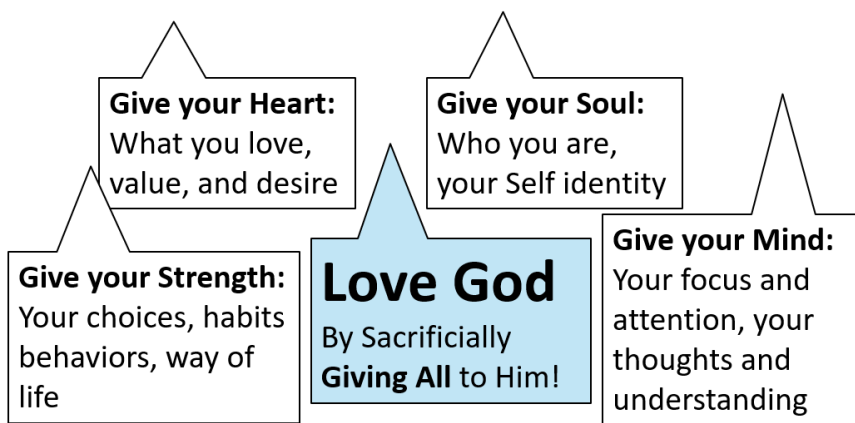
- All our hearts:
- All our souls;
- All our minds;'
- All our strength.

Read Mark 12:28-30.

²⁹ Jesus answered, "The most important is, '**Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.**' ³⁰ 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.'" Mark 12:29

Background:

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your **bodies as a living sacrifice**, holy and acceptable to God, which is your **spiritual worship**. ² Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.
Romans 12:1-2



Focus:

6. **House Commanded to Love God**: Sacrificial Love:

1. **House Commanded** to Hear: “Hear O Israel” 12:29
2. **The Lord is Our God**, a Oneness: *Echad*. 29
3. **Love God Sacrificing** your ALL: heart, soul, mind, strength (30)

Consider:

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Question:

Further Discovery: