

# Spiritual Gifts

## One Body ~ Many Members



- Prophecy, serving, teaching, counseling, giving, leading, acts of mercy
- No particular order or hierarchy is suggested
- Gifts given according to the Lord's will
- Paul giving these instructions to Believers in the context of Jewish *Halakhot* (religious regulations)
- These have a striking resemblance to the Essenes' community rules as found in the Dead Sea Scrolls

# LOVE & HATE

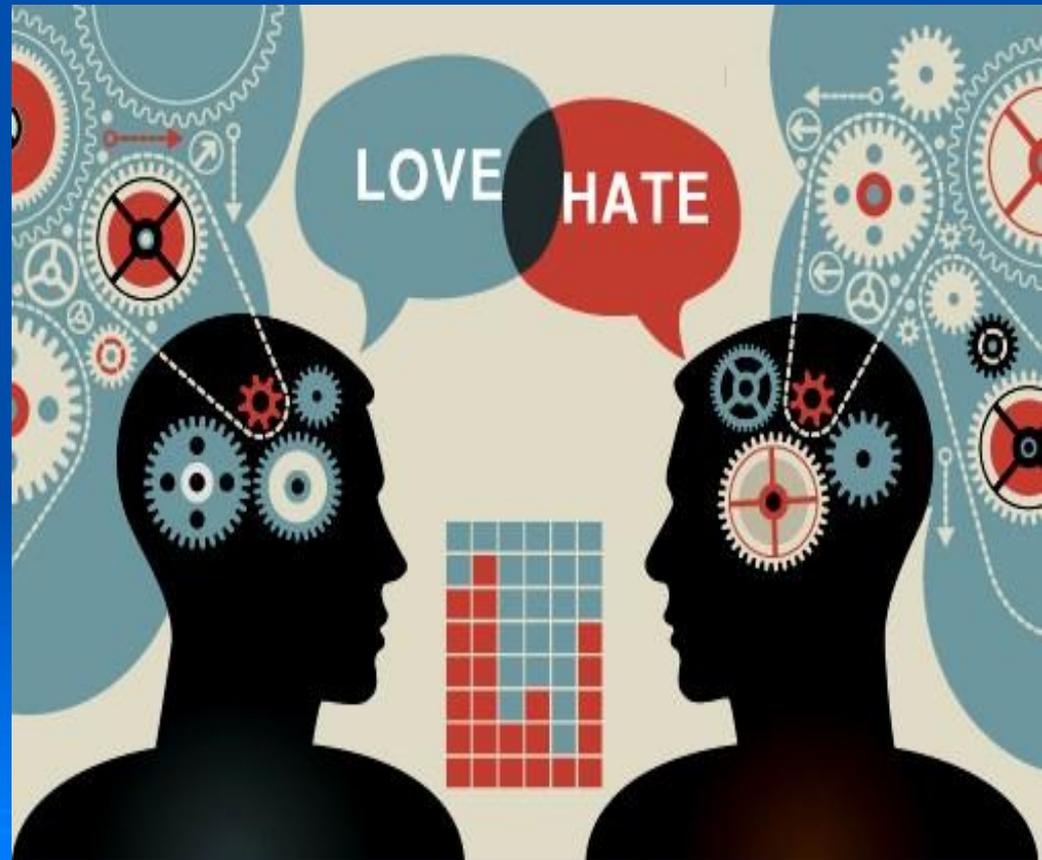


- Romans 12:9 – 21
- Biblical definitions:
- 1) love = acceptance and hate = rejection
- 2) Love is complete devotion to a person, ideal, god, or way of life. Hate is complete disregard and aversion towards a person, ideal, god, or way of life
- 3) Love and hate involve actions; emotions only play a part
- In modern romantic sense the heart is the seat of emotions
- Biblically, the heart is the seat of our intellect and will
- Heart = *kardia* in Greek, *lev* in Hebrew



# OUR MIND IS THE BIRTHPLACE OF LOVE AND HATE

- Outward behavior should express our true inward mind
- Paul says to recoil from evil and cling to what is good
- Recoil = reject evil for ourselves, and never accept it as a reasonable choice for others
- Cling to good = to behave righteously according the Torah



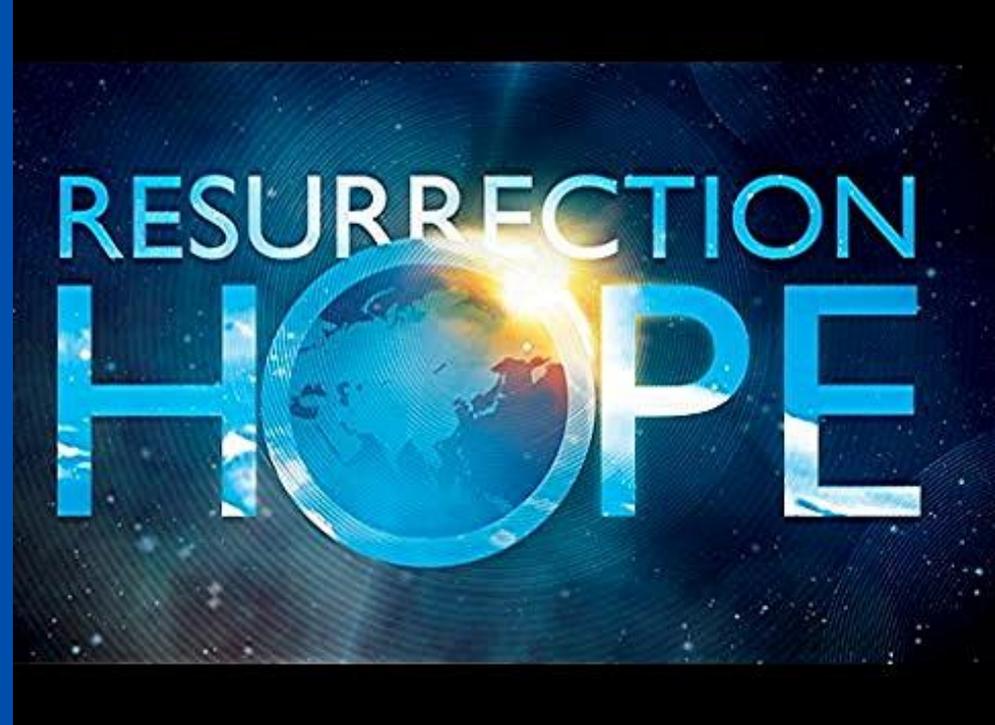
# LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR



- We must be convinced in our conscience before doing the behavior
- Example: eating Kosher without believing it is God's command to His worshippers is to be double-minded by loving and hating the same thing
- Vs. 10 is a midrash on Leviticus 19:18
- Love your neighbor is a fundamental principle of Judaism
- ***Pirkei Avot* 2.10**
- Vs. 11 is more than to not be lazy
- We are not to shun getting our hands dirty in order to do the work of the Kingdom of God

# REJOICE IN HOPE

- Paul had 2 statements of Christ in mind:
- Matthew 10:22 and John 15:18, 19
- We will be afflicted with hatred from the world, because the world hated Our Savior
- Paul says to pray instead of retaliating
- Testament of Benjamin
- Matthew 5:44 *“...pray for those who persecute you..”*



**RETALIATION**





Believers helping other  
Believers is our priority...



Rejoice with those  
who rejoice...

Weep with  
those who weep.

Romiyim [Romans] 12:15

HIS Amazing Love

# THE HUMANITARIAN SIDE

- Humanitarian aid seen by Jews as a biblical measure of righteousness
- The world takes care of its own, and Believers need to take care of other Believers
- The Holy Land always needs to be seen as part of our “community”
- Vs. 14 reiterates Luke 6:27
- Vs. 15 Believers should join in empathizing with another person’s experiences
- Ecclesiastes 3

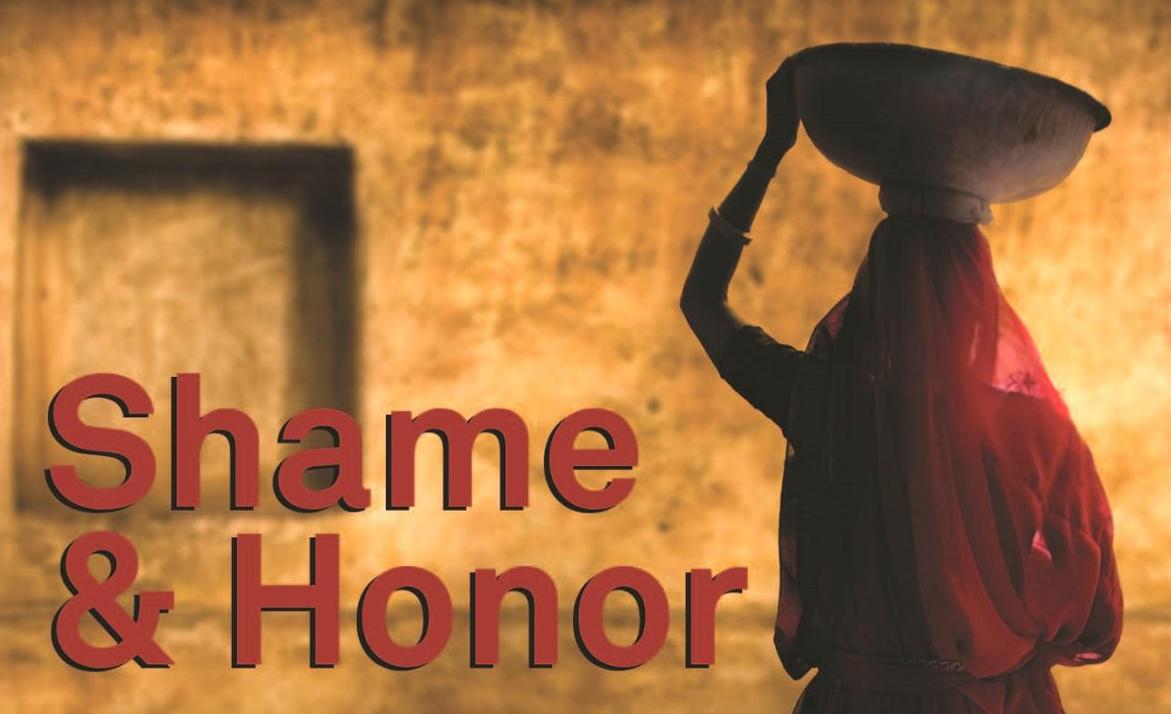
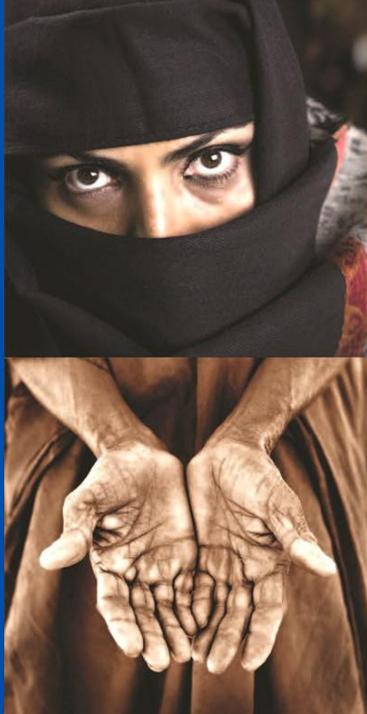
# HOW TO LIVE IN PEACE



*If it is possible,  
as far as it depends on you,  
live at peace with everyone.*

*Romans 12:18*

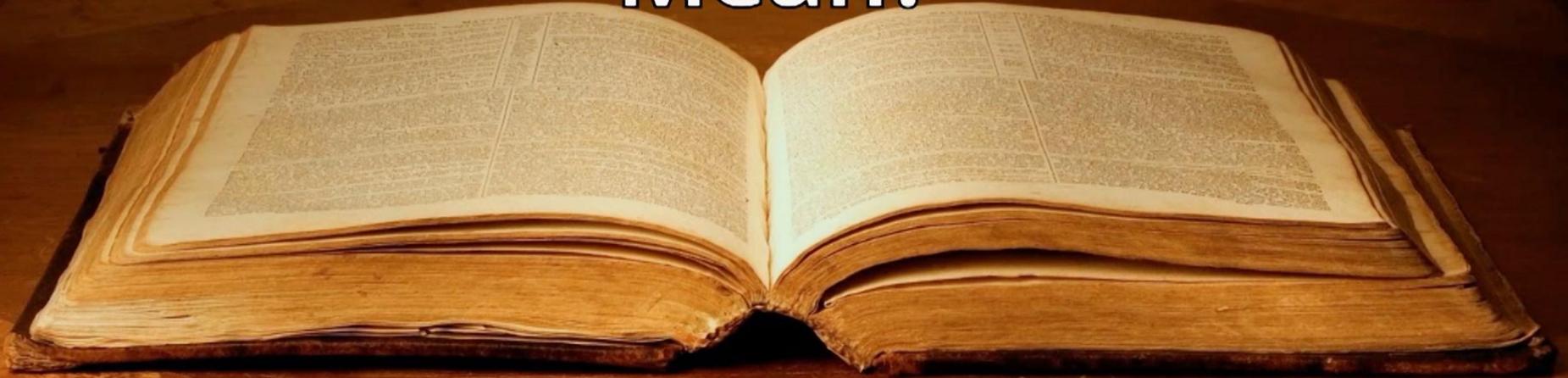
- Don't repay evil with evil
- Reason: the hope of leading the offender to righteous behavior
- The principles Paul introduces are NOT new; they were long established in Jewish culture
- Vs. 18 We are NOT obligated to be at peace with all people. Peace is not entirely our responsibility
- Caveats: 1) "if it is possible, 2) "to the extent it depends on you"
- We are to make peace with a partner who also seeks peace



# Shame & Honor

- Do not seek revenge for the sake of revenge
- God will judge; however the criminal justice system is God ordained and is meant to handle criminal matters
- Shame/honor societies dominate the world
- Shame and honor are about social status
- Criminal acts could be handled by the justice system
- But loss of honor due to insult was outside the justice system and so the individual had to handle it

# What Does *"Turn the Other Cheek"* Mean?



- Matthew 5:39
- This verse has nothing to do with criminal activity
- Being struck on the cheek was NOT a crime; it was meant to take the honor away from the person being struck
- By tradition the only way to get honor back was to kill the offender
- Yeshua says not to strike back in matters of shame and honor

Do Not  
BE

ROMANS

BUT

# OVERCOME

BY  
EVIL

12:21 (ESV)

EVIL WITH  
GOOD



- Paul quotes Deut. 25:35, then Proverbs 25:21, 22
- Only sometimes was “your enemy” your opponent in war or was a criminal; usually it was someone you hated, or they hated you
- Paul has been dealing with the cultural problem of shame and honor
- The way to bring someone into a relationship with Yeshua is through love and mutual respect; not revenge