Shall We Walk In The Old Paths?

Intro: In the long ago, Jehovah through the prophet Jeremiah encouraged the Israelites to walk in the old paths; Jer. 6:16 “Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein.” This charge is applicable to us today just as it was to Israel of old. While we could (and possibly should) make many different applications of this principle, I want to center on one aspect in this lesson.

I. **WE ARE TO WALK IN THE OLD PATH OF LOVE.**

   A. **The whole law is summed up in the principle of love.**
   1. Mat. 22:35-40 “Then one of them, which was a lawyer, asked him a question, tempting him, and saying, 36 Master, which is the great commandment in the law? 37 Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. 40 On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”
   2. Col. 3:14 “And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.”
   3. 1 Tim. 1:5 “Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned.”

   B. **Jesus was simply reiterating the Old Law.**
   1. Deu. 6:4-5 “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD: 5 And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.”
   2. Deu. 30:6 “And the LORD thy God will circumcise thine heart, and the heart of thy seed, to love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, that thou mayest live.”

   C. **What is love?**
   1. Love is not some emotional type of feeling for someone.
   2. Love is a decision of the mind to do what is best for the person.

II. **LOVE FOR GOD.**

   A. **Love for his Being.**
   1. Exo. 20:3-6 “Thou shalt have no other gods before me. 4 Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: 5 Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; 6 And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.”
   2. Love for His name.
      a. Exo. 20:7 “Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.”
      b. Mat. 6:9 “After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.”

   B. **Love for His Word.**
   1. John 14:15, 21-24 “If ye love me, keep my commandments...21 He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him. 22 Judas saith unto him, not Iscariot, Lord, how is it that thou wilt manifest thyself unto us, and not unto the world? 23 Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep
my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our
abode with him. 24He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings: and the word which
ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me.”

2. John 15:10 “If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have
kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.”

3. 1 John 5:3 “For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his
commandments are not grievous.”

4. 2 John 6 “And this is love, that we walk after his commandments. This is the
commandment, That, as ye have heard from the beginning, ye should walk in it.”

C. **If we love God, we will not try to change what God has instituted
concerning:**
1. The uniqueness of the church.
2. The plan of salvation.
3. The worship of the church.
4. The organization of the church.
5. We will try to change man to walk after the divine pattern, and not try
to get God to change.

III. **LOVE FOR MAN.**

A. **Love for man is commanded.**
1. Rom. 13:8 “Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another
hath fulfilled the law.”
2. Gal. 5:14 “For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy
neighbour as thyself.”
3. Jam. 2:8 “If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy
neighbour as thyself, ye do well:”

B. **Living righteously with man.**
1. Rom. 13:8-10 “Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another
hath fulfilled the law. 9For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill,
Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be
any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy
neighbour as thyself. 10Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the
fulfilling of the law.”
2. Living by the principles of the golden rule; Mat. 6:12 “Therefore all things
whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the
law and the prophets.”
3. Trying to save all men.
   a. Luke 19:10 “For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was
lost.”
   b. Preaching to the lost; Mark 16:15 “And he said unto them, Go ye into all
the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.”
   c. Edifying the saved; 1 Tim. 4:13, 16 “Till I come, give attendance to
reading, to exhortation, to doctrine...16Take heed unto thyself, and unto the
doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and
them that hear thee.”

C. **Living in proper fellowship with man.**
1. Having fellowship with the faithful; Psa. 133:1-3 “Behold, how good and how
pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! 2It is like the precious ointment
upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard: that went down to
the skirts of his garments; 3 As the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion: for there the LORD commanded the blessing, even life for evermore.”

2. Having no fellowship with the wicked; 2 Cor. 6:14-17 “Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? 15 And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? 16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 17 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,”

Conclusion: When we have a correct concept of love and walk in the old path of love, we will do everything revealed within the pages of God’s Word. Israel said they would not walk in the old paths, what about you?