

**Does Love Work?**  
**Deuteronomy 6:1-5**  
**May 21, 2017**  
**Peter Hiett**

*Images by Peter Hiett and Leonardo da Vinci.*

I met him twelve years ago in Krakow, Poland. Just a few miles from Auschwitz and Buchenwald. Over time, I learned his story. Clay was lying in his bed when they came for him. They ripped him right out of his bed. They drove for miles; he didn't know where they were going. Then, they threw him in a cold, damp holding tank. He must've felt like Joseph in Potiphar's prison.

After more days than he could count, they took him out and beat him, and beat him . . . till he was mush. They beat him like the Angel beat Jacob at the edge of the Promised Land. Jacob was chosen... So the God-man beat Jacob and then named him Israel.<sup>1</sup>

Well, they beat Clay until his whole body was out of joint and he was just a pile of mush. Then, they cut him, mended the wound, and cut him again. They doused him in cold water, then beat and slapped him some more. They put him on a table and spun him around, thrust hands into the open wound that was his belly. Then they left him alone in a dark room . . . until they lit the fire. It was a furnace . . . a furnace, not unlike that into which Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were thrown in the book of Daniel. Those three Jews escaped unburned, but an untold number didn't.

In Auschwitz and Buchenwald I saw the ashes of thousands of chosen people burned by the Third Reich. But it's not just ethnic Jews that are chosen... The twelve disciples are chosen and all suffered worse abuse than those in Auschwitz . . . And Jesus said you're chosen and "In this world you will have tribulation."

Well, Clay got out, and yet, he thought he was good as dead, for a time. As the room began to heat, Clay felt as if his heart were made of wax and then melted in

---

<sup>1</sup> Through a prophet God said, "Jacob I loved and Essau I hated."  
God is Love... so what does it mean for Love to hate.  
Perhaps when Love hates, Love just leaves a person alone for a time.  
Well, if you read the story, it seems like Essau had it pretty good...  
But Jacob, got the crap beat out of him, before the God-man named him Israel.  
If I were Israel, I might ask God to choose someone else...

his chest—leaving only a hole . . . and a longing for love. It seemed as if he were losing his mind, his soul was crushed, and his strength entirely depleted.

He must've wondered,  
“God where are you? And what are you doing?”

He may not have put it this way, but he must've wondered, “Does love work? Does obeying your law work? Does love work?”

In Deuteronomy 5 Moses recounts the Ten Commandments to Israel.  
Then in Deuteronomy 6 He says,

*Now this is the commandment (singular—the one commandment)—the statutes and the rules—that the Lord your God commanded me to teach you, that you may do them in the land to which you are going over, to possess it, that you may fear the Lord your God, you and your son and your son's son, by keeping all his statutes and his commandments, which I command you, all the days of your life, and that your days may be long. Hear therefore, O Israel, and be careful to do them, that it may go well with you, and that you may multiply greatly, as the Lord, the God of your fathers, has promised you, in a land flowing with milk and honey.*

—Deuteronomy 6:1-3

God is saying, “If you keep *the* commandment you'll be blessed...  
And if you break the commandment you'll be cursed.”

Now this is the commandment:

*“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.”*

—Deuteronomy 6:4-5

Do you understand? The whole commandment is love. Some think that's just a Christian thing, but it's a Jewish thing and a Moslem thing as well.

So, Moses spells out the details of the commandment throughout the rest of Deuteronomy; he spells out what love looks like. . .

- The ceremonial law—regulating Israel's relationship with God through sacrifices and offerings.
- And The moral law—regulating the relationships between one Israelite and another.

Then in chapter 28:1, to Israel, Moses says, *“If you are careful to do all of this you’ll be blessed.”*

Then in 28:15 *“But if you don’t do all of this... all these curses will come upon you.”*

So what is all of this that they must do? They must love.

And so of course, for 1500 years, Israel and the Jews suffered curses and argued. Scribes, Sadducees, Pharisees, priests, and lawyers argued about the law—what exactly it is and how to make it work.

That is they argued about Love—what it is and how to make it work. Just like you argue with each other, and complain to God, whenever you suffer. You say stuff like, “God I don’t get it. I’ve been a good person. I tithe to my church. I’m nice to the neighbors, and now I find out that my husband wants a divorce, my kids hate me, and the dog is sick. It doesn’t work. Love doesn’t work”

Clay must’ve wondered, “Where’s God, and does love work?”

Well, for 1500 years the Jews tried to obey the law, felt the curse, and argued... For 1500 years, and then they met Jesus.

Matthew 22 and Mark 12 seem to record the same incident, which must have happened on numerous occasions, in which Jesus recites Deuteronomy 6.

Let’s read from Matthew 22

*But when the Pharisees heard that he [Jesus] had silenced the Sadducees (Pharisees and Sadducees were always arguing), they gathered together. And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” 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 [that’s Leviticus 19]. On these two commandments depend [krematia—literally, “hang”] all the Law and the Prophets.”*

Matthew 22:33-40

In Mark 12: 32 the scribe responds, *“You are right teacher...”* and to do this *“is much more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.”*

So, the commandment is to love God and love your neighbor, and on this

*“hangs all the law and the prophets.”* And to do this would be the ultimate sacrifice.

The commandment is love and our question is, “Does it *work*?”

*“Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind”*  
and, in Mark, Jesus adds *“all your strength.”*

Well, if you are to love God *with* those things, love is not those things. Right?  
Love is not your feelings, your decisions, your thinking or your doing.  
Love feels. Love decides. Love thinks. And Love does.

And yet, this is the command: “You shall love.” Weird huh? Well . . .

- You are to love the Lord with all your feelings, that is, all your heart.
- You are to love Him with all your decisions. I think that constitutes your *psyche*, that is your life or your soul. You are to freely choose Love.
- You are to love Him with all your mind. You are commanded to think with all your brain. (To be anti-intellect is to be anti-loving God.)
- And you are to love Him with all your strength. That’s all your energy, your income, your resources, your money—not 10%, but 100%.

And now remember that while you’re loving with all your strength, you need to love with all your heart and soul. That means that you must give all, 100%, and be 100% overjoyed to give all.

Now let me ask. Does it help you love—fully, passionately and freely—if God says to you: *“Love me with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength—I mean freely, passionately, intelligently, and absolutely—Love me or die?”*

That’s what I said to my bride on my honeymoon night,  
*“Love me with all your heart or die.”*  
Not really—that would’ve killed her and killed me *to* her.

And yet, God basically says that in Deuteronomy. At the end of the book, He lays out the blessing and the curse—and the description of the curse will scare you to death.

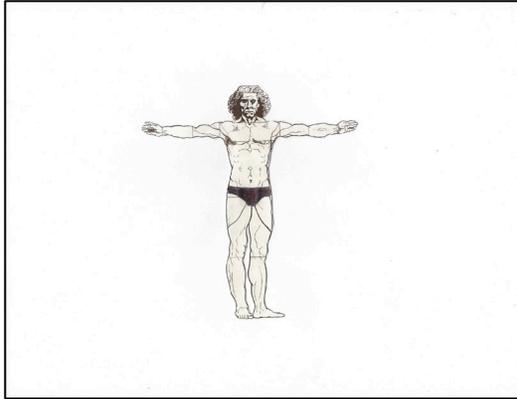
“Love me or die,” will kill you... or maybe show you that you’re already dead.  
In Genesis 2 God says to the Adam,

*“The day you eat of it, the day you eat of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good—which must be the knowledge of Love—the day you eat of it, you will die.”*

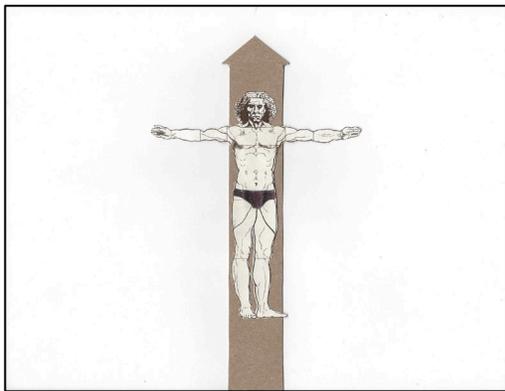
[Peter begins to sing the first few lines from the song “I Want to Know What Love Is” and admits that Foreigner sings is better.]

We sing, “I want to know what love is. I want you to show me...” And God says is that right Adam? There’s a tree, [Peter points to the cross] and the day you eat of it you will die, said God, to the Adam, in the beginning.

So maybe we’re already dead and just won’t admit that we’re dead—we just don’t know it.



Well, here’s a picture of Adam (that means man).  
This is Da Vinci’s Vitruvian Man in a speedo—because we’re a church



So there’s a vertical component to this commandment called Love.  
Love the Lord your God—a vertical component, but not just vertical.  
Jesus says, “*You shall love the Lord with all your heart, soul, mind and strength and the second is like it—homoios.*” *Homoios* means, not only “like,” but even “*the same.*”

And think about it, they must be the same. . .

For if you loved the Lord with all you've got . . .  
How much would you have left to love your neighbor?  
Nothing . . . unless God was in your neighbor.

If God is not in your neighbor, then loving your neighbor would be idolatry, because you'd be using Love that belongs to God, to love them as if they were God.

But if God is in your neighbor—then loving your neighbor could be a form of worship, because your neighbor is a temple at which you are called to love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind, soul, and strength to God.

And then, whatever you do to your neighbor, even the least of these (your neighbors), you would do to God.

So, if you don't believe God is in your neighbor, you can't love your neighbor or love God. You can only pretend to love, and you then, are a lie about love. You become false. Jesus said, "*Love your neighbor as yourself*"—as you love *yourself*.

So, maybe you also have to believe that God is in your self in order to not idolize yourself and actually love yourself so you could love your neighbor as yourself and, in the process, be loving God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength.

Well anyway, Jesus said, "*You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*"

Wouldn't that mean that you would be as patient, kind, and forgiving of your neighbor as you are of yourself.

Wouldn't that mean that if you had two coats and your neighbor had none, you'd give him one, and you'd delight in giving him one?

And if you had two new cars and your neighbor had one, you'd be thrilled to give your neighbor one— just as thrilled as when you got yourself one?

Granted, Scripture says,  
"*If a man won't work, don't let him eat.*" But even this must be love.  
In other words, you have a healthy drive to work.  
And you want to give your neighbor a healthy drive to work..."

See? If I would give everything to save my own life . . .  
Then love means that I would give everything to save my neighbor's life,

Even if he was my worst enemy.

In 1 Corinthians 13, Paul describes love.

So, if you want to know if you're fulfilling the command to love, you can simply plug your name into Paul's description of love.

For instance, I would ask, "Are the following statements true?"

You can use this form and insert your name in the blank spaces to see if you're fulfilling the command to love.

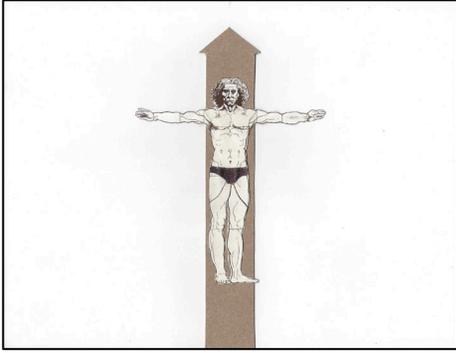
_____ is patient and kind;
_____ does not envy or boast;
_____ is not arrogant or rude.
_____ does not insist on his own way;
_____ is not irritable or resentful;
_____ does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth.
_____ bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.
_____ never ends... _____ never fails.
- I Corinthians 13:4-8a

Peter is patient and kind; Peter does not envy or boast; Peter is not arrogant or rude. Peter does not insist on his own way; Peter is not irritable or resentful; Peter does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Peter bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Peter never ends... Peter never fails.

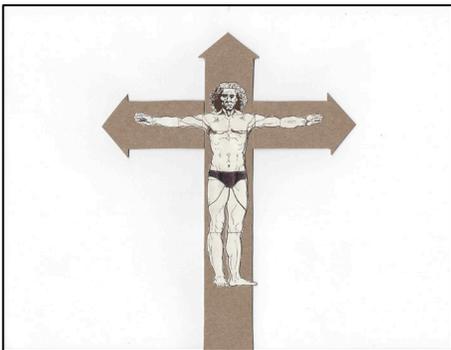
I know I'm the pastor and everything, but that just doesn't seem to be true for "me." So, to the extent that it's not true about me I must be false—a false "me." And so I deserve to die, for "the soul that sins shall surely die," says the Lord.

Well anyway, Jesus says on these two commandments "hangs" all the law and the prophets.

So, the commandment has a vertical component



And it has a horizontal component.



Is that a curse or a blessing?

If you take Love as a law, it's a death sentence.

It cannot make you Love, but it can reveal that you don't love because you're dead.

At the end of Deuteronomy, Moses reveals that Israel can't love, for God had not yet given them the heart, eyes or ears to love (Deut. 29:4). And so, all the curses will come upon them (Deut. 31:16-17).

Joshua says, "*Choose this day whom you will serve*" (Josh. 24:15), and then he says, "*You are not able to serve the Lord*" (Josh. 24:19).

The prophets reveal that Israel has a stone heart.

And so, of course, she can't serve the Lord or love the Lord.

Sometimes I'll hear preachers say, "God would never ask you to do something that you couldn't do," and I wonder, "*What Bible are you reading?*"

Other people will say, "Well OK, but if we're already dead in our trespasses and sins," like the Bible says, "Why even try? Why try?"

That's a fascinating question that we'll return to in a few minutes . . .  
But isn't it interesting that we all do try?

I was thinking about that this week: I've never met someone that didn't try to love—that didn't want to love and be loved. If someone didn't try to love, I don't think we'd even refer to them as human.

- Every idolator is trying to love God but is confused about God, and therefore about Love.
- I now see that every bully in the bathroom at Grant Junior High, was longing for love, and that's why they beat up on me. They were hoping to take it for themselves—by taking it from me.
- Even Hitler was trying to love the Germans by scapegoating the Jews.
- And Even Caiaphus, the Highpriest, was trying to love the Jews by crucifying Jesus.

We all try to love, fail at love, and die—suffer the curse—all of us, every Adam made of *adamah*. (*Adamah* is Hebrew for clay.)

So does love work? Well, it seems the answer is NO because none of us can truly love.

But what if you truly did love, would it work then?

You know? We all long for love, but we're terrified of true love . . .

Even as I was describing love, I bet some of you were thinking:

*Nice idea, preacher, but . . .*

*If you really turned the other cheek . . .*

*If you really gave away your cloak and your coat to him who had none . . .*

*If you really loved your neighbor, even if he was your enemy, you'd get yourself crucified . . .*

*So I'll dream about love, but I'm terrified of real love, for it doesn't work—it'll get you crucified.*

I read about a young soldier in World War II that dove into a foxhole and began digging himself deeper into the ground trying to save his life. As he dug he uncovered a crucifix. Just then another soldier dove into the foxhole with him.

The first turned to the second, held up the crucifix, and gasped:

“Am I glad to see you. How do you work this thing?”

Does a crucifix work? Or does it work you?

Does it work to save your life? Or cause you to lose your life?  
Jesus said, “If you want to follow me, pick up a cross . . . and lose your life,  
your soul—your psyche . . . that you might find it.”  
So does a crucifix work? Does love work?

Of course, we know of only One Man who truly loved and fulfilled all the command,  
and it did get Him crucified.

Matthew 22:40, He said, “*On these two commandments hangs [krematai] all the Law and the Prophets.*”

It can't be an accident that Jesus chose that word *krematai*.  
It appears seven times in the New Testament and each time it describes  
something that would kill a man.

- Once a millstone hanging around a neck.
- Once a snake hanging on to Saint Paul's hand.
- And four times (or five if you count this one) *kremannymi* describes a hanging man on a tree.

Jesus says, “*On these two commandments hangs [krematai] all the Law and the Prophets.*”

- Jesus is the embodiment of the Law, which is Love.
- Jesus is the great Prophet foretold of by Moses in Deuteronomy.
- Jesus is greater than all the sacrifices and offerings.
- “*In this is Love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us,*” writes John, “*and gave his son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.*”
- Jesus is the Commandment of God.
- Jesus is the Word of God. And as we know, God is Love (1 John 4).

In Deuteronomy 29, Moses reveals that the people can't fulfill the commandment of God.

But then in Deuteronomy 30, Moses reveals that the commandment is “not too hard for them” and “not far from them” . . . in fact it's a word that's in their hearts and on their tongues.

Saint Paul quotes Deuteronomy 30 in Romans 10, revealing that this word is the word of faith, and this word of faith is the commandment, and the commandment is Christ—the Word of Love, Love who is God.

Do you get the picture?  
God is Love and His Word is His Commandment.

And His Commandment in human flesh is called Jesus.  
And His Commandment in our flesh is Faith, which is Jesus in us.  
He gets put there by Grace, revealed upon a cross—where we lose our life and find it.

Jesus said,

*On these two commandments (that are one commandment) hangs [krematai] all the Law and the Prophets. Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them a question, saying, "What do you think about the Christ? Whose son is he?" They said to him, "The son of David." He said to them, "How is it then that David, in the Spirit, calls him Lord, saying, 'The Lord said to my Lord, Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet?' (Psalm 110:1) If then David calls him Lord, how is he his son?" And no one was able to answer him a word, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.*

—Matthew 22:40-45

Jesus revealed that He is the Son of David. He is a man, Adam made of *adamah*.

And Jesus revealed that He is the Son of God.  
He is the Word of God in human clay. And God is Love.

God is Love, which (I think) clearly means all real love is God.

So does love work? Well, NO. NO. NO! God is not a tool! God is not *your* tool.

Do you see? Just asking the question the way we ask it . . .  
Just asking, "Does love work?" assumes God must work for some other reason,  
When He is the Reason that everything works.

Just asking, "Does love work?" assumes that God is a thing to be used . . .  
Like a hammer or saw—used for your own ends  
To help you build whatever you're building, and I bet you're building an ego.

Just asking, "Does love work?" assumes that God is your whore . . .  
That means Love . . . to be used for some other reason.

Just asking, "Does love work?" assumes that Love is like fruit hanging on a tree  
For you to take and consume in order to make yourself like God.

Just asking, "Does love work?" assumes love is only a law . . .  
That you could choose or not choose to obey.

It assumes that Love is not life, but dead.  
Just asking, "Does love work?" is crucifying Love, so He can no longer work . . .  
Because you just nailed Him to a tree—in the middle of a Garden.

So does love work?

Well . . . from the perspective of the old fallen Adam, the answer is NO.

But does love work?

Well . . . from the perspective of Truth, the answer is YES, YES, YES . . .

Absolutely, wonderfully, completely Yes!

Not only does Love work. Love is the only thing that *does* work. It bears, believes, hopes, endures. And Love works through His Word Jesus, who gives you Life. He is the Life. I can't work Love, but Love is always working me.

Do you remember the form below?

Listen to 1 Corinthians with the word "Jesus" plugged in.

<p>_____ is patient and kind; _____ does not envy or boast; _____ is not arrogant or rude. _____ does not insist on his own way; _____ is not irritable or resentful; _____ does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. _____ bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, _____ endures all things. _____ never ends... _____ never fails.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">- I Corinthians 13:4-8a</p>
--

Jesus is patient and kind; Jesus does not envy or boast; Jesus is not arrogant or rude. Jesus does not insist on His own way; Jesus is not irritable or resentful; Jesus does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth.

Jesus bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Jesus never ends . . . Jesus never fails.

Even when we work Him to *death* on a tree.

He is working us to life on the very same tree.

Love never fails. "*Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, and endures all things. Love never ends.*" Love is the End.

When "I" come to Jesus on the tree, it's the end of "me," for at the tree I begin to see that I have crucified Love to create "me."

The tree is the end of "me" and the beginning of Him in "me"—the empty space I once called "me." "*It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life, which I now live in the flesh, I live by the faith OF* [ "of" is the literal translation from

the Greek] *the son of God who loved me, and delivered himself up for me*" (Gal. 2:20).

At the tree, I lose my life (my psyche), and I find it.  
In other words, at the tree, I'm saved.

We American Evangelicals have made it sound like that's a one-time decision. And so I think we may have created an empire of 1<sup>st</sup> grader Christians—people who name the name of Jesus, but don't know who Jesus is and therefore, who Love is, and what He means. God loves 1<sup>st</sup> graders. It's not bad; He just wants us to grow up.

Salvation is not a one-time decision, after which you're done.  
Salvation is the surrender of every decision to the decision of God, and the decision of God is Love.

Love is God's decision. And so we ask, "So should I even try?"  
Well, of course, you should try. Don't you want to try? It's just that trying doesn't create Love; God is Love. You don't create Love. Trying doesn't create Love; trying reveals when and where you *don't* love—so you can surrender *to* Love and be used *by* Love. . . who doesn't just use you as a tool, but as His very own Body and Bride?

So, should you try to be nice to the dog?

Yeah... doesn't Love, in you, want to be nice to your dog?  
And should you try to love your wife?

Yeah... I mean doesn't part of you want to love your wife?

And should you try to go on an outreach or service trip sometime?

Yeah, maybe so... doesn't love in you want to grow? So maybe you should go.

If you think Love is only a law, like knowledge you take from a tree, the trip may kill you.

If on the other hand, you believe Love is your Lord, the trip will bring you life.

See? You'll get there and you'll meet someone and you will love...

But love will also reveal when, where, and how you don't love...

If you believe Love is just a law that people can fulfill . . .

You'll probably get angry at people for hurting the person you love.

You'll probably blame those people and be unable to love those people.  
And you'll probably blame the country you're in . . .  
    And be unable to love the people of that country  
And you'll probably blame yourself and be unable to love yourself.  
And you'll eventually blame the person you loved . . .  
    And be unable to love that person.  
You won't *love* them, but *use* them, trying to love, and so you'll crucify Love.

If you believe love is just a law that people can fulfill, you'll become full of yourself and crucify Christ. You'll become a Pharisee . . . a vessel of wrath. Saint Paul writes that at one time, we were all children of wrath like the rest of mankind (Eph. 2:3).

But if you believe that Love is your Lord, your living Lord, then habitually, daily, even constantly you'll confess how you don't love, and in that place you confess that you don't love—called sin, you'll receive Love—called Grace, and then you'll give birth to more love and begin to move as His Body of Love—a vessel of Mercy.

You won't be proud of Love—as if love were your own creation, but you will be grateful for Love as if you were Love's creation. Then you won't be false. You'll be true.

In Romans 9 Paul writes, "So it depends not on human will or exertion but on God who has mercy... You will say to me then, 'Why does he still find fault?... Will what is molded say to its molder why have you made me thus?' Has the potter no right over the clay?" Paul is quoting Isaiah.  
And then he quotes Hosea, "*In the very place where it was said to them you are not my people, there they will be called sons of the living God.*"

It's like we all take knowledge of Love, and try to make ourselves in the image of God, but only make vessels of wrath. At the cross our arrogance is destroyed it melts like wax in our chest. Psalm 22:14 "My heart is like wax; it is melted in my chest" Jesus recited that Psalm on the cross as He bore our sins to destruction.

At the cross, our arrogance is melted like wax . . .  
And in the place we experienced wrath, we are filled with Mercy. . .  
And that's how God makes vessels of Mercy.

In Romans 11, Paul concludes his thoughts on vessels of wrath and mercy by writing God consigned all to disobedience that he may have Mercy on all.<sup>2</sup>

---

<sup>2</sup> Karl Barth wrote, "In time, we are vessels of wrath. In eternity, we are vessels of mercy."

2 Cor. 4:7, he writes, “*We have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the transcendent power belongs to God and not to us.*”

The transcendent power . . . is Love!

So the hands of the Potter, they ripped Clay from the streambed.  
They stored him in a cold, dark container.  
They took him out, beat him, and beat him.  
Then they cut him, kneaded him, and cut him some more, threw cold water on him, slapped him until he was mush.  
They placed him on a table, a potter’s wheel, and spun him around.  
Then the potter thrust His hands deep into the wound to make a cavity, an empty space in Clay.  
He then placed Clay in an oven.  
Clay cried out, “Where is God and why have you made me thus?” “Where is God?”  
Well, God is the Potter, and Clay is the clay.

I’d like you to meet clay. This is what clay used to look like...  
[Peter pulls out a bag of unmolded clay.]

This is Clay now [Peter pulls out a teapot.]

I actually did meet Clay in a pottery shop in Krakow, Poland.  
I purchased him as a gift for my bride . . . just after touring Auschwitz and Buchenwald.

Love is the Potter and *you* are the clay.  
Does Love work? YES, YES, YES, absolutely YES!  
Love is working you—right now.  
Love does not fail.  
And this is why Love has made you thus:

[Peter pours wine into the teapot]  
All the *fullness* of God in vessels of clay!

It’s fascinating that when Jesus quotes Deuteronomy 6:6 in the Gospels...  
He doesn’t use the imperative tense in Greek. In Mark 12, the “hear” part is in the imperative tense—He’s saying, “You must hear that God is one.” He’s not Love and something else. He’s not divided and He doesn’t change. “Hear” is in the imperative tense.

But “love” is in the future indicative tense in Matthew, Mark, and Luke. Not you *should*, but you *will*. So Jesus literally says, “*You WILL love the Lord your God with*

*all your heart, soul, mind and strength. And you WILL love your neighbor as yourself."*

You will love yourself. You will love your neighbor, and you will love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength. Wow!

How does he know that?

Who does Jesus think He is?

The Word of God through whom all things are created? Maybe so.

You know? When I think I must create love and I must make Love work, I begin to judge myself, worry about myself, and compete with my neighbors. I become full of myself, so I can't receive Love or give Love.

But when I believe that Love is working me and everyone around me, when I believe that Love is the Potter and every neighbor is clay, well then I don't compete with my neighbors, but have compassion on my neighbors. I begin to love my neighbors.

[Peter takes out a few tea cups and places them on the communion table.]

"Oh my goodness! . . . [while pouring wine from the tea pot into a cup] That Potter's wheel can be terrifying can't it? I love you."

"Thank you for loving me. . . [while pouring wine from the cup into the teapot] I love you. "That furnace stinks, but heh, I love you." [While pouring wine from the teapot into yet another cup and on and on the cycle of life-giving love continues.]

Then all these earthen vessels become blood vessels in one Body of Love, that's circulating love, no longer dead, but forever alive and always happy, *ha adam*

In the beginning, Love said, "Let us make *ha adam* in our own image after our own likeness..."

So does Love work?

### **Communion**

On the night that the Word of Love was betrayed, He took bread and broke it saying, "This is my body given for you." In the morning, His earthen vessel of clay would be broken, and blood would flow down that ancient tree and form a river... And He said, "This is the covenant in my blood, drink of it all of you."

### **Prayer**

Lord thank you that in the beginning, you said, “Let us make man—*ha adam*—in our own image, in the image of love. Thank that you will not fail, and you will do what you’ve decided to do because nothing is stronger or better than your will—you’ve revealed your will on a cross—we thank you, in Jesus’ name, Amen.

*Disclaimer: This document is a draft and has not been edited by the author. Therefore, there may be discrepancies. Some discrepancies may be minor; some may have to do with theology. When in doubt, please refer to the audio version of the sermon on this website and don't be shy about informing us of errors.*