

“The American Quest for the Primitive Church”

Our Master's name is holy. There is no difference between Him and His name. That's why the commandment is to not take His name in vain. The dignity and worth of His name have to be on our lips. We never should utter the name of Yahshua except to glorify and exult Him, or call upon His name, or explain His name to others because it is the only name by which we can be saved. One day everyone will confess that Yahshua is Sovereign. They'll confess it forever and ever. We will confess it with full meaning, the people in death without hope.

There is a book we are using about Roger Williams. He knew that he was not living in the day of restoration. He knew he could not even baptize. He was a seeker. His deeds and his sayings are hidden; you have to search for them. There is a book called, *The American Quest for the Primitive Church*. All his deeds are there.

Martin Luther's deeds are hidden. You have to look for them, too. He tied the church to the state. He only could launch the Reformation by political means. You don't learn these things in school except maybe some very liberal school. The book is about the American quest for the original pattern of the church. The book is full of ways of how they can do it. They go into moral ways, they found baptism, they thought they were the first church because they were doing this or that, they did amazing things but one thing was lacking. [Yoneq said he could write a book called, *The Rise and Fall of the First Church*.]

Yahshua had His Father's glory and then He gave His glory to us (Rom 5:5). He gave us His love. That is why no one can restore the first church. Love is what restores. You have to love like He loved. It is only through obedience that the first church is restored back to where it was — that people can live together in unity. First of all it requires the Holy Spirit who has to be given to man and then you have the power to do it. It is through obedience that the church is restored. It is only through obedience that the church can exist. The name *church* is not even in the imagination of our Master. It doesn't really mean anything — just like the name *Jim*.

The sign of the Sabbath, the sign of a people belonging to the Creator God, has also been taken away. If you don't keep the Sabbath and you call yourself the *church*, God's people, you break the commandments. Jms 2:10-11 — If you keep the whole law and yet stumble in one point, you have become guilty of all. The Sabbath is a covenant that God made with His people. If you deliberately break it there is no way you can be restored; you are cut off from God's people. If we unintentionally break it, inadvertently, it is because our communion is not perfect with Him — something is lacking in us. The covenant now is in our heart, so that we can keep His commandments. “Those who keep My commandments are my people.” The commandments don't come into your heart unless you receive the Holy Spirit. That is the first step in restoring the church (Jn 14:21).

The Plymouth brethren thought they restored the primitive church in 1850 (John Darby), but now it has broken apart into many splits and divisions. You'll see the only possibility to restoration is to go back to how it was in the beginning. The church was community. There is no other word for *church* in English except *community*, which is the meaning of the Hebrew *edah*. Paul implied this by the word *commonwealth* in Eph 2:12. Our Master used it Mt 16:18, “I'll build my *edah*...” (Jer 30:18-29, *Strong's Concordance* #5712, 5713).

Community in the first church was the experience of the great commandment, the new commandment (Jn 15:12; 13:34). If we love as we are commanded to love — that is the fruit of the Holy Spirit in our heart — then the *edah* is going to flourish. It will flourish like a bough, but we have to really give our heart to obey His commandment (1 Ths 4:9).

The search or the quest for the primitive church is because they cannot find it. It is because God is not there. If He'd be there, there would be love (1 Jn 3:14). Some can love, some cannot. Those who can love are able to do so because they received the Spirit. Christianity cannot love. Whoever does love as Yahshua loved, the whole world will know it (Jn 13:35). This is the sign belonging to Yahshua's disciples (Mal 3:18) — “because you are holy, I've set you apart.” When you receive the Spirit, you receive love (Rom 5:5).

If we love the world and the things of the world it proves that the love of God has not been poured into our hearts. All of Christianity love the world and cannot love (1 Jn 3:17; 1 Jn 2:15). If you love soccer, sports, television, etc., you love the world and the love of God is not in you (1 Jn 2:4). That's just an indication. That is why they cannot find the primitive church. They want it, but they don't want it bad enough to obey the gospel (Mt 10:38) — one leg in, one leg out. But there are so many people that will come in. It is going to be an indisputable, irrefutable voice that is going to illuminate the whole world. There are nearly two billion Christians. We are the messengers. His message is love. This is how we who belong to Him love our brothers and sisters. 1 Pet 1:8; 1:22; 4:8 talks about the sign of love. If we keep the boast firm until the end we are His edah (Heb 3:6). Christianity is not His house. They are a house of dividing spirits. Eph 2:20,19 — house and household is the same word.

We know love by this: we have had God's love poured out into our heart. If not, we are all not real. We know love by this, we can identify it by this — He laid down His life for us and we are to lay down our lives for each other. Christianity doesn't know the problem. All through their book they have not discovered it. It is simple. There is no way you cannot have community if you obey His word.

Here we are. The sun has not come up over the horizon (Mal 4:2; Lk 1:78-79). It was really dark this morning; you could hardly see. That's how we were in the beginning, but... we had love. Now we understand more. Finally the sunrise comes and we will be bright, able to love more. We will be clothed with the sun (Rev 12:1). That will startle the world, people living together in unity, love, loyalty to our Master. At the same time she was giving birth to the Male Child. We are the seed of Abraham, we will give our first born. If love indeed has been given to us we'll pay the price. God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son. We are His friends if we do what He says. We are friends and brothers of the King. There is a friend who sticks closer than a brother. We are His friends only if we obey every word that He speaks (Acts 3:23). He has to speak it. Not every word is written. That's why the movements within

Christianity cannot do it, because the Spirit only speaks to the community. They cannot hear His voice. If you have ears, hear what the Spirit says to the edah.

Our Master's name was *Yahshua ha Mashiach*. That is His name and who He is.

David Israel: His name is powerful. When we sing, His name should cause something in us, also in outsiders when they hear His name, because His name is powerful. He only said, "I AM," and the people drew back and fell down.

Nahshon: We never could be in the armies of the world, because we love our brothers in other countries and we would end up killing them in wars. That happened. That exposes Christianity right there, that they don't have love. Our Father has many ways to reach Christians. It would be ridiculous that we would do this and go to war against our brothers, if our different countries would engage in mutual warfare. That would be ridiculous.

Obadiah: In the new covenant His laws are written on our hearts and minds. Also His love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit whom He has given us (Rom 5:5). His law is in our heart and love is in our heart. You cannot separate the two. They go together. If you have one you have the other; if you have the other you have the one. If you have love you will keep the commandments; if you keep the commandments you will have love (Jn 14:15,21). Keeping the commandments brings about the community; love brings about the community. You can't keep the commandments apart from community, the fruit of love is the community.

Everything has been written down in the scriptures for the generation upon whom the end of the ages have come. All the prophets spoke about this time. All the prophets spoke about the restoration of all things. There is only one restoration. It doesn't say *restorations*, plural, but one restoration.

There have been many people down through the centuries who saw that something was wrong with the "church." They wanted to return to the original church, as it was in the beginning. There is a book called, *The American Quest for the Original Church*. It describes all the attempts in America to return to the church how it was in the beginning. In the 1850s they even thought they did it (John Darby). But now all that is left from it are splits and divisions. There was one essential element missing in all these attempts — love. Love is the perfect bond of unity. If our unity is not based on love, then we live a miserable life. But love is the perfect bond of unity, because it doesn't take into account a wrong suffered, it is patient, kind, forbearing, long-suffering, bears all things, hopes all things, believes all things, endures all things.

In John 13:35 it says not merely, “by this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another,” but it actually says if you *have* love for one another. It is talking about a possession. You either have it or you don't. It has either been poured out into your heart or not. If it hasn't we will be just like all the other denominations, there will be splits and divisions. *Phileo* love is not enough, because that will allow divisions. It has to be *ahavah* love.

So our Master said in Mt 15:13, “every plant which My heavenly Father did not plant shall be rooted up.” There is only one plant that is planted by Him. That is the plant in Eze 17:22-29. It says twice there, “that I, that is YHWH Himself, shall plant it, I shall take, I shall pluck, I shall plant.” That is the only planting that is planted by Him, the only planting that is not going to be uprooted. Wherever this planting is, birds of all kinds of feathers will flock together; there will be unity because of *ahavah* — love. That is the restoration of all things. And then Eze 17:24 is going to come about, that all the trees of the field will know that Yahshua is Sovereign. There are many trees in the field. There are many trees that are planted by man. There are many denominations in Christianity. All those in Christianity that know and sense that something is wrong, that have a desire to go back to the origin to how the church was in the beginning when it was the community, will know that Yahshua is Sovereign when they see the birds of all kinds of feathers dwell together in that tree, when they see *ahavah* love demonstrated through perfect unity. So, if we don't *have* love we are nothing; but if we *have* love we are everything.