

The Way of Love

Exodus 19:2-8; 20:1-3; 24:7-11

Because in the giving of God's law we get a
glimpse into true love.

The giving of god's law gives us a
glimpse into a committed love

Exodus 19:3-5

“This is what you are to say to the descendants of Jacob and what you are to tell the people of Israel: ‘You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself. Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession.’”

Exodus 24:7-11

"Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read it to the people. They responded, "We will do everything the Lord has said; we will obey." 8 Moses then took the blood, sprinkled it on the people and said, "This is the blood of the covenant that the Lord has made with you in accordance with all these words."

language of love

“I carried you,” “I brought you to myself,”
“to be My special treasure,” and “I am the
Lord your God.

.

language of law

(19:5-6) Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.

A Covenant is a committed relationship—similar to marriage. It's a relationship more loving and intimate than a legal relationship, yet more binding, enduring and accountable than a personal relationship.

"From here on out, it's no longer your love that supports the covenant, it's the covenant that sustains your love."

Committed love requires a certain
conduct.

The 10 commandments are the code of conduct for a committed love.

"I do not think the 10 Commandments should be displayed in public schools. I do think they should be kept. But they should be kept by the right people and for the right reasons." --Peter Enns

Keeping the 10 commandments is a
response rooted in love.

Exodus 20:1-3

And God spoke all these words: 2 “I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. 3

“You shall have no other gods before me.

Exodus 19:5-8

Although the whole earth is mine, 6 you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.'

“The entire law is summed up in a single command: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”

“You shall have no other gods before
me.” — Exodus 20:3

“A god means that from which we are to expect all good and to which we are to take refuge in all distress. ... That now, I say, upon which you set your heart and put your trust is properly your god.”

—Martin Luther, Larger Catechism

“Money flows effortlessly to that which is
its god.” — Tim Keller

“Money flows effortlessly to that which is
its god.” — Tim Keller

Committed love is costly.

Exodus 24:7-11

Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read it to the people. They responded, “We will do everything the Lord has said; we will obey.” 8 Moses then took the blood, sprinkled it on the people and said, “This is the blood of the covenant that the Lord has made with you in accordance with all these words.”

Exodus 24:9-11

Moses and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and the seventy elders of Israel went up¹⁰ and saw the God of Israel. Under his feet was something like a pavement made of lapis lazuli, as bright blue as the sky. ¹¹ But God did not raise his hand against these leaders of the Israelites; they saw God, and they ate and drank.

"Love without truth is sentimentality; it supports and affirms us but keeps us in denial about our flaws. Truth without love is harshness; it gives us information but in such a way that we cannot really hear it. God's saving love in Christ, however, is marked by both radical truthfulness about who we are and yet also radical, unconditional commitment to us. The merciful commitment strengthens us to see the truth about ourselves and repent. The conviction and repentance moves us to cling to and rest in God's mercy and grace." —Tim Keller, *Meaning of Marriage*

Committed love is costly.