

קְדוּשִׁים

Q'doshim

(holy)

Vayyiqra [Leviticus] 19:1-20:27

הַבְּרִית הַחֲדָשָׁה

HaB'rit HaChadashah

(the new covenant)

Matithyah [Matthew] 5:43-48

You Be Perfect

Matithyah (Matthew) 5:48

"You therefore shall be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect."

Many people have stumbled on this verse. But that is not necessary! This is particularly true when we look at this verse in context of what Yeshua was saying, and then in the context of all of Scripture itself. First let us look at the context of what Yeshua was saying.

Matithyah (Matthew) 5:43-48

43 "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor, and hate your enemy;'

44 but I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for them that persecute you;

45 that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He makes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the just and the unjust.

46 For if you love them that love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?

47 And if you greet your brothers only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same?

48 Ye therefore shall be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect."

The concept then of being perfect must include doing good to all regardless of how they treat us. As we have said in other places, this is not humanly possible, but only becomes possible when we are filled with His Spirit.

But many wonder if this idea of being perfect was something new that was not around before Yeshua taught it. But as we are about to see in some of the verses that follow, this is not anything new at all.

Devarim (Deuteronomy) 18:13

“You shall become perfect with YHWH your Elohim.”

What Yeshua taught was simply the Torah! He taught us the true meaning of what it means to be perfect before our heavenly Father by asking some very simple and pointed questions and by putting this command to be perfect in the context of loving our enemy as well as our neighbor.

The word “perfect” is the Hebrew word תָּמִיִּם – “tamiym,” which means “to be complete or entire.” It is this same word that is used to describe the Pesach sacrifice as being without blemish as well as many of the other sacrifices and offerings.

Shemot (Exodus) 12:5

“Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male a year old; you shall take it from the sheep, or from the goats.”

The importance of this concept is brought into very clear focus when we remember that this command is also dealing with the future coming of Mashiach, who was perfect or תָּמִיִּם. The word תָּמִיִּם comes from the root word תָּמַם – “tamam,” which means *to require nothing more*. When something does not require anything further, then it is complete and perfect; nothing needs to be added. In fact, to add to something that is perfect actually diminishes it and it is no longer perfect.

Tehillim (Psalm) 19:7

***The Torah of YHWH is perfect, restoring the soul;
The testimony of YHWH is sure, making wise the simple.***

In this passage we see that the Torah of YHWH is perfect. Nothing needs to be added to it or to be taken away from it. No wonder YHWH commanded us to do neither of these things.

Devarim (Deuteronomy) 4:2

“You shall not add to the word which I command you, neither shall you take away from it, that you may keep the commandments of YHWH your Elohim which I command you.”

For in the adding to or the taking away from, then what one has as a result, is no longer perfect. And if it is no longer perfect then it cannot restore the soul (nephesh) of a man.

Scripture teaches us that it is quite possible for us to be perfect in the eyes of YHWH.

B'reshit (Genesis) 6:9

These are the generations of Noach. Noach was a righteous man, and perfect in his generations; Noach walked with Elohim.

As we see from the Scriptural record, YHWH tells us that in His eyes Noach was a perfect man. This is the same word that we find as in the other passages above, both in the commandment and in the teachings of Yeshua our Mashiach. As the sacrifices that we are to bring to YHWH are to be תְּמִימִם so too are we to be in that same condition and state of being – perfect!

Romans 12:1-2

1 I beseech you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of Elohim, to present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to Elohim, which is your spiritual service.

2 And be not fashioned according to this world; but you be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of Elohim.

We are taught that we are to present ourselves as a living sacrifice. In this presentation we will prove what the perfect will of YHWH is in our lives and in this world. But in order to do this we must be a sacrifice without blemish, we must be perfect! But how can we do this? Humanly speaking it is not possible, but as the commandment teaches us in Devarim 18:13, we shall become perfect with YHWH in our lives. As Noach walked with YHWH his Elohim, when we walk with YHWH our Elohim, then in that process He will make us perfect.

Mishle (Proverbs) 11:20

***They that are perverse in heart are an abomination to YHWH;
But such as are perfect in their way are His delight.***

But getting from the complete state of imperfection into which we are born to that place of being a delight to YHWH our Elohim is a process which can be quite painful to us spiritually and emotionally, and perhaps sometimes even physically.

Matithyah (Matthew) 19:21

Yeshua said to him, "If you would be perfect, go, sell that which you have, and give to the poor, and you shall have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me."

One of the things that must happen if we are to be perfect before YHWH is that we need to lose our attachment to physical possessions. They must come to mean nothing to us, except that they are things to be used to do His will in our lives. But it is not just one's physical possessions that can be a stumbling block, but what comes out of his mouth as well.

Ya'aqov (James) 3:2

For in many things we all stumble. If any does not stumble in word, the same is a perfect man, able to bridle the whole body also.

The man who can control his tongue and not say things that he later regrets is perfect and able to control his whole being as well.

Ya'aqov (James) 1:2-4

2 Count it all joy, my brothers, when you come into various trials;

3 Knowing that the testing of your faith works endurance.

4 And let endurance have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

YHWH takes us through a series of trials in this life that He may perfect us. We need to learn how to submit to the work which YHWH is doing in our lives through these trials in order that we might attain the perfection that He is working in us.

Ivrim (Hebrews) 5:14

But solid food is for a perfect man, even those who by reason of use have their senses trained to discern good and evil.

As YHWH brings perfection into our lives, it will enable us to know the difference between good and evil.

Colossians 1:28

whom we proclaim, admonishing every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Mashiach Yeshua.

As we submit to the work which YHWH is doing in us by His Spirit, He will be able to present us perfect in Mashiach. There is no true perfection outside of Mashiach, for He is the perfect Lamb of YHWH!

ABBA YHWH, bring the work of perfection that You are doing in our lives to completion in Mashiach Yeshua. Amein.

Shabbat Shalom

Zerubbabel ben Emunah

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