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Talking Torah

Introduction

You know the feeling when you’re talking to someone about your passion and you can tell they don’t share that passion?

It’s not a great feeling is it?

Do you usually continue the discussion and go further in depth? Probably not, or at least not very often.

Unfortunately, too many times that is exactly what we do when we are “new to the faith” whether it be Hebrew Roots or mainstream Christianity. We want so much to tell everyone what we’ve learned that we just start talking and don’t stop!

Whether you’re “new to Torah” or have been in it for a while, you may find a lot of hostility to what you have to say when talking to others about Torah.

We wanted to take some time to share some of what we have learned from our own experiences about such things as when to talk about the Torah and when not to.

We are also going to look at how our attitudes, our actions, and our words play a huge part in how others respond to what we have to say. We have broken this teaching down into several broad sections made up of smaller parts: How to Talk Torah When You’re New, How Not to Bully Others With Your Attitude, Actions, and Words respectively. So, let’s get started.

How to Talk Torah When You’re New

To Talk Torah or Not

To be quite plain, we don’t believe these discussions should be occurring at an early time in your walk. We realize you simply want to share the truth and be a light, but without a firm foundation and maturity in the Word, your words may fall on deaf ears. If this happens often enough, especially with the same person, then you may become as a clanging cymbal like Paul mentions in 1 Corinthians 13 when discussing speaking in other languages to one who does not understand it.

We believe that a good model for our behavior lies in the Torah relating to the fruit trees.

To be brief, we are not to eat the fruit of a tree until it has reached a certain degree of maturity, its 5th year.

It is our experience that until a person has at least three years of good maturing in the Word of God (especially the Torah when one is new to Hebrew Roots), that it is in their best interest to avoid sharing everything they are learning.

For more on this, please see our blog "[Fruit Trees and You](#)".

We also strongly recommend only listening to the Word first, and not to men when seeking pure truth. Yes, this includes not listening to us as we are only human and fallible as well.

What we mean is, spend time in the Word alone first, and attempt to generate your own conclusions on things. After doing that, then perhaps consider examining other perspectives, after you have some foundation in the subject matter.

If you are new and seek to learn our perspective, we do offer our Torah Training Center and recommend you sign up for [Hebrew Roots 101](#).

As previously stated, we are still human and may not be correct in everything. Please test everything you hear whether it be from us or any other source to only the Word of God, reject all of man's understandings. We are even told to test the spirits, so keep that in mind as well.

Talking Torah...If You Must

If you still choose to enter into a discussion about following Torah or you are forced into one, you will find no shortage of people to challenge you in a vast array of topics. They may use Scripture to tear you down and build themselves up.

If you aren't able to provide sufficient answers to defend your position or that cause them to question their own understandings, it can actually backfire. Without the proper maturity level and foundation in the Torah yourself, you may find yourself floundering, shocked, and possibly offended.

It is for reasons like these and others that we recommended not "talking Torah" with anyone until you're well-grounded in the Word and truth of the Torah.

However, once people learn that you are no longer following a mainstream doctrine (even if it's just changing your diet or observing a Friday night to Saturday night Sabbath) it is almost inevitable that you will be pulled into such a discussion at one time or another.

In those cases, what do you do?

RUN! Okay, not really, but still, do your best to avoid going too deep into things you don't have a firm grasp on.

We have found there is wisdom in letting the other person talk, then thanking them for the information and letting them know you want to study it out more.

Then, go home and do just that. Test what they've said to the pure Word of God and see what you find. We aren't saying go back to them and tell them they are right or wrong, simply pray and meditate on it. Discern the truth through your study with the Father and apply what needs applied to your life.

When that doesn't work and you feel that you have no choice but to engage in a deeper discussion (this should almost never happen), there is something you need to remember.

When sharing the truth with anyone, it is not up to you to convince them of anything. YOU cannot convince them of the truth.

IT'S NOT YOUR JOB! It's not something you are even capable of; at least not at the heart level. This is the job of the Father through the Holy Spirit. Your words should simply point them to the Word and bring life, not death to others.

Remember, there is only one authority, the Word of God.

(For more on bringing life and death to others, please see our blog post "[Are We Speaking Life or Death?](#)".)

There are 4 things to do when these experiences come.

First examine yourself, your attitude, and you're your approach; more on those in a little bit.

Secondly, keep in mind Matthew 7:6.

Matthew 7:6 (ESV)

"Do not give dogs what is holy, and do not throw your pearls before pigs, lest they trample them underfoot and turn to attack you."

In many cases the other person may simply not yet be ready to hear what you have to say, and that's okay.

Because they may not be ready, you don't need to spend a lot of your time discussing it, especially if they are closed to your perspective and/or hostile. We don't wish for anyone to go through that which is why, again, we recommend avoiding those types of situations if at all possible.

When they are necessary, end them quickly.

Third, redirect to common ground and the redeeming work of Messiah that you both already agree upon; this helps to remind them that you are on the same side!

Finally, whether you're new to Hebrew Roots or not, keep your eyes focused on the Creator and His Word. Here are a couple of quick verses to help you check yourself.

1 Corinthians 4:12 (ESV)

*We work hard with our own hands. **When we are cursed, we bless; when we are persecuted, we endure it;***

Are you doing that? Here's what Yeshua did and why He's to be our example.

1 Peter 2:21-23 (ESV)

To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example that you should follow in his steps. "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly.

Now we will move into the real meat of this teaching, the "How Not to Bully Others" sections mentioned earlier. We are going to start with examining attitudes.

How Not to Bully Others With Your Attitude

Think back to times when you have tried to talk to your loved ones about applying Torah in your life. Some may be receptive while others may refuse to even talk about the subject or even become hostile, showing a side you would never have thought existed.

Sometimes it seems like the more you try to show them the truth of Scripture, the more hostile they become showing a side you would have never thought existed. Unfortunately, it isn't uncommon for people in Torah to be called a bully, bible thumper, or Torah Tyrant; even when they're no longer "new".

It doesn't always have to be that way; your approach may be the issue. Your attitude affects everything about your approach, which is why we are starting here; it impacts your actions and your words. If you don't have the right attitude then there is rarely anything good that can come of the conversation.

Perhaps the most important thing you need to keep in mind when sharing the applicability of Torah with others, is that they are loved by God and therefore **you** need to show them love. Keeping this in mind will help you maintain the proper loving perspective. You cannot show them love if your words and actions are born out of an unloving attitude.

Your Attitude

In order to talk about attitudes we must first understand perspectives. A person's perspective is the lens through which they view the world. This lens is how they interpret events and words, it comes from their experiences and how they choose to interpret them.

Your attitude is directly tied to your perspective.

You choose your perspective and thus you choose your attitude. Your attitude then dictates your outward behavior.

The other component that drives your attitude is your goal at any given time, what you are trying to accomplish in any given situation or conversation.

For example, are you striving to communicate truth with love or to prove a point? Are you trying to convince someone of some great "truth" that you've found as opposed to the "truth" that they know?

Remember, you and your beliefs are not the focus of the Word, love is.

YHWH is love. ([1 John 4:8](#))

You are to be a vehicle of love, a light to the world. ([Matthew 5:14-16](#))

People are to be drawn to Messiah through your example, your light.

If you are **not** being a light, you **might** be acting as a wedge or stumbling block because of your attitude, actions, or words.

If we claim to be children of God, then our lives need to reflect Him and His love; people should see Him in us.

How do they do that? Through our fruit.

The fruit of the Spirit of God is: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control; it is with this fruit that you should approach every conversation with your loved ones.

When you do, you will be loving your neighbor. Your goal should never be to convince someone their beliefs are wrong or that you are right.

Rather than striving to prove anything, you need to simply share what you are learning. But, and this is important, **only share if they are open to it.**

If a person isn't open to what you have to say, then stop talking about it. Messiah said not to cast your pearls before swine. Anyone who isn't truly open to what you have to say isn't going to hear what you're saying, even if you have the best attitude.

So let's take a look at a couple of examples showing how your attitude can affect your approach.

Some Examples

There is a difference between sharing something exciting that you have learned and trying to get someone to see how everything they've learned is wrong, that **you** somehow now have the truth. For example, we could say this:

"I've learned that we've been lied to for years in the church and that everything we were taught is wrong. We need to be following the Law of God because that's what Jesus did. Did you know Christmas and Easter are actually pagan sun god worship days? I don't understand it all yet, but I've been testing all of my old beliefs using a Hebrew perspective and they're almost all wrong.

You should start testing everything too; it's so clear that Christmas and Easter is wrong when you look at their pagan roots. While I may not know how everything works, I know a lot of what I've been taught isn't right. If you just look at the bible through its Hebrew roots you will see the same thing. If you really want to love God then you need to stop celebrating Easter and Christmas and just do what the Bible says. If you don't do that, then you don't really love God and you're just following man-made things. Obey the law of God, it's so freeing!"

Or you could say:

“Hey, I’ve recently heard something that really made me think. I’ve heard that obeying the Law of God is actually how we show Him that we love Him! I’m not sure how it all works yet, but I’m starting to study some stuff and it’s really got me thinking that maybe I haven’t understood the Bible as well as I thought I did. I’m even starting to think that what I thought were Jewish holidays like Passover and Unleavened Bread, aren’t really just for the Jews. It’s actually kind of cool to think that God set up holidays for His people to make us different from the rest of the world.

Have you heard that the traditions of Christmas and Easter might have a history steeped in sun god worship practices? From what I’ve seen, there may actually be some truth to it. What are your thoughts?”

Do you see the differences there? Both times you may be well-intentioned, but your approach is vastly different. Both methods are sharing from your heart, but your intent or perceived intent (and thus your attitude), appears to be quite different.

Which do you think would receive a more favorable response?

The first one is full of exuberance and zeal for what you may believe to be truth. You’re excited and want everyone to see the same things you do.

However, you may have just come across as being a bully...pushy...arrogant; like you are the only one to have all of the answers.

In their eyes you may appear to have an agenda, an intent beyond simply sharing. Without realizing it, you may be attacking your loved one’s personal beliefs causing them to get defensive.

At that point, what response does an individual usually have? A positive or negative one? If it continues, do you think they’ll come around or will they become increasingly hostile?

The second example is simply sharing some things they’ve been learning and they are offering an invitation for others to come alongside them on a new journey.

One is full of well-intentioned arrogance and superiority while the other has humility, gentleness, and remains at peace.

One has the fruit of the spirit, the other does not.

(Please note: we gave extreme examples to make a point, most likely your conversations will be somewhere in between those two.)

In order to make sure you have the proper attitude when speaking to someone about the Torah, first ask yourself these questions and in this order:

- 1.) What is my motivation behind having this conversation? What am I trying to achieve?
- 2.) Can I maintain a calm, peaceful, and loving attitude if they become hostile and disagree with me?

3.) What is my knowledge level on the subject? Do I just know something isn't true or can I correctly and fully explain how and where the misunderstanding is in a loving manner?

How you honestly answer these questions will determine whether or not you should move forward in a conversation. You may even need to ask yourself these questions before you respond to someone while in the midst of a conversation, in order to help you maintain the proper attitude.

If you have to do this in the midst of a discussion ask yourself an additional question or two such as: "What is this person responding or reacting to? Was it something I said or how I said it?"

Communicating the Torah peacefully without pushing away those you love is not about how convincing your argument is, or even how wrong they are. One really has nothing to do with the other.

Communicating in love is about **who** you are and **how** you are communicating.

Sometimes you may know all of the right words to say, yet you may come across with the wrong attitude. When that happens the person will typically reject what is being said, at least for the moment.

What's really sad is that they could have been on the verge of really getting it, but because of how it was communicated, they may turn away from it.

When people are faced with an inappropriate attitude (perceived or otherwise) they will start to put a fence up to end the hostility they are feeling. If this happens, stop and look for an opportunity to learn something about how to better communicate with love.

Even if you do mess up one interaction, that isn't the end of the world, you may still have planted a seed for YHWH to water.

Now that we've covered the basics of our attitudes, or how we are communicating, we can move in to how we can become bullies with our actions.

Talking Torah Part 3: How Not to Bully Others By Your Actions

In your discussions, you've verified that you have the right attitude but the majority of people are still taking offense and getting defensive when you discuss things with them, then maybe there is something in your actions that needs checked.

Your Actions

What we mean by actions isn't necessarily something physical you are doing to them, like invading their personal space. It's possible they are watching you and are seeing some amount of hypocrisy in your life; your actions are not matching your words.

You could be talking about love, but when you communicate you are forceful or inconsiderate when speaking with them. The manner in which you are communicating may even be perceived as hostile or aggressive.

In general, your actions can include, but are not limited to, your body language, tone of voice, volume of voice, how you are projecting your emotions, as well as physical activity.

What Actions?

We are not experts, by any means. We will provide a few links for you to review that can help you learn about your body language and the body language of others, in the transcript. Having this knowledge should help you in your interactions with others as you become more mindful of what your body is communicating as well as how they are responding.

[Are You Keeping People Away with Your Body Language? 10 Tips to Improve Your Body Language](#)

[The Ultimate Guide to Body Language](#)

[Body Language](#)

In addition to knowing about body language, there is wisdom in refusing to approach some individuals. Once someone has already indicated they disagree with your understandings, it is ill-advised for you to push the issue any further. Unfortunately many people continue to hound and pursue those who have already said they weren't interested or that they disagreed. We have heard stories about people in Torah continually bad-mouthing and instigating arguments with others who disagree with them.

When you try to push your own agenda and beliefs upon someone you are doing a couple of different things.

- 1.) You are accomplishing almost nothing more than irritating and angering the other person.
- 2.) You give others in Hebrew Roots the bad reputation of being "hyper-religious", a "Torah Nazi", or a "Torah Tyrant" among other things.

and most importantly

- 3.) You are giving the Father a bad name and reputation by being a poor witness and representative of who He is and what He desires of His people.

If someone disagrees with you, then fine, let them disagree. By pursuing someone who doesn't want to hear, you are only leaving a bad taste in their mouths regarding the Torah and people who subscribe to Hebrew Roots. If they are not interested, then leave them alone and be a good witness until they are ready to listen.

All of the above is important, but perhaps the most important actions we take, concern our approach, essentially the way we discuss things. For example, if someone is telling you about their plans for Christmas, and then ask what yours are, you shouldn't respond with:

"We don't have any plans for Christmas because we no longer celebrate pagan holidays."

Such a statement can do a few things.

First it can make it seem like you are too good for them and are putting them below you, arrogance.

Second it is disrespecting them; they were trying to share their joy with you but instead you've disregarded their joy and now said that what they do is pagan; almost accusing them of being pagan which has the connotation of something bad or evil to many people.

Essentially you've just accused them of doing bad things and maybe even being evil depending on how they take it.

And finally, you have shared far too much for the context of the scenario. You could have simply said that you no longer celebrate Christmas, and left it there.

If they cared enough to know more, they would ask why or why not. At that point you could give them a bit more information as long as you didn't take the same tone the previous statement implies.

When we give people unwanted information it not only falls on deaf ears, but it can actually begin to build a wall between us and those we are speaking with. You may earn the reputation of being hyper-religious; they may start to close themselves off to future discussions with you because of it.

The Dangers of Oversharing

Sharing too much is easy to do and can be one of the most detrimental things to a discussion. When you share too much it's likely you have not taken the other person's feelings, intent, and personal spiritual walk into consideration. You have now started to become an aggressor with an agenda to tell them how wrong they are in what they know.

Sharing too much can actually derail someone in their walk, or at least provide them a detour from where they should be going. While testing everything is good and should be done, there is an aspect of testing things at the right time that comes into play.

To use an example from mainstream Christianity, you wouldn't take someone who has just learned about the Messiah and then dump them into a deep study about spiritual warfare and make them a "prayer warrior" would you? Not typically.

It's not that those things are bad, but they may not be ready for it. They may become consumed by the topic and miss out on developing a firm foundation in the Word and gaining a deeper understanding of grace, salvation, and faith. In the same way, you shouldn't start a conversation with someone telling them what they believe is wrong or jump into the deeper concepts found in the Torah including topics like the calendar and "the name".

You should talk about the areas you already agree on such as who the Messiah is, how we do all have grace, how salvation works, and who we are as being grafted into Israel. As Paul alluded to, they need the milk before we should give them the meat. When we overshare, we tend to start giving the meat long before they're ready.

Another thing oversharing can do is turn someone off from wanting to discuss things with you because they don't want to listen for as long as you'll speak. If someone asks a simple question about a topic (let's say if $2+2=4$), and you go into a 10 minute explanation regarding the mechanics of the mathematics behind it and number theory, it's unlikely they will want to ask you about something even more important.

Put simply, oversharing may occur out of a desire to be helpful, but if it fails to take the person into account; it becomes all about you and your knowledge.

Communicating the Torah without pushing away friends and family is about you and your actions just as much as a good meal requires a good cook with knowledge and experience on how to prepare it. You may have the right attitude going into a conversation but when your actions (body language, tone, amount of sharing, etc.) are all wrong, things are likely to go awry.

Think about times this may have happened to you and look for an opportunity to learn something about how you were communicating a message by your actions and not just words.

Now we'll move on to the final topic, your words.

How not to Bully Others With Your Words

Remember the feeling when you walk into a store and get bombarded with salespeople? Remember how it feels to have someone so working hard to show you all of the benefits of a product, and how it is so much better than what you have, but you really aren't interested?

In fact, you're probably becoming annoyed and less interested by the moment in what they have to say. You don't want to be that salesperson, especially when it comes to discussing Scripture with someone.

Unfortunately that's a reality many of us have experienced when we are new to Torah or trying to share the truth of Torah with someone else.

So far we've covered how you need to be mature (3-5 years mature) before you really start sharing and discipling others when it comes to the Torah.

We have also looked at how both our attitudes and our actions can turn someone away from the truth; how our approach may not be what it should and we could actually be bullying them into Torah. In this final section we will look at how we can be bullying others about Torah using our words.

First let's look at how being mindful of what we say is just as important as our attitude and actions.

How Your Experiences May Be Affecting Your Conversations?

Perspectives come from experiences and directly affect the attitudes adopted in a conversation. This is true for everyone who participates in a conversation on any topic, including Scripture.

When someone receives the understanding that the Torah applies to them today, there is usually a gamut of emotions that go through them. These emotions can range from joy, love, and thankfulness because of the truth to anger and distrust because they feel deceived.

The first three, joy, love and thankfulness are obviously good and are the ones we should operate out of when speaking with others. Unfortunately anger and distrust may also color our views on specific topics, such as our time and teaching in or from mainstream Christianity.

Remember, our experiences color our perspective, which affects our attitude. Our attitudes then dictate how both our actions and our words are projected into a conversation. What those words mean to an individual though, is based upon their perspective.

This is true whether you are the one speaking the words or the one hearing them; which is why our words are so important.

We have discussed how our attitudes and our actions affect our conversations previously, but how might we be using our words to bully others? We do this by not taking the other person into consideration first. When we do this we make the conversation all about us and our perspective; we act selfishly.

It's imperative that we take the focus off of ourselves and put it on the Word and meet people where they are.

Considering Others...First

Among the best ways to take others into consideration is to first ask yourself these questions. If you aren't certain of the answers before you begin the conversation, then you need to tread very lightly until you do know the answers; get the answers as soon as you can.

1.) What is your point and purpose of having this discussion?

This may be the most important question as it sets your tone, defines your perspective, and reveals your attitude. Ask yourself "why am I wanting to tell people about this topic and what am I trying to accomplish?"

With the wrong motivation you are more likely to do harm than good. If your goal is to convince someone, or even show them, how their beliefs are wrong and misguided, then you need to stop. Do not go forward as this is the wrong motivation.

Any motivations led by your own desires are not the proper ones.

If you come into a conversation with any other motive than to love your neighbor then you have already taken the wrong route and risk damaging your relationship and losing credibility with the person.

2.) Can you maintain calm, peace, and a loving attitude if they become hostile and disagree with you?

If you are unable to keep yourself from getting riled up when in a heated argument, then we advise against entertaining discussions.

Discussions relating to religion and other deep-seeded beliefs (objects/subjects of their faith) often enflame people's passions. Too often tempers flare and the words become both hostile and/or defensive. You may take offense and you may offend them.

In these situations, neither side wins.

For more on how to handle offense, please see our teaching titled "[It's A Matter of Self-Offense](#)".

3.) What is your knowledge level on a subject? Do you just know something isn't true or do you have the explanation of how or where the misunderstanding is?

It's always dangerous to get into a conversation/debate/argument with someone relating to Scripture if you don't have a strong foundation and depth of knowledge in the specific area.

It's one thing to have a general knowledge, but the discussions we're talking about often go deeper. In those discussions it is most beneficial for you have a deep knowledge of the topic and can communicate it clearly and in multiple ways.

If you cannot do that, then do not have the discussion.

4.) Do they believe the whole Word of God is true?

If the person you are speaking with does not already believe the whole Word of God to be true, then things are likely going to be very difficult for you.

If they only believe the New Testament applies, then you may struggle making your point and they are less likely to be open to what you have to say. In these types of discussions, it's best to stay on common ground and avoid arguments or debates.

5.) Are they a deeply religious individual with strongly held beliefs?

When someone is deeply religious, or very zealous about their beliefs, your ability to offend them increases almost exponentially. The closer held a specific belief is to someone, the less open they are to discussing it.

If you challenge a deeply held belief, you may quickly find the person close themselves off to what you have to say. Additionally, and perhaps more importantly, they are more likely to feel like you are attacking them personally.

After all, what are we as people other than the summation of our beliefs? Tread very carefully in discussions with such people, we strongly recommend you avoid such sensitive subjects unless they actually come to you seeking truth.

You **MUST** remember it is **NOT YOUR JOB** to tell them they are wrong in what they believe.

Let us repeat that.

It is **NOT YOUR JOB** to tell someone that they are wrong, or that their beliefs are wrong. Yes, we can communicate truth in love; but it's better to give them something to think about than to simply say they are wrong.

You could ask them some challenging questions or something of that nature. For some examples of these types of questions, we recommend our short "[The Unanswerable Questions](#)" teaching.

When you take that stance, the person is automatically put into defense mode and you're on the attack.

These people are not your enemy, they're not even your opponent; so you don't get to treat them as if they are. Even if your loved ones are deceived, as so many are and likely you were yourself, you do not get to go and point out everything they are wrong about.

9 times out of 10, they are not going to accept what you have to say. You don't get to convict them of anything; the Holy Spirit of YHWH will do that. You only get to love them.

6.) Is the individual open to other perspectives and willing to test their own beliefs? Are they seeking?

This may actually be the second most important question of all.

Unless a person is actively seeking the truth, regardless of what they find, they are unlikely to accept anything you have to say.

There is a reason Scripture tells us that if we seek we will find. The inverse is also true, if we are not seeking the Father and His truths, we will not find them. Not only will we not find them, but we also won't be open if they are presented to us.

We don't recommend engaging in discussions about the Torah with someone who is not seeking truth in whatever form it may come. Yes, you may plant a seed in passing, giving them something to think about.

However, we would strongly recommend against actually engaging in a discussion with them.

At best, it will be unfruitful in that moment; at worst, offense is taken and relationships are destroyed.

About Your Words

Did you notice how four of the six questions are about you?

This is because if you are not in the right place, with the right motivation, the correct attitude, and the proper level of maturity, things will only be more difficult and your frustration is likely to skyrocket.

It's unlikely that much good will come out of discussions when neither you nor the other individual are in the right place.

More likely is that one or both of you will come away feeling personally attacked and negative about the discussion.

There is a reason we are warned about both our words and our tongues.

James 1:26 (ESV)

If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person's religion is worthless.

Proverbs 15:4 (ESV)

A gentle tongue is a tree of life, but perverseness in it breaks the spirit.

Proverbs 18:21 (ESV)

Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits.

Ephesians 4:29 (ESV)

Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.

Proverbs 12:18 (ESV)

There is one whose rash words are like sword thrusts, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.

Matthew 12:36 (ESV)

I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak,

Your words are powerful and are not something to be taken lightly; they can be a blessing or they can wound deeply.

All too often our conversations with loved ones about the Torah start out with good intent and well meaning, but when we start to encounter resistance to what we say and believe, the fruits of the spirit begin to disappear.

The same is true of our loved ones; they may start out open and willing to listen, but if they sense or start to see anything but pure, unadulterated love from you they will often begin to react with hostility toward you.

This begins a vicious cycle of negativity with each interaction elevating above the one before, until pretty soon both sides are angry, being both defensive of their own beliefs and aggressive.

If you have had, or are having discussions like this, you need to shift your perspective; it will change your attitude towards them. We cannot communicate and show the love of the Creator for that individual when our own perspective sees them as the opposition.

Before we ever let that fire of hostility ignite within us, we need to stop, drop, and roll in a different direction. Instead of reacting to what our loved ones are saying, we need to respond out of love.

For more on responding instead of reacting, please see our blog titled "[React or Respond?](#)".

CONCLUSION

As with most people who come into a new belief system (mainstream Christianity, Hebrew Roots, etc.), it's normal to be excited and want to share it with everyone. This isn't always the best idea; sharing the Word of God is less about telling everyone your beliefs and more about sharing and teaching them the whole Word and what it looks like to walk it out.

It's about making disciples, which is a lifestyle and something only those mature in their faith should undertake.

It's for similar reasons that Paul instructed Timothy that the elders of the congregations needed to be mature in their faith and not simply someone who is new and exuberant. You may have all of the right ideas and a new understanding, but it doesn't mean you are ready to teach others or engage in discussions with those who are in opposition to you.

Persecution will come, and when it does...know that you're not alone. Persecution is to be expected by His people; it's always been there. However know that you will get through it and things do get better.

If you have to enter into a discussion or situation with a loved one that is hostile to the Word of God, keep it light and brief. Everyone has something right, and everyone has something wrong; we should be learning from one another and sharpening one another.

You can take what they say back to the Word and test it yourself. You never know, it may help you grow and become even more solidified in your own faith. But be careful not to spend all of your time testing out every theory that comes across your path.

When you're just starting out, you're in sponge mode, spend your time soaking up the Word of God, not every doctrine of man or new theory that comes your way.

Now is the time to focus on the Father and His will. In His time, you will be ready and lead into the discussions you need to be in; not before.

If, and when, you do engage others in a discussion related to the Torah, there are 3 things you absolutely must keep a tight rein on: your attitude, your actions, and your words.

When you are careful in these three areas, your conversations are less likely to turn hostile and allow an exchange of information rather than become an argument.

You must be able to keep the right attitude.
Your attitude largely comes from your perspective and your goals.

When you keep the love of the Creator and sharing that love as your perspective and goal, then you will better bear the fruits of the spirit. They will be able to see the Creator and His love in you. You will be a vehicle of love and light to them.

Loving your neighbor means keeping them in prayer, showing them love, and seeking the will of the Father for your life and theirs. Then, when your loved ones choose to either accept or reject the Word, you will be able to remain at peace with them because your attitude comes from a place of love.

Your actions and your words are the other two items to keep in mind; they stem from the attitude with which you are approaching the conversation.

When your attitude is right, it's easier to have the appropriate actions and to say the appropriate words. Your actions may not be something directed toward the individual but something they have seen you do or heard you say.

How we live our lives is our witness to them.

How you act whether someone is watching or not can greatly influence your conversations with people. If you are being watched then they will see your character; if you're not being watched then the good actions reinforce your own heart and mindset helping you maintain a good attitude and operate out of love.

Your actions and words are part of your fruit. When your attitude, actions, or words begin to go the wrong direction, so will the conversation. When good fruit disappears and bad fruit begins forming in your relationships, a wall of separation begins to form.

Once these negative feelings begin to take hold, our attitudes change from love to hostility. Our goal in the conversation transforms from being to communicate the love and truth of the Word to proving we are right and they are wrong and thus the wedge begins to form.

Our words are no longer loving, our body language shows them how we really feel, and our own perspective becomes an "us" versus "them" mentality. It doesn't take long for such discussions to affect our relationships and one side wants nothing to do with the other.

When you find yourself in a conversation starting to drift away from being loving, take a deep breath and examine your attitude and your actions. Make sure your heart is right and then go back to common ground, the love of the Father and the Word because where there is love there is peace.

We hope that this teaching has blessed you and has been of some help in navigating the tricky life you now lead in following Torah. In a world hostile to the truth, the Word, it can be difficult to know what to say, how to say it, and to whom it should be said.

Putting what we've said into action should help you maintain peace and love when a close friend or loved one in your life wants to discuss your beliefs. We know it has for us.

May YHWH bless you, keep you, and lead you in all that you do.

We hope you've enjoyed this teaching.

Remember, continue to test everything.

Shalom!

For more on this and other teachings, please visit us at www.testeverything.net

Shalom, and may Yahweh bless you in walking in the whole Word of God.

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