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## **New Testament Love Feasts are Israel's Feast Days**

By K.W. Lent Honor our heritage days!

Some of the other “Mini Topics” as well as longer articles on this website have pointed out that the New Testament apostles and saints were observing the Feast Days of Saxon Israel well into the New Testament period. Another point to realize is that the Bible is not two books to two different people (“Jews” and “Christians”) rather it is one book to the same people, God's Israel. But in writing the newer Scriptures of the New Testament, a few of the older words and names of people and places of the Older Testament were changed to a certain degree. For instance the same Feast Day (Holy Day) known as Feast of Weeks or First Fruits (Lev.23:16; Deut.16:9,10) is called Pentecost in the New Testament (Acts 2:1). Elijah the prophet of the Old Testament is called Elias in the New Testament (Mat.11:14; Lk. 4:25). Even the title of our Savior is “Messiah” in the Old, but “Christ” in the New. (Dan.9:25; Mat.16:16)

In much the same manner, God's Old Testament Feasts collectively are simply referred to as “Love Feasts” in the New Testament. The King James Version has “charity” instead of the word “love” but the Greek word used is Ag-ah'-pay (Strong's Grk. # 26) defined as “*love feast, feast of charity*”. Jude warns us of false brethren who would subvert the true meaning of God's Love Feasts: “*These are spots in your feasts of charity (love -Agahpay), when they feast with you --*”(Jude 12) “*--- sporting themselves with their own deceivings while they feast with you.*” (I Peter 2:13) It's important to note that there is no new appointing of new times for these feasts, such as the apostles saying that NT love feasts will be held on new calendar days/times.

The teaching that the New Testament Love Feasts were just different feast days made up to suit the moment is without merit, even a dangerous concept. We are not Scripturally permitted to discard Yahweh's appointed Feast Days and substitute them with our appointed Feast and Holy Days. The apostles would never think of doing such an heretical act for they well knew that the New Testament is founded upon both their revelations in Christ and the prophets' words. (Eph.2:20) Here is what God says of Feasts in the book of Isaiah the prophet: “*Your \_\_\_\_\_ new months and your appointed feasts my soul hateth, they are a trouble unto me; I am weary to bear them.*” (Is. 1:14) No new different times were ever appointed to the Agahpay Feasts.

There would be nothing to “love” about newly ordained feasts which Christians may carelessly assume to be proper, because they had no authority to change God's Feasts. The meaning of Agahpay (Love Feast) in and of itself implies obedience to the Law of God about Feasts found in the commandments. Jesus said, “*If you love me keep my commandments*”(John 14:15). It was Christ pre-incarnate who gave the Law to Moses, for Moses esteemed Christ. (Heb. 11:26) “*And this is love, that we walk after His (God's) commandments*” (II John 6) “*For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments: and His commandments are not grievous.*” (I John 5:3) The word for “love” in these verses, telling us to obey God's commandments, is the same Greek root word as the NT “Love Feasts” - *Agahpay*. “Love Feasts” mean “Feasts in obedience to God's Law”. The Feasts we are to love are God's Feasts found in Leviticus 23. *Yahweh said, “Speak unto the children of Israel. And say unto them, Concerning the Feasts of Yahweh, which ye shall proclaim to be holy convocations, even these are my Feasts.”* (Lev.23:2) The New Testament term for the collective sum of Yahweh's Feasts is Agahpay – love feasts. This term neither changed, nor altered, Yahweh's Feasts.