



DISCOVERING THE BIBLE & OUR BIBLICAL HERITAGES

Providing factual information about the Bibles, beliefs, movements, institutions, events and people of historical Christianity & Judaism.

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Finding the True Meaning of the Word “Love”

By Rabbi Jeffrey Leynor



Rabbi Leynor

In the late 1990s, I brought my two young children in for play therapy to help them process my divorce. That day, I met a woman who would literally save my life and transform me forever.

She was thirteen years my junior, the most beautiful, smartest, most competent and grown up woman I had ever met. I was stressed out, angry, hurt and approaching 500 pounds, but oddly enough, that first day there were sparks. I was very attracted to her and sensed the same thing from her. How could this be? Women like Karen don't fall for men like me! In my eyes I had the terrible twos, too old, too fat and two kids!

Over the next number of months, Karen joined my congregation in Richardson. She became very involved and studied for her adult bat mitzvah as her son Austin studied for his bar mitzvah. Karen was a single mom and Austin never had a father in his life. During this time Karen and I started seeing one another and Austin flourished having a stable male figure in his life. As time went on, Karen and I fell in love.

I didn't understand it then and I don't know if I'll ever fully understand it, but she saw passed my terrible twos. She loved me, as I was. We decided to marry. She then put me on her medical insurance and nursed me through having the gastric bypass. I shrank from being the size of three people down to the size of one, (OK, maybe one and one quarter!). Life was good. Besides the birth of my two children, this was the happiest time in my adulthood.

For two years and eight months there was real joy. Karen became a second mom and great model for my children and I became Austin's father. In May of 2004, Karen suffered a brain aneurysm, which left her in a permanent vegetative state. I never saw another look of recognition or heard her voice again. She died in my arms three months later.

They say hindsight is everything. Karen came to save my life and deposit her most precious possession with me. I have been truly blessed. I have three amazing children and have known the true meaning of love. When we in the modern world hear the word love, we think of an emotion, but when we look to the Bible we see a different meaning. In the Hebrew Bible, the word for love is *ahavah*. The root in Hebrew is *ahav*, which means *to give* -- **to love is to give**.

The Hebrew Scriptures have a strikingly pragmatic character. There, *ōloveō* includes conscious acts done in behalf of the person who is loved. So, to love the Lord and loving your neighbor and yourself involve concrete acts. This is what both the Jewish tradition and the Jewish Jesus teach.

Real love is the guide as we walk through the darkness.

BHC

May Memorials

In Loving Memory

**SIDNEY
PERRY
DOSH, JR.**

Born: October 18, 1938

Died: May 17, 2006

*May you dwell under His
wings in complete
SHALOM forever!*

In Their Remembrance

May their memories inspire us to seek those qualities of mind and heart which they shared when we walked life's journey together. May we help to bring closer to fulfillment their highest ideals and noblest strivings.

May their memories deepen our loyalty to those things which we valued and shared -- faith, love, peace and devotion and our biblical heritage. As long as we live, they too will live; for they are now a part of us, as we remember them.

(Inspired from prayers found in Yitzhor Reflections - The New Mahzor - The Prayer Book Press)

In Loving Memory

**SIDNEY
BERRY
WARD, SR.**

October 3, 1891

May 27, 1976

*May you dwell under His
wings in complete
SHALOM forever!*



Sid Dosh

Sid Dosh was a special friend and an associate of Jim Myers and Ike Tennison. He was a co-founder of the **Center of Biblical Analysis**. Sid was a deep thinker and great scholar. We spent many hours studying ancient Greek and Hebrew texts of biblical books and talking about how they affected lives today. Sid touched many lives -- *and he is greatly missed*. Visit Sid's memorial page on our website at <http://www.biblicalheritage.org/Memorials/dosh.htm>

Remembering those who came before us is a very important part of the Biblical Heritage Center's mission. It is our privilege to honor them by the BHC Memorial Garden and Memorials which are printed in this newsletter. The Memorial Garden is on the website at <http://www.biblicalheritage.org>. Please visit it the next time you are on the Internet and stop back by often. If you would like to add your loved one to this section, send the information to us. There is no charge, but donations are accepted. Remember those who have meant so much to you with a BHC Memorial.

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