



Part 1: The Mitzva to Love

A Question

1. "Love your fellow like yourself."

-Leviticus 19:18

2. Rabbi Akiva said, "This is a great principle in the Torah."

- Sifra

3. A heathen came to Shammai, wanting to convert to Judaism on the condition that he be taught the entire Torah while standing on one foot. Shammai rejected him with a measuring rod. He then approached Hillel who agreed and replied, "What is hateful to you do not do to your fellow. This is the entire Torah --the rest is commentary, go and study."

-Talmud Shabbat 31a

One at our very Core

4. "All Israel comprises one complete entity within the soul of Adam...each individual Jew constitutes one particular part (of Adams soul). This is the basis of the responsibility of one Jew for another..."

-The Saintly Arizal, Sefer Taamei Hamitzvot

5. "An analogy, a human body consists of various parts: head, feet, hands, nails etc., yet each part incorporates all the others."

-Rabbi Menachem Mendel of Lubavitch, Chassidic Discourse; Mitzvas Ahavat Yisrael

6. "It is proper to recite before Prayer; I accept upon myself the Mitzva to love your fellow like yourself."

- Siddur Arizal, Intro to the daily Prayers