

AA35. Not Harboring Selfish Ambition.

We are not to harbor selfish ambition.

This precept is derived from His Word (blessed is He):

Key New Testament Scriptures

Galatians 5:19-20

And it is perfectly evident what the old nature does. It expresses itself in sexual immorality, impurity and indecency; involvement with the occult and with drugs; in feuding, fighting, becoming jealous and getting angry; in selfish ambition, factionalism, intrigue ..

James 3:14

But if you harbor in your hearts bitter jealousy and selfish ambition, don't boast and attack the truth with lies!

Additional New Testament Scriptures

Philippians 1:17

James 3:16

Related New Testament Mitzvot

AA43 Not Being Self-Seeking

RA19 Instructing Widows to Not Be Self-Indulgent

GB36 Not Engaging in Excesses and Self Indulgence

GB44 Self Control (Discipline)

Supportive Tanakh Scriptures

Numbers 16:28-29

Moshe said, "Here is how you will know that ADONAI has sent me to do all these things and that I haven't done them out of my own ambition: if these men die a natural death like other people, only sharing the fate common to all humanity, then ADONAI has not sent me.

Comment

Ambition is the desire and motivation to achieve something; it is a godly trait if its goal and means of achieving it are themselves godly (e.g., Romans 15:20). Selfish ambition, on the other hand, is not godly and we are commanded against it. It is the sinful promotion of self-interest in disregard or at the expense of others. It typically begins with coveting something of interest or value that is possessed or owned by another, and then developing a desire and motivation to take it for one's self.

Related Mitzvot in Volumes 1 & 2

H08 *Dying to Self*