

DA46. Comforting Our Neighbor.

We are to comfort to our neighbor.

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

Key New Testament Scriptures

Romans 12:8

.. if you are a counselor, use your gift to comfort and exhort; if you are someone who gives, do it simply and generously; if you are in a position of leadership, lead with diligence and zeal; if you are one who does acts of mercy, do them cheerfully.

1 Thessalonians 2:12

.. we encouraged you and comforted you and appealed to you to lead lives worthy of God, who calls you into his Kingdom and glory.

Additional New Testament Scriptures

John 11:19

2 Corinthians 2:6-7

Galatians 5:14

Ephesians 6:21-22

2 Timothy 1:16

Related New Testament Mitzvot

DA07 Being Sensitive to Each Other's Needs

DA12 Being Good & Kind to One Another

DA24 Loving Our Brother and Neighbor

DA32 Empathizing & Sympathizing with Our Neighbor's Joys and Sorrows

DA37 Empathizing with and Mistreated to the Imprisoned

DA76 Bearing One Another's Burdens

Supportive Tanakh Scriptures

Leviticus 19:18

Don't take vengeance on or bear a grudge against any of your people; rather, love your neighbor as yourself; I am ADONAI.

2 Samuel 10:2

David said, "I will show grace to Hanun the son of Nachash, as his father showed grace to me." So David sent his servants to pass him a message of comfort concerning his father. David's servants entered the territory of the people of 'Amon;

1 Chronicles 7:22

Efrayim their father mourned for a long time, and his kinsmen came to comfort him.

Job 2:11

Now when Iyov's three friends heard of all the calamities that had overwhelmed him, they all came. Each came from his own home- Elifaz from Teiman, Bildad from Shuach and Tzofar from Na'amah. They had agreed to meet together in order to come and offer him sympathy and comfort.

Isaiah 1:3-4

Comfort and keep comforting my people," says your God.

Comment

There are many Scriptures telling us that God is the source of our comfort, 2 Corinthians 1:3-4 being one of them:

“Praised be God, Father of our Lord Yeshua the Messiah, compassionate Father, God of all encouragement and comfort; who encourages us in all our trials, so that we can encourage others in whatever trials they may be undergoing with the encouragement we ourselves have received from God.”

Why, therefore, are there Scriptures that require that we comfort one another? It is because we are created in God’s image and are therefore to love our neighbor as God loves us and taught us how (1 John 4:19). We live in a fallen world and are therefore subject to pain, anguish, disappointment, broken-heartedness, grief, and more. God wants us to overcome in the face of these, and He uses our comfort of each other as one of the ways that He empowers us to do so.

Caveat: One must be careful not to comfort another in a manner that endorses or enables the continuation of sinful behavior.

Related Mitzvot in Volumes 1 & 2

N01 Loving Our Neighbor, the Stranger, and Even Our Enemy

N18 Being Compassionate & Merciful Toward Our Neighbor