

DA47. Not Deceiving Our Neighbor.

We are not to deceive our neighbor.

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

Key New Testament Scriptures

2 Corinthians 4:2

Indeed, we refuse to make use of shameful underhanded methods, employing deception or distorting God's message. On the contrary, by making very clear what the truth is, we commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God.

1 Peter 2:1

Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice, of all deceit, hypocrisy and envy, and of all the ways there are of speaking against people;

1 Peter 3:10

For "Whoever wants to love life and see good days must keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit,

Additional New Testament Scriptures

Romans 3:13, 16:18

Ephesians 4:25, 5:6

Colossians 2:8

2Thessalonians 2:10

2 Peter 2:13

Related New Testament Mitzvot

DA03 Not Harming Our Neighbor

DA18 Not Causing Our Neighbor or Brother to Stumble

DA24 24 Loving Our Brother and Neighbor

DA25 Not Defrauding Our Neighbor

DA51 Not Being Mean to One Another

Supportive Tanakh Scriptures

Psalms 24:4

Those with clean hands and pure hearts, who don't make vanities the purpose of their lives or swear oaths just to deceive.

Psalms 35:20

For they don't speak words of peace but devise ways to deceive the peaceful of the land.

Psalms 43:1

Judge me, God, and plead my cause against a faithless nation. Rescue me from those who deceive and from those who are unjust.

Psalms 119:29

Keep deceitful ways far from me, and favor me with your Torah.

Proverbs 24:28

Don't be a witness against your neighbor for no reason- would you use your lips to deceive?

Jeremiah 17:9

The heart is more deceitful than anything else and mortally sick. Who can fathom it?

Comment

This *Mitzvah* #DA47, to not deceive our neighbor, is an obvious extension of the *Mitzvah* to love our neighbor. There are, nevertheless, exceptions; they are when deception is allowed or even used by God to achieve godly ends such as saving a life, testing us, or avoiding injustice.

One such case is in Genesis 20:2 where, in order to protect his wife Sarah, Abraham lied to Avimelekh, telling him that Sarah was his sister. Another case is Joshua 2:1 (and verses following), where Y'hoshua son of Num secretly sent spies to inspect land in the vicinity of (and including) Yericho in order to determine if it was safe for the Israelites to go there. A third case is in 1 Samuel 19:13-17 where, in order to prevent Saul from killing David, Michal told Saul that David was sick, whereas the truth was that David had escaped and was fleeing.

God warns us against spiritual deception, but He sometimes allows it in order to test us. Such was the case where God allowed Satan to tempt and deceive Eve, and Eve did likewise to Adam. They failed the test, and we are paying for it.

Related Mitzvot in Volumes 1 & 2

- C01 Being Fair & Honest in Business
- M02 Keeping Our Promises
- M03 Telling the Truth
- N02 Wronging One Another through Our Speech
- N06 Exploiting a Neighbor's Weakness