

DA65. Not Insulting Our Neighbor.

We are not to insult our neighbor.

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

Key New Testament Scriptures

2 Timothy 3:1-2

Moreover, understand this: in the acharit-hayamim will come trying times. People will be self-loving, money-loving, proud, arrogant, insulting, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy,..

Additional New Testament Scriptures

Matthew 27:39

Mark 12:4, 15:29, 32

Luke 18:32, 20:11, 22:65, 23:29

Acts 13:45, 18:6

Romans 15:3

1 Timothy 6:3-4

1 Peter 2:23, 3:8-9, 4:14

Related New Testament Mitzvot

AA22 Speaking Only That Which is Holy and Beneficial

DA06 Showing Respect for One Another

DA26 Not Quarreling or Fighting with Our Neighbor

DA43 Not Calling Any Person Common or Unclean

DA51 Not Provoking Our Neighbor

DA60 Treating Persons with Respect in Ways Appropriate to Their Respective Ages, Genders, and Relationships

Supportive Tanakh Scriptures

Job 19:3

You've insulted me ten times already; aren't you ashamed to treat me so badly?

Psalms 55:13(12)-14(13)

For it was not an enemy who insulted me; if it had been, I could have borne it. It was not my adversary who treated me with scorn; if it had been, I could have hidden myself. But it was you, a man of my own kind, my companion, whom I knew well.

Psalms 69:21(20)

Insults have broken my heart to the point that I could die. I hoped that someone would show compassion, but nobody did; and that there would be comforters, but I found none.

Proverbs 22:10

Throw the scoffer out, and quarreling goes too; strife and insults cease.

Ecclesiastes 10:20

Don't insult the king, not even in your thoughts; and don't insult the wealthy, not even in your bedroom; for a bird in the air might carry the news, a creature with wings might repeat what you said.

Hosea 12:15(14)

Efrayim has given bitter provocation, so the penalty for his bloodshed will be thrown down on him, and his Lord will repay him for his insult.

Micah 7:5-6

Don't trust in your neighbor; don't put confidence in a close friend; shut the gates of your mouth even from [your wife], lying there with you in bed. For a son insults his father, a daughter rises against her mother, daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law- a person's enemies are the members of his own household.

Comment

Not insulting our neighbor is an obvious part of loving our neighbor as ourselves (Mark 12:31), But who determines what is an insult? Our neighbor? We are called by Matthew 18:15-17 to confront our neighbor when he has sinned against us and by Galatians 6:1 to correct one another “*in a spirit of humility.*” It is not uncommon for a well-intentioned correction or other remark to be received as insulting regardless of how innocently it is spoken or how carefully we have chosen our words. We cannot be responsible for our neighbor’s reaction to what we say to him if what we say is said correctly. Our responsibility is to address our neighbor with loving intentions and words of respect as directed by the Holy Spirit. It is our neighbor’s responsibility to also hear the Holy Spirit and receive that which we say to him correctly and in the spirit we intend.

Related Mitzvot in Volumes 1 & 2

H04 Using Our Speech, Thoughts, Hearts, and Actions, for that which Is Good and Holy
N02 Wronging One Another through Our Speech