

EA3. Not Praying So as to Impress Others.

We are not to pray so as to impress others.

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

Key New Testament Scriptures

Matthew 6:5-6

When you pray, don't be like the hypocrites, who love to pray standing in the synagogues and on street corners, so that people can see them. Yes! I tell you, they have their reward already! But you, when you pray, go into your room, close the door, and pray to your Father in secret. Your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

Additional New Testament Scriptures

Mark 12:38-40

Related New Testament Mitzvot

See section “EA. Humility & Pride”

Supportive Tanakh Scriptures

None

Comment

Matthew 6:5-6 instructs us to not pray in an ostentatious way so as to draw attention to ourselves. It emphasizes the point by suggesting the opposite – that we pray in secret - but it would be a mistake to conclude that praying in secret is commanded or even preferred. Acts 13:2-3, 1 Corinthians 13:15-17 and 1 Timothy 2:8-10 are but three examples of authorized prayer being conducted in groups or where prayer could be heard, and Yeshua encouraged his disciples to assemble together (presumably for prayer) in Hebrews 10:24-25 (NKJ).

Related Mitzvot in Volumes 1 & 2

A15 Doing Religious Things in Order to Be Seen

A17 Being Humble & Not Proudful