

AA11. Renouncing Worldly Pleasures.

We are to renounce worldly pleasures that compete with our godly responsibilities.

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

Key New Testament Scriptures

Titus 2:11-12

For God's grace, which brings deliverance, has appeared to all people. It teaches us to renounce godlessness and worldly pleasures, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives now, in this age..

Additional New Testament Scriptures

1 Timothy 5:6

John 2:15-16

Related New Testament Mitzvot

AA12 Not Being Contaminated by the World and Worldly Standards

AA39 Fleeing Lustful Passions

WA02 Not Lusting After a Person of the Opposite Sex while Either is Married to Another

GB07 Living in a Way That is Good

GB29 Doing All Things in a Decent and Orderly Way

GB36 Not Engaging in Excesses and Self Indulgence

GB50 Focusing Our Mind on the Things of God

GB60 Not Allowing Passions and Emotions to Lead Us Astray

Supportive Tanakh Scriptures

Proverbs 14:13

Even in laughter the heart can be sad, and joy may end in sorrow.

Proverbs 15:23

People take pleasure in anything they say; but a word at the right time, how good it is!

Proverbs 21:17

Pleasure-lovers will suffer want; he who loves wine and oil won't get rich.)

Ecclesiastes 2:1-2

I said to myself, "Come now, I will test myself with pleasure and enjoying good things"; but this too was pointless. Of laughter I said, "This is stupid," and of pleasure, "What's the use of it?"

Ecclesiastes 7:4

The thoughts of the wise are in the house of mourning, but the thoughts of fools are in the house of pleasure.

Amos 6:13

You take pleasure in worthless things. You think your power comes from your own strength.

Comment

Notice that Titus 2:11-12 speaks of renouncing godlessness and worldly pleasures as being connected. The word “worldly” and the often-used expression “of the world” does not mean all things in the world, but rather those things in the world that are not of God. There have been religious groups that have mistakenly eschewed all pleasure as being ungodly, but that is not the teaching of Scripture (e.g. Neh 8:10; Psalms 16:8-9, 11; Isa 3:10; Jer 31:6; Rom 15:24). There are also several references to enjoyment and pleasure in Ecclesiastes, but one must be cautious in their interpretation because some are describing error and are therefore not meant to be taken as literal truth.

Related Mitzvot in Volumes 1 & 2

A22 Allowing Worldly Attractions to Ensnare Us