

AA24. Being Tenderhearted.

We are to be tenderhearted toward our brother and neighbor.

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

Key New Testament Scriptures

Ephesians 4:32

Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted; and forgive each other, just as in the Messiah God has also forgiven you.

1 Peter 3:8

Finally, all of you, be one in mind and feeling; love as brothers; and be compassionate (NKJ: “be tenderhearted”) and humble-minded,

Additional New Testament Scriptures

Romans 1:31

Colossians 3:12

Related New Testament Mitzvot

AA10 Having Godly Compassion

DA07 Being Sensitive to Each Other’s Needs

DA12 Being Kind to One Another

DA29 Being Merciful and Not Cruel, Brutal, Heartless, or Ruthless

DA32 Empathizing with Our Neighbor’s Joys and Sorrows

DA78 Remembering Mistreated Persons & Prisoners

Supportive Tanakh Scriptures

2 Kings 22:19

.. because your heart was tender, and you humbled yourself before ADONAI when you heard what I said against this place and its inhabitants- that they would become an object of astonishment and cursing- and have torn your clothes and cried before me, I have also heard you, says ADONAI.

2 Chronicles 34:27

.. because your heart was tender, and you humbled yourself before God when you heard his words against this place and its inhabitants- you humbled yourself before me, tore your clothes and cried before me- I have also heard you,' says ADONAI.

Comment

Being tenderhearted and being compassionate are similar. The subtle difference is that being tenderhearted is a continuous and independent condition, whereas being compassionate requires an external animate being for which or for whom to have compassion. One can therefore be tenderhearted in the absence of an external need but one cannot be compassionate without also being tenderhearted. In translations of the Bible, the terms appear to be interchangeable.

One may ask how God can require us to be tenderhearted. Isn't it a condition of our personality that is God-given or inherited? The answer is that tenderheartedness is a godly trait, the absence of which is the result of our fallen condition. When we willfully receive Yeshua the Messiah into our heart and make him Lord, we experience a rebirth of our spirit that softens our heart toward God, toward our fellow man, and toward God's other created beings as well.

Related Mitzvot in Volumes 1 & 2

A13 Being Pure in Heart

M08 Being Humane in Our Dominion Over God's Creatures

N18 Being Compassionate & Merciful Toward Our Neighbor