

DA19. Not Associating with a Sexually Immoral Brother.

We are not to associate with a sexually immoral brother.

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

Key New Testament Scriptures

1 Corinthians 5:1-5

It is actually being reported that there is sexual sin among you, and it is sexual sin of a kind that is condemned even by pagans- a man is living with his stepmother! And you stay proud? Shouldn't you rather have felt some sadness that would have led you to remove from your company the man who has done this thing? For I myself, even though I am absent physically, am with you spiritually; and I have already judged the man who has done this as if I were present. In the name of the Lord Yeshua, when you are assembled, with me present spiritually and the power of our Lord Yeshua among us, hand over such a person to the Adversary for his old nature to be destroyed, so that his spirit may be saved in the Day of the Lord.

1 Corinthians 5:9-11

In my earlier letter I wrote you not to associate with people who engage in sexual immorality. I didn't mean the sexually immoral people outside your community, or the greedy, or the thieves or the idol-worshippers- for then you would have to leave the world altogether! No, what I wrote you was not to associate with anyone who is supposedly a brother but who also engages in sexual immorality, is greedy, worships idols, is abusive, gets drunk or steals. With such a person you shouldn't even eat!

Additional New Testament Scriptures

Romans 16:17

2 Thessalonians 3:6, 14-15

Related New Testament Mitzvot

DA13 Not Associating with Persons Who Would Deceive Us or Lead Us Astray

DA17 Staying Away from a Brother Whose Life is Not in Accord with the Teachings and Traditions of the *Shl'chim*

DA30 Not Giving Support to Wrongdoers

DA67 Not Having Fellowship with Ungodly People

Supportive Tanakh Scriptures

None

Comment

This *Mitzvah* #DA19 is a sub-commandment of #DA74 that we not associate with a supposed brother believer who is committing immoral sin (1 Corinthians 5:11). Not associating (i.e., not fellowshiping) with persons who call themselves believers while continuing to engage in serious (especially moral) sins is sometimes referred to as “shunning.” There are three reasons for shunning such persons: (1) continuing our association with them encourages a continuation of their sinful behavior; (2) continuing our association with them reflects badly on the body of believers by appearing to condone their sin; and (3) continuing our association with them puts us in danger of being tempted and possibly becoming embroiled in their sin.

Notwithstanding the above, there are two caveats that need to be remembered: (1) This *Mitzvah* applies to persons calling themselves believers – not to unbelievers. If we stop associating with unbelievers, we cannot witness God’s Word to them; we do, however, need to put restrictions on the ways that we associate with unbelievers, lest we be identified with their sin and even tempted to sin ourselves. (2) This *Mitzvah* assumes that a supposed believer from whom we are disassociating is not repentant and is continuing to sin; we must be prepared and willing to receive the person back in fellowship if and when he or she repents.

Related Mitzvot in Volumes 1 & 2

None