

DA25. Not Defrauding Our Neighbor.

We are not to defraud our neighbor.

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

Key New Testament Scripture

Mark 10:19

You know the mitzvot- 'Don't murder, don't commit adultery, don't steal, don't give false testimony, don't defraud, honor your father and mother,

Additional New Testament Scriptures

Acts 13:10

Ephesians 4:25

Colossians 3:9-10

James 5:4

Related New Testament Mitzvot

AA30 Being Honest and a Teller of Truth

DA03 Not Harming Our Neighbor

DA22 Not Robbing or Stealing from Our Neighbor

DA45 Not Sinning Against Our Brother or Neighbor

DA47 Not Deceiving Our Neighbor

DA51 Not Being Mean to One Another

Supportive Tanakh Scriptures

Exodus 23:7

Keep away from fraud, and do not cause the death of the innocent and righteous; for I will not justify the wicked.

Leviticus 5:21(6:2)-22(6:3)

If someone sins and acts perversely against ADONAI by dealing falsely with his neighbor in regard to a deposit or security entrusted to him, by stealing from him, by extorting him, or by dealing falsely in regard to a lost object he has found, or by swearing to a lie- if a person commits any of these sins, ..

Leviticus 19:11

Do not steal from, defraud or lie to each other.

Proverbs 20:17

Food obtained by fraud may taste good, but later the mouth is full of gravel.

Proverbs 22:23

.. for ADONAI will plead their case for them and withhold life from those who defraud them

Jeremiah 6:13

For from the least to the greatest of them, all are greedy for gains; prophets and cohanim alike, they all practice fraud-

Micah 6:11

Should I declare innocent wicked scales and a bag of fraudulent weights?

Comment

Defrauding means intentionally dealing falsely. It is often encountered in matters involving money but can involve agreements of any kind. Reneging on a promise that is not connected to receiving something of value in return may be wrong and unkind, but it is not fraud because the nature of fraud is to intentionally misrepresent and deceive another for the purpose of gaining an advantage or benefit. A person may be damaged by relying on a misrepresentation, but the misrepresentation is not fraud unless it is intentional.

There are an infinite number of ways that fraud can occur; here are just a few for clarification:

- “A” sells “B” a widget as workable, knowing that the widget is defective.
- “A” lies about his credentials and experience in order to gain employment.
- “A” falsely expresses love for “B” and marries “B” solely for the purpose of acquiring ownership of “B’s” property.

Related Mitzvot in Volumes 1 & 2

C01 Being Fair & Honest in Business

N06 Exploiting a Neighbor's Weakness