

# **DA52. Behaving Wisely Toward Outsiders.**

*We are to behave wisely toward outsiders.*

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

## **Key New Testament Scriptures**

Colossians 4:5-6

*Behave wisely toward outsiders, making full use of every opportunity; let your conversation always be gracious and interesting, so that you will know how to respond to any particular individual.*

## **Additional New Testament Scriptures**

1 Corinthians 5:12

1 Timothy 3:6

1 Thessalonians 4:11-12

## **Related New Testament Mitzvot**

AA22 Speaking Only That Which is Holy and Beneficial

DA24 Loving Our Brother and Neighbor

DA41 Being Friends with Brothers & Friendly with Outsiders

DA42 Not Engaging in Fruitless or Stupid Arguments or Discussions

DA53 Letting Our Conversations Be Gracious and Interesting to Outsiders

DA64 Not Speaking Badly or Critically of Our Brother or Neighbor

DA65 Not Insulting Our Neighbor

GB56 Turning Away from Ungodly Speech

## **Supportive Tanakh Scriptures**

Deuteronomy 23:21(20)

*To an outsider you may lend at interest, but to your brother you are not to lend at interest, so that ADONAI your God will prosper you in everything you set out to do in the land you are entering in order to take possession of it.*

## **Comment**

In the *Tanakh*, outsiders (also referred to as strangers or foreigners) were not merely Gentiles; they were Gentiles who lived outside the community of Israel. Gentiles who lived within the Community may have been *gerim toshav* (resident aliens or Tikkun's terminology *k'rovei Yisrael*), but they were not considered outsiders, and could even partake of the Passover sacrifice if they were circumcised (Exodus 12:43-49).

Under the Mosaic Covenant, outsiders had to be treated with love and respect, but Israelites did not have the same brotherly obligation of providing for their needs as they did for other Israelites, and could even lend to them at interest. Under the New Covenant, Gentile believers in Yeshua are grafted into the olive tree of Israel (**Romans 11:16-17**) and are therefore brothers in the faith with Jewish believers; they are not considered outsiders even if they do not reside within a Jewish Community.

This *Mitzvah* #DA52 and Colossians 4:5-6 instruct believers in Yeshua to act wisely in their contacts and conversations with outsiders (unbelievers) in order to make “full use of every opportunity.” The Scripture does not say to what opportunities it is referring, but we assume from the context that they are opportunities to share both God and Yeshua with unbelievers. The Scripture also does not indicate to what wise acts it is referring other than conversations, and rightfully so, because each encounter with an unbeliever presents its own challenges. Naturally, we must act civilly and lovingly, but we must also seek the Holy Spirit so that the Spirit’s wisdom becomes our wisdom.

### **Related Mitzvot in Volumes 1 & 2**

N01 Loving Our Neighbor, the Stranger, and Even Our Enemy

N02 Wronging One Another through Our Speech