

KA3. Being on Our Guard Against and Not Associating with False Teachers.

We are to be on our guard against and not associate with false teachers.

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

Key New Testament Scriptures

2 Timothy 4:3-4

For the time is coming when people will not have patience for sound teaching, but will cater to their passions and gather around themselves teachers who say whatever their ears itch to hear. Yes, they will stop listening to the truth, but will turn aside to follow myths.

Titus 1:9-13

He must hold firmly to the trustworthy Message that agrees with the doctrine; so that by his sound teaching he will be able to exhort and encourage, and also to refute those who speak against it. For there are many, especially from the Circumcision faction, who are rebellious, who delude people's minds with their worthless and misleading talk. They must be silenced; because they are upsetting entire households by teaching what they have no business teaching, and doing it for the sake of dishonest gain. Even one of the Cretans' own prophets has said, "Cretans are always liars, evil brutes, lazy gluttons" - and it's true! For this reason, you must be severe when you rebuke those who have followed this false teaching, so that they will come to be sound in their trust ..

2 Peter 2:1-3

But among the people there were also false prophets, just as there will be false teachers among you. Under false pretenses they will introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, and thus bring on themselves swift destruction. Many will follow their debaucheries; and because of them, the true Way will be maligned. In their greed they will exploit you with fabricated stories. Their punishment, decreed long ago, is not idle; their destruction is not asleep!

2 John 1:9-10

Everyone who goes ahead and does not remain true to what the Messiah has taught does not have God. Those who remain true to his teaching have both the Father and the Son. If someone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, don't welcome him into your home. Don't even say, "Shalom!" to him;

Additional New Testament Scriptures

Matthew 16:11-12, 23;1-3

Acts 17:11, 20:28-31

Romans 16:17-18

2 Corinthians 11:3-4

Galatians 1:6-9

Colossians 2:18

1 Thessalonians 5:21

2 Thessalonians 2:1-2

1 Timothy 1:3-4, 4:1-3, 6:3-5, 20-21

Hebrews 13:9

1 John 2:26-27

2 Peter 2:9-10

Revelation 2:20, 14-16

Related New Testament Mitzvot

KA01 Being on Our Guard Against False Messiahs

KA02 Being on Our Guard Against False Prophets

KA03 Being on Our Guard Against and Not Associating with False Teachers

Supportive Tanakh Scriptures

Deuteronomy 13:1(12:32)-4(3)

Everything I am commanding you, you are to take care to do. Do not add to it or subtract from it. If a prophet or someone who gets messages while dreaming arises among you and he gives you a sign or wonder, and the sign or wonder comes about as he predicted when he said, 'Let's follow other gods, which you have not known; and let us serve them,' you are not to listen to what that prophet or dreamer says. For ADONAI your God is testing you, in order to find out whether you really do love ADONAI your God with all your heart and being. You are to follow ADONAI your God, fear him, obey his mitzvot, listen to what he says, serve him and cling to him;

Isaiah 9:14

The old and the honored are the head, while prophets teaching lies are the tail.

Jeremiah 10:8

One and all they are boorish and stupid; the teaching of their nothings is a piece of wood

Habakkuk 2:18

What good is an idol, once its maker has shaped it, a cast metal image and a teacher of lies, that its maker puts his trust in it, and goes on making non-gods, unable to talk?

Comment

Scripture cautions us to beware of false Gods, false messiahs, false prophets, and false teachers; this *Mitzvah* is a companion of *Mitzvah* #KA2, but focuses on false teachers rather than false prophets. It is a companion because much of what KA2 says about prophets applies to teachers as well. Teachers can be (but are not necessarily) also prophets, and prophecies are often delivered as teachings, so it is not always possible to distinguish between the two.

The *Tanakh* contains many references to false prophets and false prophecies, but I can find only three instances of false teachings (see above). The vast majority of references to false teachers and false teachings appear to be in the *Kitvey B'rit Chadashah*. So as not to be repetitive, the reader is referred to *Mitzvah #KA2* for additional comment.

Related Mitzvot in Volumes 1 & 2

Z01 Believing End-Time False Prophets & Messiahs