

# Torah Studies – Statutes #469-471

## Statute Summary:

*Statute 469: Do not seek to punish others, or take vengeance upon them for personal revenge.*

*Statute 470: Do not harbor anger or bear grudges.*

*Statute 471: Love others as you love yourself.*

**Leviticus 19:18** “Thou shalt not **avenge**, nor **bear any grudge** against the children of thy people, but thou shalt **love** thy neighbour as thyself: I Am the LORD.”

## Key Word Study:

Key Word	Strong's Number	Hebrew Word	Meaning
AVENGE	H5358	nâqam	to <i>grudge</i> , that is, <i>avenge</i> or <i>punish</i> : - avenge (self), punish, revenge (self), take vengeance
BEAR ANY GRUDGE	H5201	nâṭar	to <i>guard</i> ; to <i>cherish</i> (anger): - bear grudge, keep (-er), reserve
LOVE	H157	'âhab	to <i>have affection</i> for: - (be-) love (loved, lovely), like, friend

## Cross References:

- **Matthew 22:36-40** - “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?” Yahshua replied: “Love Yahweh your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest Commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two Commandments.”
- **Galatians 5:14** - “For all the Law is fulfilled in one word, *even* in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.”
- **Philippians 2:3** – “Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves.”

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- **John 13:34** – “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.”
- **Romans 13:9** – “The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery,” “You shall not murder,” “You shall not steal,” “You shall not covet,” and whatever other commands there may be, are summed up in this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”

### **Bible Study: Perspectives from Scripture on Self-Love**

The truth is that people who loath themselves cannot love others either. But how are we to love ourselves, according to Scripture? The Bible addresses “self-love” both negatively and positively. In 2 Timothy, Paul says, “In the last days...people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive...without self-control...swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God” (2 Tim. 3:2-5). Thus, people who are “lovers of self” function as blackholes; only taking from others.

Consider also Paul’s summary of the Law: “For the Commandments, ‘You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,’ and any other Commandment, are summed up in this word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself” (Rom. 13:9). Paul is saying that the way we love our neighbors is through the Golden Rule: to treat them as we want to be treated. This isn’t the same as looking in the mirror and giving yourself affirmations, but it does assume that we know how we want to be cared for.

Paul also says, “Husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church” (Eph. 5:28-29). This language suggests much more than keeping ourselves from malnourishment. Paul assumes it’s perfectly fine to look after our well-being and to avoid putting ourselves in unhealthy situations.

Loving yourself in the world often boils down to self-affirmations, cancel-culture, and self-centeredness. Obviously this is wrong, so Christians often go the opposite way, associating being humble and pious as self-deprecation. But Scripture doesn’t say we’re meant to live in a perpetual state of sackcloth and ash. Self-lament is appropriate after we recognize our sin. But when we look to Yahweh in repentance, He lifts up our heads (Ps. 3:3). The Bible points us to something more powerful than what we can say about ourselves—it points us to what our Creator says about us: We are the apple of His Eye (Ps. 17:8); we are His beloved (Isa. 43:1; Jer. 31:3); He came to save us so that we “may have Life and have it abundantly” (John. 10:10).

A biblical view of self-love is balanced. Since, in Scripture, the concept of self-love can be used positively and negatively, we must seek godly balance in our understanding. To do this, we must recognize the truth about ourselves—about our sinfulness, about our tendency to vie for glory, about our many failings and past offenses to both God and man. But along with that recognition, we must also acknowledge that our identity is found in Yahweh. Knowing we’re loved by God and are Created by Him, for His holy purpose and glory, moves us toward godly confidence, which is balanced with humility. This is the Biblical way to first love God, love ourselves, and in those two, a necessary foundation is laid from which to love our neighbor.

# Torah Studies – Statutes #472-473

## Statute Summary:

*Statute 472: If a foreigner (someone who is from another tribe, place, or race) moves in to your area, do not oppress or mistreat him/her, nor “lord” yourself over him/her in any way.*

*Statute 473: Rather treat the new-comer with the same love and respect that you know to give to your neighbors and countrymen.*

**Leviticus 19:33-34** “And if a **stranger sojourn** with thee in your land, ye shall not **vex** him. But the stranger that dwelleth with you shall be unto you as one born among you, and thou shalt love him as thyself; for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt: I Am the LORD your God.”

## Key Word Study:

Key Word	Strong's Number	Hebrew Word	Meaning
STRANGER	H1616	gêr	a <i>guest</i> ; by implication a <i>foreigner</i> : - alien, sojourner, stranger.
SOJOURN	H1481	gûr	to <i>turn</i> aside from the road (for a lodging or any other purpose), <i>sojourn</i> (as a guest); also to <i>gather</i> for hostility (as <i>afraid</i> ): - abide.
VEX	H3238	yânâh	to <i>rage</i> or <i>be violent</i> ; by implication to <i>suppress</i> , to <i>maltreat</i> : - destroy, (thrust out by) oppression, proud, vex, do violence.

## Cross References:

- **Hebrews 13:1-2** - “Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters. Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.”
- **Deuteronomy 10:19** “Love ye therefore the stranger: for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt.”
- **Romans 12:13** “Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality.”
- **Genesis 18:1-8** – the story of Abraham with the visitors from Heaven
- **Genesis 19:1-3** – the story of Lot bringing angels of Yahweh into His home.

## Torah Studies – Statutes #474-476

### Statute Summary:

*Statute 474: The camp of Yahweh’s people is to always be kept clean and sanitary. While camping-traveling, we are to take care that our excrement is not within our campsite.*

*Statute 475: Designate a place outside the camp, to go to relieve yourself. As part of your camping equipment, bring something to dig with, for we are to dig a pit for our dung and urine. When you relieve yourself, dig a hole and cover up your excrement.*

*Statute 476: The camp of Yahweh’s people is to be kept holy, without any unclean thing in it, in order to preserve the Presence and Protection of Yahweh in the campsite of His people.*

**Deuteronomy 23:12-14** “Thou shalt have a place also without the camp, whither thou shalt go forth abroad: And thou shalt have a paddle upon thy **weapon**; and it shall be, when thou wilt ease thyself **abroad**, thou shalt dig therewith, and shalt turn back and cover that which cometh from thee: For the LORD thy God walketh in the midst of thy camp, to **deliver** thee, and to **give up** thine **enemies** before thee; therefore shall thy camp be holy: that He see no unclean thing in thee, and **turn away** from thee.”

### Key Word Study:

Key Word	Strong’s Number	Hebrew Word	Meaning
WEAPON	H240	'âzên	a spade or paddle (as having a broad end): - weapon
ABROAD	H2351	chûts	to sever; properly separate by a wall, that is, outside, outdoors: - abroad, field, forth, highway, more, out (-side, -ward), without
DELIVER	H5337	nâtsal	to snatch away, defend, deliver (self), escape, without fail, pluck, preserve, rescue, save
GIVE UP	H5414	nâthan	to give, avenge, cast, deliver (up), recompense, render, requite
ENEMIES	H341	'ôyêb	hating; an adversary: - enemy, foe
TURN AWAY	H7725	shûb	to turn back, generally to retreat; do evil, draw back, backward, from, off, withdraw

## Torah Studies – Statutes #474-476 (*continued*)

### Cross References:

- **Deuteronomy 23:9-14** - “Your soldiers may be living in tents while they fight against your enemies. They must keep away from anything that makes them unclean... You must choose a special place outside the camp. Use that place as your toilet. Always carry a small spade with your other tools. When you go to the toilet, dig a hole with your spade. Then bury your dung in it and cover it with earth. For Yahweh your God moves among you in your camp. He keeps you safe from your enemies so that you win against them. So, make sure that your camp is a holy place. Yahweh must not see anything that would bring shame on you. Do not make Him turn away from you.”
- **Isaiah 1:16** - “Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your deeds from before My Eyes; cease to do evil.”
- **2 Corinthians 7:1** – “Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God.”
- **1 Corinthians 14:40** – “But all things should be done decently and in order.”