

Leviticus 19:15-19

“You should not hate your kinsfolk in your heart. Reprove your kinsman but incur no guilt because of him. You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against your countryman. Love your fellow as yourself: I am the Lord. You shall observe My laws”

Babylonian Talmud Erchin 16b

The Rabbis taught, "Do not hate your brother in your heart." Might the verse be referring to not hitting, slapping or hurting? No, the verse states, "in your heart." The verse is referring to hatred from within. From which verse do we know that if we see something disgusting in another we are obliged to correct it? "...one shall certainly rebuke..." What happens if one was rebuked and did not respond that you are obliged to repeat? [The word rebuke is repeated in the verse] It is written, "You shall certainly rebuke." As much as it takes. Maybe one can rebuke until the person blanches? The verse states, Don't carry his sin."

It was taught that Rabbi Tarfon said, "I would be surprised if anyone in this generation can take rebuke. You tell a person to take a stick out of their mouth and they'll tell you to take a board between your eyes." Rabbi Eliezer Ben Azarya said, "I'd be surprised if anyone in this generation knows how to criticize."

Rabbi Yochanan Ben Nuri said, "I swear that when Akiva and I were before Rabbi Gamliel, I would accuse him, but he even showered me more with love, as it is written "Do not rebuke a fool for he will hate you, rebuke a wise person and he will love you."

The Slonimer Rebbe teaches on this verse:

Each and every day, and each and every hour is unique from the day of Creation on. Each and every human being is unique from the Creation of humanity on. One person cannot take on the work of repair that is intended for another. We must uncover the unique call of each year, each day, each hour, addressed to each one of us specifically.

These truths constitute the great foundation for each person's responsibility in the world.
We must acquire true clarity about

What does Adonai your God ask of you?

Of you in particular.

And what are the paths designated for each one of us according to the root of our being and our individual traits, at each season and each day, that bring us closer to God?

It is imperative that we uncover our individual role and our goals, or else we will wander without a sense of direction or destination. We must seek to clarify all aspects of our service and all our goals in life, as well as our traits, our nature, and our responsibilities in all moments and situations. And it is this clarity that guards each one of us on our way so that we may ascend firmly towards God ...

Most importantly, one must discern and examine what is one's responsibility in the world, what is the distinct purpose for which one came into this world.¹