



2020 THEME
**HUMAN
DIGNITY**
כבוד הבריות

The Ethics of Human Dignity

Source Sheet by Rabbi Teri Appleby

Text 1: Leviticus 19:18

וְאַהֲבַת לְרֵעֶךָ כְּמֹדֶךָ אֲנִי יְהוָה:

Love your neighbor as yourself; I am Adonai.

Text 2: Rabbi Joachim Prinz, The March on Washington, 28 August 1963

In the realm of the spirit, our fathers taught us thousands of years ago that when God created man, he created him as everybody's neighbor. Neighbor is not a geographic term. It is a moral concept. It means our collective responsibility for the preservation of man's dignity and integrity.

Text 3: Rabbis Elliot N. Dorff and Daniel Nevins --Dignity: A Jewish Perspective

“Dignity” in the Jewish tradition refers to the inherent worth that each person has as someone created in the image of God. People have this status regardless of gender, race, age, level of abilities or disabilities, or even the morality of their actions and their treatment of others because God has implanted this worth in them. The Jewish tradition certainly distinguishes among groups of people--Jews and non-Jews, men and women, children and adults, young and old--and it has many rules and models to distinguish good from bad behavior, ideal ways to interact with others from those that are less so or even wrong and prohibited; but in the end, even those who commit capital crimes must be punished for them in a way that preserves their inherent value as a creature and reflection of God.

Text 4: Eilu D'varim: Morning Liturgy, based on the Mishnah Pe'ah 1:1, Babylonian Talmud, Shabbat 127a

אֵלּוּ דְּבָרִים שְׂאָדָם אוֹכֵל פְּרוּתֵיהֶם בְּעוֹלָם הַזֶּה וְהִקְרָן קִיַּמָּת לוֹ לְעוֹלָם
הַבָּא, וְאֵלוּ הֵן: כְּבוֹד אָב וְאִם, וּגְמִילוּת חֲסָדִים, וְהַשְׁכָּמַת בֵּית הַמְדָרָשׁ
שְׁחָרִית וְעֶרְבִית, וְהַכְּנָסַת אוֹרְחִים, וּבִקּוּר חוֹלִים, וְהַכְּנָסַת כֶּלֶה, וּלְוִיַּת
הַמֵּת, וְעִיוֹן תְּפִלָּה, וְהַבָּאָת שְׁלוֹם בֵּין אָדָם לְחֵבְרוֹ, וְתִלְמוּד תּוֹרָה כְּנִגְד
כָּלָם.

These are things that are limitless, of which a person enjoys the fruit of the world, while the principal remains in the world to come.

They are:

honoring one's father and mother,
engaging in deeds of compassion,
arriving early for study, morning and evening,
dealing graciously with guests,
visiting the sick,
providing for the wedding couple,
accompanying the dead for burial,
being devoted in prayer,
and making peace among people.
But the study of Torah encompasses them all.

Text 5: Deuteronomy 15:7-8

ז כִּי־יִהְיֶה בְּךָ אֶבְיוֹן מֵאַחַד אַחֶיךָ בְּאַחַד שְׁעָרֶיךָ בְּאֶרֶץ־ךָ אֲשֶׁר־יְהוָה
אֱלֹהֶיךָ נֹתֵן לָךְ לֹא תֹאמַר אֶת־לִבְבְּךָ וְלֹא תִקְפֹּץ אֶת־יְדֶיךָ מֵאֶחֶיךָ הָאֶבְיוֹן:
ח כִּי־פָתַח תִּפְתָּח אֶת־יְדֶיךָ לוֹ וְהֶעֱבַט תִּעֲבִיטֵנוּ דַּי מִחֲסָרוֹ אֲשֶׁר יַחֲסֵר לוֹ:

If there is a needy person among you, one of your kin in any of your settlements in the land that Adonai your God is giving you, do not harden your heart and shut your hand against your needy kin. Rather, you must open your hand and lend him sufficient to meet the need.

Text 6: Deuteronomy 24:10-11

י כִּי־תַשֶּׂה בְרֵעֶךָ מִשְׁאֵת מְאוּמָה לֹא־תָבֵא אֶל־בֵּיתוֹ לְעֵבֶט עֲבָטוֹ:
יֵא בְחוּץ תַּעֲמִד וְהָאִישׁ אֲשֶׁר אֶתָּה נִשֶּׂה בּוֹ יוֹצִיא אֵלֶיךָ אֶת־הָעֵבוֹט
הַחוּצָה:

When you make a loan of any sort to your neighbor, you must not enter his house to seize his pledge. You must remain outside, while the man to whom you made the loan brings the pledge out to you.

Text 7: Leviticus 19:14

יֵד לֹא־תִקְלַל חֵרֶשׁ וְלִפְנֵי עֵוֶר לֹא תִתֵּן מְכַשֵּׁל וְיִרְאֵת מֵאַלְהֵיךָ אֲנִי יְהוָה:

You shall not insult the deaf, or place a stumbling block before the blind.

Text 8: Blessing upon seeing someone with a disability

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, מְשַׁנֶּה הַבְּרִיּוֹת

Praised are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of the universe, who created different creatures/makes us different from each other.