

הלכה of the Week

~ קדושת בית-הכנסת (1) ~

~ The Holiness of the Synagogue (1) ~

One's conduct (behaviour) in a בית-כנסת should be in keeping with its קדושה (holiness). A person should not behave in a disrespectful way or engage in casual talk.

Of course, we know that a person should avoid and keep far away from forbidden speech, such as gossip about others (לשון הרע) and quarreling. However, besides these types of speech being terrible sins in themselves, they are even worse when one is in a holy place because he is openly insulting the שכינה (Hashem's Divine Presence).

A בית-כנסת should only be used for studying תורה and reciting prayers.

פירקי אבות of the Week

פרק ב

י"ז רבי יוסי אומר, יהי ממוזן חברך חביב עליך כשלך. ויתקון עצמו ללמוד תורה, שאינה ירשה לך. וכל מעשיך יהיו לשם שמים:

Rabbi Yose says:

- (a) Let your friend's money be as dear to you as your own;
- (b) Apply yourself (make an effort) to study Torah, because it is not yours by inheritance;
- (c) Let all your deeds be for the sake of Heaven.

* * *