

With thanks to Rabbi Zelig Pliskin for kindly giving me permission to use extracts from his book, "Guard Your Tongue" (based on "Chofetz Chaim").

הלכה of the Week

~ שמירת הלשון ~

Rabbi Pliskin said he will be pleased to know these halachot are being publicised more widely, especially in view of the fact that his own father was a talmid of the Chofetz Chaim, who went to great lengths to make these laws better known.

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לשון הרע to a Group of People

You are forbidden to speak לשון הרע either to a single individual or to a group. The larger the group that hears your הרע the worse your sin, since the victim of your words will be seen in a negative way by all of those people. Furthermore, a larger number of people have sinned through hearing your לשון הרע.

Mr. Greenfield delivered a speech to a large crowd and in his speech he mentioned a few of Mr. Levine's faults. The size of Mr. Greenfield's sin will be equal to the number of people present.

פְּרָקִי אֲבוֹת of the Week

פְּרָקִי ה

כה הוא היה אומר, בן חמש שנים למקרא, בן עשר למשנה, בן שלש עשרה למצות, בן חמש עשרה לתלמוד, בן שמונה עשרה לחפה, בן עשרים לרדוף, בן שלשים לבת, בן ארבעים לבית, בן חמשים לעצה, בן ששים לזקנה, בן שבעים לשיבה, בן שמונים לגבורה, בן תשעים לשוה, בן מאה כאלו מת ועבר וביטל מן העולם:

He (Yehudah Ben Teima) used to teach:

A **five-year-old** should already have started to study the *Tanach*.

A **ten-year-old** should already have started to study *Mishnah*.

A **thirteen-year-old** is an adult and is required to keep all the *mitzvot*.

A **fifteen-year-old** should already have started to study *Gemara*.

An **eighteen-year-old** has reached the age to **marry**.

A **twenty-year-old** begins to earn a **livelihood**.

A **thirty-year-old** has reached his **full strength**.

A **forty-year-old** has reached the age of **understanding**.

A **fifty-year-old** has reached the age of **giving advice**.

A **sixty-year-old** has reached the age of **wisdom**.

A **seventy-year-old** has reached a **ripe old age**.

An **eighty-year-old** has reached the age of **spiritual strength**...

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