

Law and Ethics

The biblical teachings “Love your neighbor as yourself,” and “Do that which is right and good” are well known. What is the meaning of these provisions in various legal areas?

The uniqueness of Jewish law is its integration of the values of Law and Equity.

This study shows that morality has practical implications in shaping Jewish law—in its basic assumptions as well as the details of law, in the interpretation of the provisions of the Bible and the Oral Torah, in the Sages' legislation (Takanot), and in methods of halakhic decision. The conclusion is that this connection is so broad, that there is no field of Jewish law not influenced by the moral perspective.

The research does not deal with the concepts of good, honesty, justice, and morality, but rather with the content of laws arising from these concepts or influenced by them, as applied by the designers of halacha. These basic values are meta-halachic norms, the fundamental values of the legal system. They are not only rules that guide the application of the halacha, but are also rules that are part of halacha. They are the base of the law: not only interpretive tools but also enablers of “constructive interpretation.” This interpretation fills lacunae left by the law, which, by its very nature, cannot give an exhaustive answer to every situation or to all changes over time.

The study shows the strong ties in Jewish Law between law and moral values in various legal areas: Human Rights; Law and the Noahides; Human Dignity; Respect for Women; Protection of life; Privacy; Protection of the Environment and Animals; Medical Ethics; Ethical Standards for Public Servants; War and Morality; Courtroom Ethics and Procedure; Punishment, Collective Punishment, and Rehabilitation of Criminals; Ethics in the Market Place; Copyright; and Employer-Employee Relations.

This is the most comprehensive study ever undertaken in this field.

Human Rights

Law and the Noahides

Human Dignity

Respect for Women

Protection of
life

Privacy Protection
of the Environment and Animals

Medical Ethics

Ethical Standards for
Public Servants War
and Morality

Courtroom Ethics and

Procedure Punishment,
Collective Punishment,
and Rehabilitation of

Criminals Ethics

in the Market

Place Copyright

Employer-Employee
Relations.

THE JEWISH
LEGAL
HERITAGE
SOCIETY
מורשת
המשפט
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