

To love the Ger

There are three that the Torah commands to love:

1.

And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. [Deuteronomy (Vaetchanan 6:5)]

2.

Thou shalt not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself: I am the LORD. [Vayikra Kedoshim (19:18)]

3.

Love ye therefore the stranger; for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt. [Deuteronomy (Parashat Akev) 10:19]

When a non-Jew wants to convert, we check if he/she really wants to join the People of Israel, and understands what this will require. If he/she really wants it, we accept them immediately. Some believe that it is a mitzvah to accept them.

We have accepted many who are descendants of Jews, but are not Jews according to Halacha. After they are accepted, we must continue to support them and to help them strengthen their bond with our holy people.

There are also members of other nations, who in their search for a connection with the Creator of the world, have realized that the right way is to convert and become part of Israel.

For the purpose of preparing them for conversion, several programs were established in which the potential convert can study the Jewish belief system. These programs help them to understand the mitzvot, and encourage them to observe them.

One of the best programs is at "Pninei Or"!

Financing giur (conversion) programs requires many monetary resources, and so, here I turn to each and every one, as we stand at the beginning of the days of judgment to make an effort to donate to "Pninei Or" for the purpose of this sacred cause, and in doing so you will acquire another advocate who will protect you on the Day of Judgment.

May the whole People of Israel, thanks to all the commandments and good deeds that they keep, be written and sealed immediately for a good life and peace.

Yakov Verhaftig

Neve Nof Har Nof community.