

Instruction about Visitors

I want to bring a word of instruction about visitors. This is not to bring us down at all. It's just to help us.

The lady who's visiting us came unexpectedly. Derusha didn't know she was coming. But in most cases when people come here, if they're not justified, they need to be at the minchot. If not, we'll have a double standard in the future when a lot of people are visiting us. They can't just sleep in their tents while everyone else is doing things, and carry on a double life. In Num 15:15-16 it says there's only one law for everyone, for visitors or the citizens. They all do the same identical thing. The requirement is the same upon both, except for Breaking of Bread. There are not two standards.

Remember to give instruction to visitors or your friends when they come here, that they'll be required to do everything we do. They're not here just for a vacation. They can't just travel around while staying with us. That's not what the Edah is for. Our friends and our relatives come here to take part in *our* life. When we go visit them, they expect us to take part in their life, to eat with them and everything else. And if we go to visit our relatives, we wouldn't expect them to take off from work and go around traveling, because they have a job to do. Therefore, they've got to see that we've got a job to do also. We're not going to just take off, as if we didn't have anything else to do. Sometimes they may think that we just live in community and don't have any obligations. But our parents who visit us are getting more and more understanding about us. We have a job to do. If we take off, that means someone has to double up in our place, because everyone's so valuable.

In the beginning parents started coming, and they weren't taking part in the things we did. They were expecting their children and grandchildren to just take off with them whenever they wanted to. But they learned that when they come to visit us, they're going to take part in our life, washing dishes and everything else that we do. That's how they get acquainted with their children — by taking part in our life. We say it gracefully to people; we're not so strong and dogmatic about this. But if they don't want to do it, there's really no need to stay here; they're just going to cause trouble anyway. That goes for anybody and everybody — visitors, backpackers, etc. When they come in and stay in tents they have to participate in all the activities, they've got to work, come to the minchot, etc. That's in the law. And we're zealous. Paul was (Gal 1:14). And the Jews were in the first century. Acts 21:20 says they were zealous for the word of God, for the law. We are too. We're not *under* the law, but we're zealous *for* the law by *grace*. It's wonderful. If we didn't have the law to instruct us, we'd be lost. We'd be just like Christians. Exactly like Christians, except in paying tithes. The only law they keep is paying tithes. That's to their benefit, of course.

I just want to add one stipulation: when parents come to visit before a wedding, it's a little bit different occasion. The couples about to be married aren't so obligated at that time, and there won't be more than one marriage at a time, therefore it won't destroy the community for their parents to come and take the bride and groom away. So, of course, we can allow at stipulation for it.

In the future, we'll have 20 parents visiting at one time, and it will destroy the community if everybody takes off and goes everywhere. We wouldn't be able to work or do anything. Don't think the enemy won't try to destroy us that way, through dissipation... This is not a hard and fast *policy*. *Policy* can't be broken. But in situations like this, in counsel, we can make exceptions to any *rule*. We have to judge ourselves right, however, in whatever decision we make, that it is something we can maintain all together and not let the enemy deceive us, because we could have already been destroyed by our well-meaning parents coming to see us and taking us away in all different directions.

They'd come and get a hotel. And they'd want their grandchildren to come to the hotel and watch you-know-what and everything else under the sun. And then they came back to the community talking about Donald Duck or whatever. It was really a bad situation. Therefore we limited that also. They can't just come and get a hotel and take you back to see them on their grounds. They have to come see us on our grounds and take part in our life. If they don't like doing that then we know they probably don't have good intentions. They probably have a spirit working in them that wants to destroy you. Parents who have tried to kidnap people out of the Edah never came here to stay with us, but took them to their hotel.

