

Summary of Parshat Kidoshim

- Essential principles of the Torah are to be taught with the entire people present. Among these fundamental concepts are Shabbat, reverence for parents, not stealing, taking revenge or bearing a grudge and the foundational obligation to “love others like oneself”.
- Justice must be truthfully and fairly administered.
- Certain mixtures are forbidden like planting different species together, mating different species of animals and wearing fabric composed of wool and linen (shaatnez).
- Certain practices that had their roots in idolatry are forbidden even when no longer practiced as idolatrous rituals. Superstitious beliefs in omens and lucky times are unacceptable. Excessive mourning is inappropriate.
- A convert must be treated and loved the same as a born Jew. Our identification with our slave ancestors should engender empathy for those who might not feel a sense full sense of belonging.
- Dishonest business practices are no better than any other form of theft.
- Certain intimate relationships are forbidden.

Shabbat Shalom

Moshe Yosef Gewirtz