

Tikkun Olam comment from Rabbi Larry Moldo

While I was away on family business, several atrocities were committed by Jews in Israel. [the rest of this is based on some comments I made this past Friday night.]

I always like being on record as considering those actions reprehensible. The injured (when I can find those names again) will be on our Mi SheBeirach list, and the dead will be on the list of names we read each week.

It is problematic enough that these deeds were done. It is more problematic that there are community groupings who consider that these deeds are understandable.

[For those who are unaware of the details, a visibly religious individual knifed several people at a LGBT parade in Israel. One young lady, Shira Banki, has died of her wounds - different reports indicated that she was either 15 or 16. On the same day a couple of homes were firebombed, one of which had people sleeping inside. An infant died in the fire, and his father recently succumbed to his injuries. Two other family members are as of when I write this, still recovering from massive burns.]

Both of these actions desecrate God's reputation.

What can we do?

We cannot influence the Israeli government or legal system to segregate those who think these actions are correct from the rest of humanity. (I was of the opinion that some retraining should be done with the "price tag" individuals when they were merely defacing property. Had this been followed completely, including their teachers, things might not have escalated.)

One of the things that I think we can do is create an atmosphere, through our own actions, where these kind of deeds will remain unthinkable, as each of us will no longer consider any other human being as worthy of denigration. No Facebook insults, for example. No matter how much we think a person might deserve it - for when we think a person might deserve an insult or two, somebody else will be certain they deserve torment or death.

When we can control our verbal and written words as well as our actions, we nudge the world ever closer to that ideal state which God intended us to help it get to.