

Dorm Talks Scenarios

April 11, 2000

Presenter: Rabbi Dr. Norman Lamm

Tolerance versus Intolerance

1. Since coming back from Israel, Chaim has felt uncomfortable in his family surroundings. He finds the talking in shul intolerable and his family's level of observance weak. Chaim starts arguing with his parents about Halachic issues. His parents can't understand why they should change just because he went to Israel for a year. Where is his Hakarat Hatov?

Become role model for
mediating between
Halachic and secular
worlds.

Overall: DON'T PREACH -
be more humble than the
members?

- How should Chaim approach his parent's lack of concern for Halacha?
- Chaim's brothers look up to him. He feels that they should know that the house is not really kosher. How should he approach these other family members?
- Chaim would rather live at home but is starting to feel that living away is the only answer. Is this true? All depends - again: don't be afraid to convert.

→ WHEN GETTING HOME FOR A YEAR - remember 1/2 of 1/2 is still just a 1/4. Use 1/2...

2. Menachem has just come back to America after spending the past two years learning in Israel. His roommate at YU has Hashkafic views that Menachem feels run against his concept of Halacha. Menachem is frustrated. He doesn't want to cause tension with his roommate and just ignores these issues. Over time, this creates a distance between the roommates. The roommate now feels that Menachem has a holier-than-thou attitude and is starting to resent him for it.

- 1) NEVERAL DOMINANT
- 2) TOO HUMOR
- 3) NOT BECAUSING
- 4) NOT BECAUSING
- 5) NOT BECAUSING
- 6) NOT BECAUSING
- 7) NOT BECAUSING
- 8) NOT BECAUSING
- 9) NOT BECAUSING
- 10) NOT BECAUSING

There comes point
when better to part
But that's failure.
Real life = diverse
for each to find his
own path.

- How can Menachem be more accepting of his roommate, when his views are counter everything Menachem believes in?
- One thought Menachem has is to split up with the roommate and find a roommate who's views are more similar. Maybe, he wonders, it is better to stick to my own type of people and just avoid those with differing views?
- Should this be one's philosophy of life?

3. In this midst of a hot sugya Ben's maggid shiur begins to attack reformed Jews. The shiur perks up and the Rabbi begins with their practices but goes on to single out members of the reformed movement and the Israeli government calling them Reshaim and ending off "Yemach Shamom" (May their names be erased). This has always bothered Ben, who feels we should love all Jews. He feels that some statements made by the reformed movement are intolerable but cannot accept that this is how we should speak about other Jews.

- How should Ben approach his maggid shiur? What if it was at YU? Tell YU about it?
- What if it was his mother attacking the Chassidim who insist on being different and putting down the world we live in? Can't be worse than what we're doing now?
- What is the proper way to approach dealing with ideologies that we find intolerable? Quote Talmud - Gemara: in 1/2 of 1/2 is still a 1/4. Use 1/2...

→ Appeal for Tolerance, (not to do it...)

