

If a person lives in an area where there is only one synagogue, (and that) without a *mechitzah*, he should endeavor to organize a *minyan* (quorum of at least ten Jews for group prayer) in a private home; and if this is impossible, he should pray without a *minyan* rather than attend services in a non-kosher synagogue.

Union of Orthodox Rabbis of the U.S. and Canada

The Rabbinical Council of America . . . states that Jewish Law is very clear in that a synagogue which permits the mingling of the sexes during worship forfeits its sanctity as a sanctuary, and is unfit for prayer. It is forbidden to worship in such a synagogue.

No rabbi or religious leader has the authority or the moral right to state otherwise.

The Rabbinical Council of America

The Rabbinical Alliance of America . . . states unequivocally that a synagogue without a physical separation between the men and the women during services, cannot be designated a Jewish house of worship, and has no sanctity as a house of worship from the point of view of Jewish Law.

Rabbinical Alliance of America

It is a historic fact that as a hallmark of Jewish purity, mixed pews have always been foreign to the synagogue. . . . Those who have attempted to destroy this aspect of the synagogue have been motivated by a desire to imitate non-Jewish practices and to achieve an actual separation from the traditional rabbinate and the traditional community.

Rabbi Samuel Belkin

I hereby state that a synagogue with a mixed seating arrangement forfeits its sanctity and is unfit for prayer. With cognizance of the implications involved, I would still advise every Orthodox Jew to pray at home, even on the High Holy Days, rather than to worship in a synagogue with mixed seating.

Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik

The basic rule is that even if men are on one side and women on the other, it is still forbidden for them to be without a *mechitzah*; and this would seem to be a Biblical injunction.

Rabbi Moshe Feinstein

I am amazed to find that anyone could have any possible doubts on this matter, when in fact it has been obvious to Talmudic Sages through all generations right up to our day, that for men and women to sit in a synagogue without a proper partition between them is expressly forbidden by the Laws of our Holy Torah. Not one Sage has ever found grounds for permitting it.

Rabbi Aaron Kotler Zatzal