



Open Orthodoxy

Show# 77 | August 6th 2016

Selected emails from our listeners

Comments on the show

Hi. I just listened to the old shows on open orthodoxy. I know it's been awhile for you but I would just like to make a few points.

Firstly, I thought you were great as an interviewer, you asked great questions and you followed up on weak answers.

Secondly, while I despise the Shitah of open orthodoxy I have to say these people are master debaters. They literally deployed every trick in the book, from being "more pro Halacha than you", to disavowing people that clearly are connected to them, and to trying to make you feel guilty for asking legitimate questions.

It's also clear that each of the interviewees learned from the past interview, for example the first guest claimed that open orthodoxy is essentially restoring modern orthodoxy, however the second guy saw that it didn't fly so he claimed that they are about Kiruv and the third person took it further and said that they're about making a Kiddush Hashem. The same happened with regards to their comment that were Kefirah, the first guy tried to give answers, the second guy said they are Apikursim and the third guy took it further.

Furthermore, these people claim openly that they say different things in their Bais Medrash than what they say to the secular public, but what is clear is that they have a third way of talking and that is when they talk to the general Orthodox and Chareidi world where they try desperately to hide their true beliefs. In my opinion this aspect of them is the most dangerous for they hide what their really all about.

I would just point out that while they may be like foxes in hiding their Shitah, the truth did inadvertently come out as I will explain. You asked a great question to the second guy how come promoting gay marriage this isn't similar to a learning person who steals, and then asked a similar question to the third guy how come promoting gay marriage isn't similar to promoting adultery, and both times the interviewee was obviously shocked and outraged at the analogy, basically saying that stealing and adultery were harmful things. This answer blew their cover, for as Jews we believe that there is nothing more harmful as sin especially a sin as grave as gay sex where Chazal themselves say bring destruction. To us promoting gay marriage is similar to promoting adultery. These people clearly don't see the world through our spiritual eyes and only see harm only when society norms dictate the act is wrong. We believe that real harm is spiritual harm and is dictated by the Torah. This in a nut shell is the core difference between us and them, and as I said they blew their cover!

As far as the actual gay marriage debate I would like to make a few points. Firstly, the point they keep trying to make that they are trying to make a Kiddush Hashem doesn't hold any water. You correctly pointed out how promoting something Assur cannot be a Kiddush Hashem, but I would go further and argue with their very premise that society has accepted gay marriage, and we have to somewhat go along with it. America today is still very split on this issue, and millions of conservatives and evangelicals are anti-gay marriage. The battle is not lost at all, and so the opposite is true, that specifically today we have to hold strong and show our protest to this.

Also a number of their arguments are clearly incorrect. When you asked from the Chazal about how the destruction of the world came about from writing a document for gays, they gave a couple of misleading and wrong answers. One answer was that those were religious documents. This is clear garbage as before the Mabul marriage was a civil union as stated in Rambam in the beginning of Hilchos Ishus. They also tried to differentiate between gay marriage and gay sex. This argument was refuted by the very Chazal you brought that saw just writing a document as a grave sin. Furthermore, the very concept that sex isn't what marriage is about but only a small part of the equation, but it's really about the relationship doesn't hold water as I will explain.

It is clear in Chazal in many places that marriage IS about sex. This makes people uncomfortable, but the truth is people's discomfort comes from people viewing sex as lust and so therefore sex must be secondary to the actual relationship. However, Chazal saw sex as the very essence and climax of the relationship itself, and so it makes a lot of sense to view the marriage as sexual in nature. This refutes their entire argument that gay marriage is about marriage and companionship and not sex, for the

very essence of the marital relationship is about sex, and for this very reason it was so Chomur to Chazal.

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