NON-JEWISH PRAYER PLACES

INTRODUCTION TO NON-JEWISH PRAYER PLACES

Introduction to Non-Jewish Prayer Places

It is forbidden to enter into places of idol worship, such as a Buddhist or other *temple* of eastern religions.

ENTERING A CHURCH

Entering Church Not Dedicated to Prayer

You may enter parts of a church (meeting room, social hall, cemetery, etc.) or monastery as long as they are not dedicated for prayer.

Entering Church Sanctuary No Longer Used for Prayer

You may enter a church sanctuary that is no longer used for prayer.

Entering Dual-Use Church

If a church is used only infrequently for prayer services, a Jew may enter the church at other times but not during prayer services.

EXAMPLE You may enter the Sistine Chapel, in Vatican City.

REASON The Sistine Chapel was built as a church and even though it is sometimes used as a church, it is primarily an art museum.

Standing in Church Doorway

You may stand in the doorway of a church as long as:

- The doorway is at least 7 feet away from the sanctuary, and
- You do not enter a sanctuary used for prayer services.

Standing in Church Shadow

You may stand in the shadow of a church.

Deriving Benefit from Church Sanctuary

You may not derive any benefit from a church sanctuary.

Buying from Church or Salvation Army

You may buy goods from a church, Salvation army, etc.

ENTERING A MOSQUE

Entering a Mosque

You may enter a mosque.

PRAYING IN NON-DENOMINATIONAL CHAPEL

Praying in a Non-Denominational Chapel

A room that is set aside for prayer by any religion, such as those at airports, may be used by Jews for prayer as long as there are no symbols of any religion inside the room, such as a cross or statues.

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