WHERE TO PRAY: DISTRACTING PEOPLE/MECHITZA

Room Divider/Mechitza: Purpose

Men and women should be separated during prayer services with a *mechitza* that blocks the men's view of the women. The goal is to keep the men and women from distracting each other during prayer. This idea originated in the *Temple* in Jerusalem.

Where Mechitza Needed

A *mechitza* to separate men and women is needed only when praying in a place dedicated as a permanent location for regular Jewish prayer services with a *minyan*. If not, no *mechitza* is needed, and any separation that prevents distraction between men and women is sufficient. Even if the women are just behind the men, that is sufficient, even without a physical barrier.

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