

*Rabbi Yosef Kushner*

**Question:** In the first segment of this series, we raised the issue that *yichud* may apply in cases of businesses currently operating by appointment only and behind locked doors. What possible solutions can we offer to solve this problem?

**Answer:** In the first segment of this series, we mentioned that the *issur de'oraisa* of *yichud* is defined as a Jewish man and woman (either married or single and a *niddah*, which is the norm today) being **alone** in a **private setting** where it is unlikely that someone will disturb them there.

One possible solution involves ensuring that the two are **not alone**. This can be accomplished by having a man entering the store bring another family member with him, such as his wife, his son (who would be considered a *shomer*, or guardian, which removes the *issur yichud*, if he is above age six approximately), or a male helper. If two women are present (such as another secretary), this would not solve the problem, though, as *yichud* of two women and one man is still *assur derabanan*.

Another potential suggestion is to create a scenario where the setting is **no longer a private one**. For example, one could leave the door unlocked. This way, it is certainly possible that people may enter even if a sign states "by appointment only," and the privacy may likely be disturbed.

**Question:** Would the presence of transparent windows through which passersby on the street can see inside the store solve the problem?

**Answer:** The *poskim* state clearly that if the room inside is visible from the street via a window, the room has the same status as a *pesach pasuach*, an open entranceway where anyone can simply walk in, thus obviating the *issur yichud*.

The practical problem with this solution is that many windows are situated in such a manner that different parts of the room or store cannot be seen from the angle of visibility afforded by the window. If so, *yichud* may still be violated if the man and woman are standing in those parts of the store (and according to some *poskim*, even in the visible areas as well, since one can easily move to the area that is not visible from the window).

This issue is also very relevant to *yichud* in places with a video camera, which we will discuss IY"H in a later session.