

Synagogue Honors for the Intermarried Jew: A Dissenting Opinion

According to the rules of the Committee, members have the opportunity to submit statements within one month of adoption of a paper, in which they have the opportunity to explain either their concurring or dissenting vote on the paper. These statements can be individual or joint statements. Such statements, according to the rules of the Committee, are published along with the paper itself.

The following statement was in response to the teshuvah by Rabbi Joel Roth, "Synagogue Honors for the Intermarried Jew." Associating themselves with this statement were Rabbis Kassel Abelson, Jacob B. Agus, Elliot N. Dorff, Morris Feldman, David H. Lincoln, Judah Nadich, Mayer Rabinowitz and Gordon Tucker.

While reaffirming in the strongest possible terms our commitment to preventing intermarriage, and to reversing its effects through acts of *keruv*, we dissent from the conclusions of this paper. "Honors" do not have an unambiguous referent, and by their nature they are perceived differently by different communities. Individual rabbis must have the maximum possible latitude in formulating strategies for preventing and treating intermarriage. We therefore believe that the paper of Rabbi Max Routtenberg, "The Jew Who Has Intermarried,"¹ already adopted by this Committee, should stand, and be subject to interpretation at the local level in line with the objectives which this Committee unanimously affirms.

NOTES

1. Max J. Routtenberg, "The Jew Who Has Intermarried," *Proceedings of the Rabbinical Assembly*, Vol. XXVIII (1964), pp. 244-248.

