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"Is it the job of rabbis to fight intermarriage?"

Response by Rabbi Peter Schweitzer

Again with intermarriage? Haven't we debated this matter long enough? Isn't it time to move on? Here's my answer, from a letter to the editor almost ten years ago, in The Jewish Week (July 13, 2007). I stand by it.

Let's face it, intermarriage is increasingly prevalent within the Jewish community and someday may even become the norm.

The tide will not be turned by refusing to officiate at these marriages. These couples will get married anyway. The question is at what cost to their waning affection and growing alienation from a Jewish heritage and community that does not accept them.

We should welcome these couples, not because we're caving in to their demands, but because we affirm and embrace the love they cherish for one another. We're not selling out. We're opening doors, instead, with decency, respect, and, caring.

We also ought to recognize that many couples are looking for ways to affirm their Jewish connections within a cultural context outside of a traditional theistic ceremony. This, too, is part of our modern reality and an ever-evolving Judaism. As a Humanistic rabbi, I am proud to develop such ceremonies for Jewish and intercultural couples that are secular, inclusive and personal.