



Separation Between the Genders

Introduction, part 1:

The *navi* Zechariah (12:12) tells us that *l'asid lavo* (in the end of days), when Mashiach ben Yosef will perish, “*V’safdah ha’aretz mishpachos mishpachos levad, mishpachas Bais Dovid levad u’nesheihem levad*” – the families of Bais Dovid will mourn, with the men and women mourning separately.

Chazal derive from here that if the genders must be separate in a time of mourning (when people don’t act loosely) even *l’asid lavo*, when the *Yetzer Hara* will have no power, how much more so must the genders be separate during ordinary times, and certainly during moments of joy (when people are generally more casual), and especially nowadays when the *Yetzer Hara* still exists.

(*Succah 52a; Rashi*)