

Being around girls

Posted by -\_- - 25 Apr 2022 22:17

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What are your opinions on co-ed events, jobs that involve being around women, and lastly being friends with girls?

Jobs that involve women may have the advantage of desensitizing someone so that he will feel less attraction to women in any circumstance, but also has some risk of zera l'batela. Co-ed seems to desensitize less and have a greater risk (like 50/50). Being friends with girls seems to be a bad idea in most cases.

Maybe these situations are specific. Example -- depending on if a job is in a semi-secluded office (without yichud) or in a large store with female coworkers

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Re: Being around girls

Posted by 5Uu80\*cdwB#^ - 26 Apr 2022 00:14

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I don't really understand the question. Whenever possible, avoid immodesty.

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Re: Being around girls

Posted by Larry Bird - 26 Apr 2022 02:36

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I don't believe there is a concept of desensitization, when it comes to sexual promiscuity.

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Re: Being around girls

Posted by Bilaam Harasha to Yosef Hatzaddik - 26 Apr 2022 13:41

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I don't really think it's a good idea. Men in general, at least for young adults like me, act

completely different around girls. I noticed this a lot in my high school, and granted it was a secular highschool full of mostly goyim, but I think it still holds true. I was also at a shabbaton with some of my friends maybe a year ago in a modern orthodox environment, and it was coed, and I didn't just notice this phenomenon but actually something a little more inappropriate. One of my friends made one of the girls at the shabbaton, who was also in public school, feel uncomfortable by saying something inappropriate to her. I think he asked her about one of his friends "hitting it" (referring to one of his friends having intimate relations with her) if I remember the exact words correctly, and that made her very embarrassed which I do remember explicitly. This specific anecdote doesn't have to do with what you asked for and that's in regards to secular people but I think it shows maybe what could result after being in a coed environment long enough. When it comes to being "desensitized" I think all it would lead to is actually more promiscuity and desire for sexually worse things.

As an example to get my point across, many start watching p at first and then gradually move onto watching more "hardcore" stuff as time goes by as they get desensitized to the normal stuff. And I know you are referring to being around women who are dressed modestly but even with that, at least for me, if they look attractive I find it very hard not to look. And that comes obviously from desire, so I think even in a modest environment, you should avoid being around women and to minimize any interaction with them because I think it would lead to a downward spiral like in the example above even if it's a modest environment.

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Re: Being around girls  
Posted by Yissie - 19 May 2022 18:06

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Just to add to what everyone else has been saying. Someone told me that the Ramban (Devarim 29 18) says that when someone fulfills one desire, it will create a desire to do more. You may get desensitized to this, but you will then have a drive for more.

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Re: Being around girls  
Posted by DavidT - 19 May 2022 20:29

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[Yissie wrote on 19 May 2022 18:06:](#)

Just to add to what everyone else has been saying. Someone told me that the Ramban (Devarim 29 18) says that when someone fulfills one desire, it will create a desire to do more.

You may get desensitized to this, but you will then have a drive for more.

Talmud *Sanhedrin 107A*"There is a small limb, if a person starves it, it will be satisfied; but if he feeds it, it will be hungry."

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Re: Being around girls  
Posted by Vehkam - 19 May 2022 22:08

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yes, the ramban actually quotes that gemara....

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Re: Being around girls  
Posted by TheNextStep - 20 May 2022 07:20

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Rabbi Manis Friedman gave in a video a single sentence that has served me well for years. The rule is often simply stated as, don't talk to girls. He said,

"Don't talk to women any more than necessary."

How does this play out? Female coworkers, I talk only briefly about work only. I almost never initiate conversation, and let it end quickly. Female friends I've had since (secular) high school? Well surprise, they never reach out. Those that have, it's been once per 1-3 years. Years. And I don't initiate. Turns out, any female friend you have is likely not as close as you thought. If she is, talk to a matchmaker, it's a sign! Haha.

In other words, you don't have to be rude, in fact apparently they seem to like me more than other men even though we barely talk. Don't shut conversation down, but don't extend it either. Also, I make sure never to be alone in a room (say, the eating alone in the lunch room at work, and someone walks in) for more than a few seconds. Being aware of the more specific modesty laws like yichud, gives one a sensitivity worth having. Even though the door is wide open, finishing or leaving with my sandwich is between me and Hashem, and therefore I can move along genuinely and politely.

Maybe that's it. It's not about women. It's about sensitivity. Be polite, to women and to Hashem. And on mixed events, well, I tend to keep my eyes on the sky, and away from people in general. I went to a carnival a few years ago I to get overpriced popcorn and lose some carnival games, and it was okay. I don't seek such things. I also go to museums sometimes. Looking up makes you seem distant and perhaps thoughtful. That is, far too busy with your thoughts to draw any woman's attention.

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Re: Being around girls

Posted by DavidT - 20 May 2022 13:41

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Re: Being around girls

Posted by strugglingWithMyself - 30 Jun 2022 11:58

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Just too add my two cents, growing up around many people who have been in coeducational environments, and BH myself being mainly in a separate one, out of say 40 boys who went to coed schools - 10 are totally not frum, 20 commit multiple issurim, that I know about, 5 try their best to avoid (but after 5 years they all have girlfriends, and have problems with shmiras enayim) and the last 5 don't initiate contact with girls, and are as far as I know doing the best - learning, davening, etc, even when noone is watching them.

*(although this is anecdotal, i have a few freinds who have told me similar stories - its not conclusive but i would say, especially for people like us, who we know are struggling - don't risk it. These people are ostensibly **desensitized** but many of them don't act like it...)*

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Re: Being around girls

Posted by Lchaim Tovim - 30 Jun 2022 13:43

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I think the risks far outweigh the reward.

It's kind of like telling yourself, I'll have lots of delicious fattening food around so that it will lose its appeal and I'll have an easier time dieting.

Do non-jews or secular folk who should be "desensitized" have less of an attraction to women?

There's no magic pill

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Re: Being around girls

Posted by Boruch24 - 18 Aug 2022 00:31

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I think the best option is to be around non jewish coworkers so hopefully you feel like its harder to get too friendly

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Re: Being around girls  
Posted by Lchaim Tovim - 18 Aug 2022 14:21

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[Boruch24 wrote on 18 Aug 2022 00:31:](#)

I think the best option is to be around non jewish coworkers so hopefully you feel like its harder to get too friendly

I've had non jewish coworkers...it's much easier to get friendly with them...

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Re: Being around girls  
Posted by i-man - 18 Aug 2022 19:18

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[Lchaim Tovim wrote on 18 Aug 2022 14:21:](#)

[Boruch24 wrote on 18 Aug 2022 00:31:](#)

I think the best option is to be around non jewish coworkers so hopefully you feel like its harder to get too friendly

I've had non jewish coworkers...it's much easier to get friendly with them...

Yup , especially the girls who don't have that built in guard around men the way frum people do.

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Re: Being around girls  
Posted by Lchaim Tovim - 18 Aug 2022 19:30

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[i-man wrote on 18 Aug 2022 19:18:](#)

[Lchaim Tovim wrote on 18 Aug 2022 14:21:](#)

[Boruch24 wrote on 18 Aug 2022 00:31:](#)

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Yup , especially the girls who don't have that built in guard around men the way frum people do.

Read: All of them

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