

## OBLIGATIONS OF THE REFORM JEW

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Notes from the Metropolitan Brotherhood Conference  
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### 1. THE OBLIGATION TO STUDY- TO KNOW

Mere ignorance of Orthodox Judaism does not qualify one to be a Reform Jew. Properly, a Reform Jew is one who is so well versed in the history and literature of Judaism that he is able to distill the essence of its teaching and emphasize it rather than the ceremonials of Judaism. The Reform Jew should be familiar with all aspects of Judaism. He should be the learned student who knows enough to separate essence from form.

### 2. THE OBLIGATION TO TEACH

One who is possessed of a burning idea is not content to keep it to himself. Reform Jews must teach the cardinal principles of Judaism to the members of their families, to other Jews, and, ultimately, to non-Jews as well. Those who teach how life may be improved, it is said, are equal to those who create life.

### 3. THE OBLIGATION TO PRACTICE-TO DO

A Reform Jew is not one who practices less of Judaism than an Orthodox Jew. The justification for shredding Jewish observance of much of its ceremony is that we shall then be able to devote our greater energy to the projection of the essence of Judaism, the moral law, into all avenues of life.

### HOW CAN WE FULFILL THESE OBLIGATIONS?

No one can teach or apply that which he does not understand. For most of us, the task of fulfilling our obligation as Jews begins with a turning to the process of study. Brotherhood Institutes, Adult Education Classes, attendance at Services, self-study over basic Jewish works—all of these are paths which lead to the starting point. With study and understanding will come pride in being a Jew and ardor to advance its ideals.

We can find ways to project our ideals through affiliation with our Temple SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE. In this committee we will learn what problems of our time need our most urgent attention and from our study and worship we will learn how we might meet these problems.

We must become propagators as well as defenders of the faith and teachers as well as students.