

THEOLOGY AND HALAKHAH IN JEWISH FEMINISM

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Abstract

This article conceptualizes the various theological debates within Jewish feminism which were focused on identifying the core theological problem for achieving gender justice and concerning the importance of halakhah for Jewish feminist life. The article demonstrates that surprisingly although the Orthodox tendency is to emphasize halakhah and minimize theology, Orthodox feminists dealt mainly with theological issues, while a Reform feminist dealt with halakhic issues. All in all, fifty years into the process it can be said that all currents of Jewish feminism accept the primacy of theology over halakhah. Even those who believe that halakhah has a place in Jewish feminism understand that halakhic change that stands alone and is not anchored in a complete theological doctrine is impossible.