



The Fundamentals

The Source

1. *Chazal* (*Kiddushin 80b*) derive the prohibition of *yichud min haTorah* from the *pasuk* (*Devarim 13:7*), “*Ki yesis’cha achicha ven imecha*, (when your brother, **the son of your mother**, persuades you...)” This teaches us that only a son is allowed to be secluded with his mother (and a daughter may be alone with her father), but it is forbidden by the Torah for a person to be secluded with any of the other *arayos*. The exceptions to this rule are that a brother may be secluded with his sister (on a temporary basis), and a biological grandparent may be secluded with a grandchild of the opposite gender, as will be discussed later.

2. Aside from the scenarios which involve *yichud mid’Oraysa* such as one man and one woman, other scenarios are forbidden *mid’Rabbanan*, such as one man with two women. The details of this *halachah* will be discussed in future emails.

- It is important to note that although in certain situations *yichud* is only prohibited *mid'Rabbanan*, it is just as forbidden and may not be transgressed (except in specific circumstances delineated by *Chazal*). (See *Chofetz Chaim 4:2 and Be'er Mayim Chaim note 7; Shu"t Maharam Shick OC 71*)