

## Supplementary Materials for “Denominations in Judaism”

### Discussion Questions

1. “Why can’t we just be—Jews?” [p. 31]
  - a. What are the three reasons Chancellor Eisen gives for the existence of denominations in Judaism? Would you add any reasons to this list? Or remove any?
  - b. What are the basic disagreements between the denominations, according to Chancellor Eisen? Do you identify with the positions described as “Conservative”? Can you think of any Jews of other denominations who would also agree with all these positions?
  
2. “I am a Conservative Jew because I believe strongly that our kind of Judaism more than any other gets the Torah right.” [p. 32]
  - a. What are the two parts of the lesson that Chancellor Eisen draws from the existence of denominations? Would you draw the same conclusions? Why or why not?
  - b. Why are denominations worth preserving according to Chancellor Eisen? Do you agree with his reasons? Do you think we need denominations? Why or why not?
  
3. “For all that I believe in the necessity of multiple paths, and believe passionately in the essential rightness of the Conservative path, I am convinced that the “default position” among Jews right now should be partnership.” [p. 32]
  - a. What can all Jews can do together, according to Chancellor Eisen? Can you add to the list in the chapter’s last paragraph? Give some examples of where we might have to limit this collaboration.
  - b. Why should we work for greater unity, according to Eisen? Do you think there are ideological reasons to increase our collaboration, as well as practical ones? If so, what are they?