



5 Facts You Need to Know About: Reform Judaism

1. Reform Judaism is a denomination of Judaism that was born out of disruption of traditional Jewish society due to the enfranchisement of Jews into Central European society. The ideas were nurtured in 19th century Germany. They were imported into the United States where today there are approximately 2.6 million Reform Jews.
2. The Reform movement seeks to promote the ethics and values of Judaism over the traditions and rituals. It is up to the individuals to determine which ceremonies and rituals hold meaning and should be kept.
3. Reform theology claims that divine inspiration did not end with Moses at Mt. Sinai but that there is constant revelation in the Jewish community and this revelation brings the religion into modernity.
4. Examples of changes to Jewish traditions made by the Reform movement include updating the language found in the liturgy by revisiting Hebrew translations and removing passages and prayers that are derogatory toward other communities or were made out-of-date by new scientific knowledge.
5. Reform Judaism believes the concept of *Tikkun Olam*—repairing the world— is a mandate to engage in community service and pursue social justice.

Learn more at:

<http://reformjudaism.org/practice/what-reform-judaism>

<http://urj.org/what-we-believe/what-reform-judaism>

These five points are not meant to be comprehensive or authoritative. We hope they will encourage you to explore this tradition more deeply and seek out members of this community to learn about their beliefs in action. It is our firm belief that in understanding our differences we will better understand our common humanity.

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