

# The Weekly Reflection by Rav Simcha Klein

## The Kiddush Hashem Imperative of this Generation

(ויקרא (כב, לב) וְלֹא תַחַלְלוּ אֶת שֵׁם קְדֹשִׁי וְנִקְדַּשְׁתִּי בְּתוֹךְ בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל אֲנִי יְדֹד מִקְדָּשְׁכֶם.

For most of our long *galus*, the primary manner in which *Yidden* fulfilled the great mitzvah of *Kiddush Hashem* was by their willingness to sacrifice their lives for the glory of *Hashem* and his *Torah*. It was the epitome of what a Jew could do for *Hashem*. Great people throughout the ages spoke openly of their intense desire for the exalted opportunity to serve *Hashem* in such a fashion.

In the free and open society in which we live in today, we are not being challenged by the nations of the world to put our lives on the line for our unique way of life. On the contrary, religious freedom is considered by all to be a noble ideal.

However, our generation is currently being presented with another form of *mitzvas Kiddush Hashem* that perhaps rarely existed in times past. In earlier generations, most gentiles despised us so much that they weren't able to look at us honestly and objectively and see any merit in our divinely given way of life. However, that is not the case anymore. Today most gentiles we encounter on a daily basis don't have any serious negative preconceived notions about us. Therefore, when we act publicly in a way that inspires appreciation and reverence for our unique way of life, gentiles will be suitably impressed, causing sanctification of *Hashem's* name.

Perhaps one of the reasons why we are currently blessed to live in such an accepting society is for this very purpose: to see if *Klal Yisroel* can rise to the challenge of the other form of this *mitzvah* -not dying with *Kiddush Hashem* but rather living with *Kiddush Hashem*!

Each and every Jew must view himself as a personal ambassador of *Hashem*. No matter his profession, his daily conduct in the workplace should reflect this.

May we all merit to be a vehicle to sanctify *Hashem's* name.

שערי תשובה (שער שלישי אות קמ"ח) "כי הדבר ידוע כי מדרכי קידוש השם יתברך להודיע בכל מבטא שפתים, ובכל אשר ירמזון עינים, ובכל הנהגה ופועל ידים, כי יסוד לנפש האדם וצבי עדיו והטוב והעיקר והתועלת והיקר אשר בו –

עבודת השם יתברך ויראתו ותורתו, כמו שכתוב (קהלת יב) 'כי זה כל האדם',  
ודבר זה כבוד השם יתברך" עכ"ל.