

Ultimate Parsha continued...

The driving rules, of course, help keep us all safe and allow us to navigate the roads as a society; within the framework of following the driving rules, we are free to drive anywhere we wish! If pushed, our children will usually admit that the family conversation at dinnertime is enhanced by a focus on family rather than the phone, that the family kitchen would quickly become unusable if everyone left dirty dishes in the sink, and that the restrictions on individual choice in school clothing allowed us as a school to focus on classes and learning, rather than perhaps face the distraction of distinctive individual clothing choices.

Finally, how does our obligation to help others learn Torah, enhance freedom? When we collectively recognize the Torah way of life, we are all free to develop an incredible relationship with each other and with Hashem. **Only by obligating each individual to help each other** (at the risk of being cursed) **can we exist as a truly free society.**

One of the remarkable things I have quickly noticed about our RMBA family and our broader Jewish family, in the wake of Hurricane Harvey, is the incredible sense of connection. Students and families really want to help each other, seemingly without any need of this obligation. In witnessing families and children who flooded themselves helping other families rebuild, in watching friends (both new and old) pour in from all over the country to help Houston recover, and in observing huge truckloads of supplies and food and clothing coming into the gates of RMBA, I have come to appreciate even more the freedom that this incredible sense of community allows us.

May we all appreciate the wonderful freedoms promoted by our Torah.
Shabbat Shalom.

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Paul S. Oberman

