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***"Is it permitted to invite a non-Jew to your Seder?
And is it a good idea?"***

Response by Rabbi Peter Schweitzer

I am amazed by this question. Actually, that's an understatement. I was stunned by its insensitivity. Sure, it is a tradition to ask lots of questions at the Seder but this one crossed a line for me. Why is this question different than all other questions? Because it is exclusionary, clannish, alienating and insulting to all our families and friends whose non-Jewish members are not "good enough" to participate in our celebration with us.

I know what the Bible says, that "no foreigner could eat of it", nor could any uncircumcised male partake of the pascal lamb. But that was then, when observing cultic practices was only for the initiated. Thankfully, we live in different times, when "breaking bread" with the stranger – especially the unleavened variety – is a good thing because it tears down barriers and builds good will instead.

There is a famous story about Rabbi Hillel who could not recall a particular practice relating to Passover. He resolved the matter by saying, "Go out and see what the people are doing." For Hillel – and for us -- folk wisdom and custom trumps halakhic rulings, especially ones that are archaic. So, come, look at my house, and you'll see how we do it, with an array of participants. Jews, non-Jews, all are welcome here!