



# The Zion Letter

The Monthly Newsletter of For Zion's Sake Ministries, Inc.  
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## The Importance of Jew and Gentile: Being One in Messiah

I recently spoke with an old friend who told me that since I am a believer in Yeshua/Jesus, I am no longer a Jew. He then quoted Galatians 3:28, "***There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.***" Is this fellow right? Is it really true that I am not a Jew anymore since I believe in Yeshua/Jesus? **The more important question is what does "One" mean in the context of this verse?** What does the Bible say? There is much division in the Body of Messiah, especially with the advent of social media; almost everybody thinks they are a Bible teacher. Wild doctrines abound while wisdom based on sound theological training, experience, and Jewish background is largely rebuffed, and correction no matter how gentle is widely resisted, mostly I think because it is not what people want to hear. I am a real Jewish Rabbi, a mature shepherd with years of experience in the Messianic Jewish and traditional Jewish community, who has been called by God to serve Him in the five-fold ministry, ordained by my fellow Messianic Jewish Rabbis, who themselves were and are founders of the Jewish revival in America, and I have been caring for the Messianic flock with years of time and prior experience on the mission field. My experience is that when I try to gently correct, I am trashed or blocked, while the heresy, even apostasy continues to grow.

I once had a convicted sex offender start attending my congregation. After assessing that he had no chance of abusing a child, we gave him a chance to see if the Lord would change him, but over time he did not repent and I had to ask him to leave. The fellow left and promptly started a YouTube channel teaching Torah on his own. Even more shocking is that he actually gained a small following. The truth is that people watch or listen to messages online without taking time to vet who the person teaching is, or by whose authority they teach, or what training and background do they have, and who is their covering. It is very important to be under authority (see Romans 13:1, 1Peter

2:13-17), and if you are teaching about Jewish things I would hope you are not just self-taught or self-proclaimed expert on Jewishness. If a person is getting his Jewish information from some orthodox Rabbi, then that is a big red flag. Why do people value information from unbelieving Jewish sources more than from real Messianic Jewish believers? It doesn't make sense. Were they sent out with prayer and the laying of hands by recognized elders as the Scriptures tell us in Acts 13:3, Acts 6:6, Acts 14:23? It is the believer's willingness to accept teaching from almost anyone with a microphone and a YouTube channel without question that is concerning.



Why is it that God's people don't stop to think and ask before they watch, listen and receive? Why is it that when authentic ministry is presented, there is a strong tendency to run away and attach to something phony which actually results in hindering God's work for Israel. I see it all the time. I know, with God all things are possible, but in 29 years of full time ministry I have watched most people act like Jonah who was obstinate and contentious with God, running away from God's calling, wanting to do it their way.

Most people get easily offended if you bring even the slightest correction; they run away and do the church hop, or decide to start doing "Jewish stuff" their own way, heaping up sin after sin then moving onto the next church as soon as they become offended again. Sadly most pastors just welcome them in without vetting them in any way. Sinners, backsliding believers, and Jewish pretenders, who never repent will experience their heart of flesh turn to stone and they will lose connection with God and their destiny for Israel; how sad because repentance is so liberating and faithfulness is more precious than gold! The maturity level of many believers today is sadly about 7<sup>th</sup> grade. Like our public education system or the military in America, the standards have gone way down in God's assembly. Is it any wonder why Paul said in the last days, immediately preceding the appearance of the Man of Lawlessness (aka the Anti-Christ), there would be a time of great spiritual delusion and deception in

*Your local connection to Israel!*

which there would be a great falling away? Yeshua told us that the love of **many** would grow cold just before His return. “**Many**” refers to the Church; that is because we Messianic Jews are only a few hundred thousand in the earth, whereas those in the church are in the millions.

To my friend who told me that I am no longer a Jew now that I am in Messiah, I refer to the Apostle Paul who wrote, **“If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, I more so: circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews concerning the law, a Pharisee; concerning zeal, persecuting the believers; concerning righteousness which is in the law, blameless,” Phil 3:4-6.** This verse pretty much describes my upbringing as a Jew minus the part about persecuting believers.

I learned a long time ago not to let people define me. I mentioned what my friend said to me to show you the lack of understanding of the Word which is common among believers. For example, the New Testament was compiled in the latter half of the first century and later canonized in the second century. The black African people were enslaved in America 1619 when twenty slaves arrived at Jamestown settlement in Virginia. That is over 1,500 years from the time Paul said there is neither slave nor free. Think about that for a second, neither slave nor free... tell a black person whose ancestors were slaves that slavery didn't exist. How about telling a Holocaust survivor or most any Jewish person that the Holocaust didn't take place; do you think they'll agree with you? Of course not! But what did Paul mean when he said there are no free people either? Aren't we as Americans free? Do we not hear the expression, **“Our fathers fought for our freedom” or “this is still a free country is it not?”** True freedom comes from God and God alone. Harriet Tubman a former slave and a famous abolitionist wrote of being free in Christ, while still a slave to man. How wonderful is that! A people without God will lose their worldly and their spiritual freedom; just look at the millions who perished under Chinese communism, Soviet communism or Hitler's fascism. So there is still slavery on the earth and there are still slaves being human trafficked for work or for sex right here in the USA in 2025. Or, consider the oppressive conditions millions of women live under in fundamentalist Islamic countries such as Afghanistan, Iran or Saudi Arabia.

As for male or female, our President just signed an executive order reestablishing two genders proven by science (chromosomes); you and I are either male or female. This is so ridiculous that I can't believe I have to argue that women are women and men are men. President Trump just signed an executive order banning biological males from women's and girl's athletics, locker rooms, bathrooms etc., Praise the Lord! Even God said, **“Therefore a man shall leave his fa-**

**ther and mother and be joined to his wife and they shall become one flesh,” Gen 2:24.**

This brings me to **“Jew or Greek”**. Did Paul really mean there are now no more Jews or Gentiles? **My friend erred in his interpretation of the Scripture because he left out one small verse:** **“There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”** That verse is **“For you are all one in Christ Jesus”** is the key part of the verse. According to Dr. David Stern, author of the Jewish New Testament Commentary, **“Jewish and Gentile believers, males and females, slave or free must treat each other as equals before God.”** In other words, *in the Kingdom* there is no distinction in God's sight. Stern goes on to say that in the Bible, both the older and the New Covenant, contain commands that apply to women such as head coverings, and monthly purification, even also teaching, whereas, men have specific directives from the Lord and especially to those of us who are teachers and leaders. To be one in Messiah (As Galatians 3:28 is talking about) comes from the Hebrew word **“Echad”**. Echad means unity, to be one in unity, like a football team, an army platoon, or a spiritual community. Echad appears in the prayer called **“The Shemah”** which says, **“Hear o Israel, the Lord thy God, the Lord is one! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.” Dt 6:4-9.** This is the most important prayer in Judaism and even the Lord Himself said **“The most important one is this: Hear O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your**

**heart, and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength,” Mark 12:29-31.** Yeshua was quoting the Shemah taken from the Deuteronomy text above. Echad means one, but it is not in the sense of one apple, or one cookie. It is in the sense of one bunch of grapes or one people of God, many tribes! It is a oneness that means unity.

Speaking of unity, Yeshua said, **“I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep. And am known by My own. As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father, and I lay down My life for the sheep. And other sheep I have which are not of this fold (speaking of the Gentiles); them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd,” John 10:14-16.** Ephesians 2:19-22 tells us that we are no longer strangers or foreigners, but fellow citizens with the Saints and members of the household of God...In whom the whole building is being fitted **Together**, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In whom you also are being built **together** for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.” **But are we really being fitted together or being built together — Jew and Gentile into a holy Temple in the Lord and a dwelling place of God?** Honestly, most Christians I

Body of Messiah today... separated (see Jn 10:14-16)

Jewish  
Sheep Fold

Sheep fold of  
the Nations

(Continued on page 3)

meet in Tennessee might know one or two Jewish people if any and usually not from church. Let's face it, we're not hanging together that much. Perhaps when Paul and the Apostles built the first Gentile congregations and nurtured them tenderly, Jew and Gentile were one in Messiah, and the Bible was presented from a Jewish perspective and honor was given to the foundations of faith in Messiah. But how many of you have even one Jew in your church? In reality, we are not being built **"Together"** as it was in the days of the New Testament. Honestly, until we begin to understand the role of the Jew in Jew and Gentile as being similar to the role of the "man" in man and wife, "together" just means being around the other group without any commitment or understanding of the value of the roles we play in God's kingdom.

Friends, I plan to teach next on the Man of Lawlessness who is coming on the scene in our near future, but if we don't come back **together** as it was in the first century, we will fall, and many will fall away. It's time for the Jew to be given His rightful place in the Body of Messiah, not told he is no longer Jewish. Like the prodigal son of old, we are back and perhaps the older brother is jealous and resentful a bit, what do you think? *How can we achieve the one new man of Ephesians 2:11-22 if we go on telling the Jew he is no longer a Jew?* If we don't accept the Messianic Jew or his teaching and recognize that perhaps God sent him to cities and towns around the world with a message for the Church, then the Jonah syndrome will continue to abound bringing the great falling away which precedes the arrival of the man of lawlessness in II Thes. 2:3. Like Jonah, the belly of a whale is destined for those who think they can have it their own way. Now if you are in a Messianic synagogue or support Messianic Judaism, then I feel sure you are on the right path. But maybe God is challenging you to a higher commitment; maybe by sharing this with others, or being more of a participant, or joining more actively with the Messianic community.

I believe that we Messianic Jews were raised up in the last days to complete the reformation that Martin Luther and the Protestants started, but did not finish. What do I mean by that? Well first of all, God chose the Jewish people: **"For you are a people holy (set apart unto the Lord) to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for His treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth."** Dt 7:6. Remember I quoted John 10:14 about the two sheepfolds becoming one flock? One fold is a Jewish fold, the other sheepfold is comprised of believers from every other nation, tongue and tribe. Together we shall be one flock said the Lord. Unfortunately many,

many churches and pastors teach that the Jewish people are just like any other nation, no different and with no special calling or purpose other than maybe to rebuild the temple for the anti-christ; nothing could be further from the truth. Romans 11:29 says, **"for the gifts and callings of God are irrevocable."** That means the chosen-ness of the Jewish people cannot be undone. It does not mean that we are better than anybody else; we did not ask to be chosen by God; He did it because He wanted to do it. So the joining together of the two sheepfolds is like a marriage of a man and a woman (see the circles for a better understanding).

Secondly, the Kingdom of God is going to be very Jewish when the King of the Jews returns to sit on King David's throne at Jerusalem for a thousand years (see Luke 1, Ezek 43:7). God says He is going to reestablish His Biblical Holidays and Sabbaths (See Isaiah 66:23, Zechariah 14:

16). For an outline of God's holidays I suggest you read Leviticus 23. Yeshua traveled a difficult 80 miles on foot to celebrate those holidays. He went up to the Temple from the time He was a boy to the time of His crucifixion (See Luke 22, Matthew 26-28.). In John 7, He went up to celebrate Sukkot (The Feast of Booths or Tabernacles) the very same holiday God says all nations will celebrate during the millennium in Zechariah 14:16. In fact, the missing part of the great commission is the part about **"Teaching them (the nations) to observe all the things I have commanded you (the Apostles).** Friend, that was meant to include God's Holy Days

and doing it **together** with the Messianic Jewish community. If Jesus walked 80 miles to be in the Temple for the holidays, do you think it is important to set aside time for God's Holidays, where you get to drive (not walk) to be in the local Messianic Temple that God gave you so you could take part in God's holy appointed times? Is this too hard for Christians? Many of you have been to a Passover Seder meal or have seen a teaching. Attending a Passover is not just for the edification of your faith; God wants us to get it in our spirit that participation in God's holidays together, is a spiritual rehearsal, and a when we do it together it is a significant spiritual prophetic act; it is a manifestation of the One New Man, Jew and Gentile, of Ephesians 2:11-22. This prophetic act cannot be accomplished in or by a church or a self-appointed Jewish expert. It is something reserved as a duty and a role of the Messianic Jew to be the host and the facilitator of the Feasts of the Lord and the glue that holds Jew and Gentile together is the love of Messiah in the Holy Spirit.

### Conclusion:

Some say the definition of insanity is "doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results." My

What the body of Messiah  
in unity looks like



Eph 2:19-22



friends, great pillars of the church are falling including well known spiritual church leaders (such as Gateway in Dallas, and IHOP in Kansas City... among many others). Churches are struggling with attendance and believers are drifting away from holiness and faithfulness. Perhaps we need to read and study our Bibles more and look up words like **“one” in the original tongue, THEN** we might not say foolish things like Jewish people are no longer Jews. If we come **“together”** as Jew and Gentile (the two sheep folds) where we understand and act on the spiritual value of being under the blessing of the Messianic Jew, we might just see a revival like we’ve never seen since Acts 2. Many of you have to be willing to get out of your box (traditions of men) and join us in whatever way God would have you. There is a significant role for those who chose to stick with the real thing. The reward is great for those who stand faithfully in the Ruth calling without running, and know we Jews need and value the love, nurturing, and experience of the Gentiles. Nevertheless, The Man of Lawlessness is coming and love is growing cold, nevertheless we still have a little time to save a lot of people from falling away. Like Jonah we all have the choice to shift from sitting in the belly of the whale to accepting God’s call to a mission resulting in amazing power and glory for the Kingdom of God.

In His Love,

*Rabbi Joe and Dawn Bell*

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