

Messianica:

Redefining the one new man

by

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In recent years we have seen the Messianic Movement move from one side to the other like a drunken man, trying hard to find its identity. Many new converts are not sure of just what position they are meant to be taking, even though they know this is what God the Holy Spirit has led them into. Lately that position has lurched very much toward Rabbinic Judaism, as they go about adopting for themselves as much of the Mosaic Law as they can. Now you may say, what is wrong with that? Well, Yeshua came to deliver us from the curse of the Law (Gal 2:17-19, 3:10) and to place us in a New Covenant based on Grace, love, and faith. I am not saying that we should be leaning the other way and all becoming as Gentile churches, but what I am saying is if the Law could save or help us Yeshua would not have had to come, and what is really being done, is rebuilding the middle wall of partition once again that Yeshua came to destroy.

Now you might say, what evidence do you have on this? Well, first I would make the point that is made in Ephesians 2:15:

“Having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is the Law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself **one new man from the two** thus making peace.”

The new man is the 'church' as a whole, not the individual believer. It is His body, and it contains both Jew and Gentile. I will also make this point: if the Jews are not included it is not the church, because the text clearly says that there are two peoples in this body known as the church, and that is Jews and Gentiles. You may say to me that is replacement theology, and I would say yes it is, but it's God orientated. It's not the Gentile church dominance that some think it is or should be, neither is it rabbinic Judaism. If the text states that He made **one** out of the **two** then He has replaced the old orders, which was Jews who were acceptable by birth through previous Covenants and Gentiles who were outside of those Covenants. So to avoid confusion it has been called the Church; this has never happened before. Nothing was ever called 'church' before (Ekklesia, Kahal) until Yeshua did it and Paul informed us of it in Ephesians and Corinthians. God at no point ever made any Covenants with Gentiles.

Now you might wonder, how does this Church function in its new identity? Well, this is the crux of the problem, because Jews will want it to be more associated with Judaism and therefore rabbinic, and Gentiles may want to take it the other way into more of a liberal Gentile format. I believe that scripture has given us the answer in a few texts; I will now take you through them.

First we read in Matthew 21:43:

“Therefore I say to you that the Kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a nation bearing the fruits of it. And who ever falls on this stone will be broken:but on whomever it falls, it will grind him to powder.”

This is Yeshua towards the end of His ministry speaking to the Chief Priests and the Pharisees. Now we need to make the point that when He is using the term 'Kingdom of God' He is talking about His Kingdom on earth; if He is talking about His heavenly Kingdom He uses 'Kingdom of Heaven'. So He is plainly taking their authority away on earth because of their unrelenting legalistic stand, and because they do not believe in His deity. He will give it

to a nation that is bearing the fruits of His Kingdom, the one He provided on earth. Now is this anti -Semitic? No! Is it replacement? Yes, *in a way*, because it all belongs to Him; He is the author and the finisher, the beginning and the end, and He will do what He sees fit with what is His own. Does that make it anti -Jewish? Does it hand everything over to the Gentiles? Certainly not, and to understand that we need to read further texts.

Romans 11:7 speaks about the Israel position:

“What then? Israel has not obtained what it seeks; but the elect have obtained it, And the rest were blinded”

Verse 11

“I say then, have they stumbled that they should fall? Certainly not!

But through their fall to provoke them to jealousy, salvation has come to the Gentiles.”

What is Paul saying here? He is saying that those who rejected Him (Yeshua) and His teaching have failed to remain in His Kingdom of God on earth. Why? Because He has tried to explain through parables that they would have been familiar with, and many other things, during His three years on the earth, but they will not receive either Him or His teaching. Even though He had promised them in Deuteronomy 18:18 that He was going to send another Prophet like Moses, who would explain all things to them, they could not receive it. So those who did believe will be saved; they are the elect or Israel of God 'one part' of the nation who bear the fruits of the Kingdom of God. So you may ask, what of the Gentiles? Well this rejection allowed them into the Covenant. We read in Rom 11:17 :

“And if some of the branches were broken off and you (Gentiles) being a wild Olive tree were grafted in among them and with them became **partakers of the root and fatness of the Olive tree**” (Isaiah 60:11-12)

The Gentiles were grafted into Israel to firmly plant them into the Lord's Jewish base. This does not mean that Gentiles have to begin dressing in Jewish regalia such as tallets, Kippurs etc. Neither should this ever be seen as anti-Jewish in any way. This Jewish base has to make Gentiles welcome alongside their Jewish brothers, and vice versa, we must have unity in diversity in this body called the church. Yeshua commanded that we should love one another. So what identity should this church take in the future?

The answer is again found in Romans 11:17:

“And if some of the branches were broken off, and you being a wild Olive tree were grafted in among them, and with them became partakers of the root and fatness of the Olive tree, do not boast against the branches, But if you do boast , remember that you do not support the root, but **the root supports you.**”

This one new man, although made up from more Gentiles than Jews, has to be built upon a Jewish base. Why? Because the '**root and fatness**' spoken of is Jewish, and the Gentiles were grafted into it, therefore it has to have a Jewish base. Why? Because everything else in the world is Pagan, and it is important that the momentum achieved by God the Father with the Jewish people is continued. They will teach the Gentiles how they have learned to walk with the living God. Now there will be some Gentiles who, like some Jews, will not accept this, so what will happen to them?

Well the answer is the same for both and we read it in Math 21:23:

“And who ever falls on this stone will be broken:but on whomever it falls, it will grind him to powder.”

God the Father will continue to break them down by His Holy Spirit so they can see and understand, but if not they will be ground to powder.

The Structure of the Jewish Base

This Jewish base will possess all the main elements within the Law but will not be ruled by them, but ruled by Grace through Faith in the love of Yeshua. You may say, how will that appear? Well their motivation is not to keep rules and regulations, but to stay in the love of Messiah because this is a New Covenant of love and faith and the Law is now written on their hearts. It is a higher position in God than the Mosaic Law, He has lifted us out of the position of obeying commandments and into the love of the Father.

In the Mosaic Law a Jew becomes a Jew when he is circumcised. In this Covenant, which is also a Jewish Covenant according to Jeremiah 31:31, a Jewish person is circumcised in the heart through faith in Messiah Jesus, just like the Gentiles. You may say, does that mean that Jews no longer need to have the fleshly circumcision? The answer is no, not for this Covenant. However, to retain their Jewishness from previous Covenants they will have to receive fleshly circumcision because that came through the Abrahamic Covenant which is an everlasting Covenant, and the one that everything was built upon. Furthermore, we read in Romans 9:4-5 that Paul gives us the basis and foundation for this Covenant:

“Who are Israelites, to whom pertain the adoption, the Glory, the Covenants, and the giving of the Law, the service of God, and the promises; of whom are the fathers and from whom, according to the flesh Christ came who is over all, the eternally blessed God”

So what exactly is Paul saying then? He is saying that the base of this Covenant is a Jewish base, an ongoing part of God's Covenantal basis with mankind (Jews as the first fruit). God has made eight Covenants with man, each one transcending into the next, based on the Abrahamic Covenant to lift man out of his degraded state and into the security of His love. However, He chose to begin with Jewish people and He will also end it retaining many of the Jewish aspects within itself, because He commanded certain disciplines from them to make them Holy. Now He is continuing along those lines so that His plan to save the rest of the world (Gentiles) will be fulfilled as they are grafted in.

So what makes it Messianic? Well, in this Covenant they rely totally on the Messiah for their justification, although some of the worship style in its order of service in the synagogue or church, may retain some of the elements found in a Jewish service like reading of the Sh'mah (Deut 6), engaging in the feasts given to Israel, and of course worshipping on Shabbat with Kiddush, which is the forerunner of communion requested by Yeshua on Friday Eve till Saturday not Sunday. It all depends on the ratio of Jews to Gentiles and how the mix works out in each congregation. Also, many of the Pagan ways that have been adapted by the church into their worship service structure during the periods they were not aligned with the Jews will need to go. These include Easter, Lent, paedobaptism and many other things that are not biblical; in fact anything that has the slightest look of idolatry in any of its forms. The Gentiles need to learn like their Jewish brothers how to give reverential respect to the living God.

They need to lean on the Holy Spirit to direct their services of worship. Special dispensations for Gentiles were given in this instruction by James at the Jerusalem Council in Acts 15:19-21:

“Therefore I judge that we (Jews) should not trouble those from among the Gentiles who are turning to God, but that we write to them to abstain from things polluted by idols, from sexual immorality, from things strangled, and from blood. For Moses has had throughout many generations those who preach him in every city being read in the synagogues every sabbath.”

In other words Gentiles should keep from idolatry, eating blood from things strangled, and sexual immorality. In other words, work all these things permitted by your pagan past out of your worship, so you do not offend your Jewish brothers, and of course the Lord God. James goes on to say that much of the knowledge the Gentiles require for instruction is preached and taught in the four books of Moses, and they should soon come up to speed with their Jewish brothers because it was at that time taught in the synagogues. This of course is not true about many churches today, which have taken on more pagan rites into their church services. These include some extreme styles of worship, including falling on the floor after prayer, and many other things. Pastors who over-spiritualise the Word of God, and wrongly use money given for good causes such as the poor and orphans, to spend on building empires they have set up. Also TV evangelists who have Rolls Royces, sharp suits and silver tongues to charm the masses into giving gifts of money to help their latest projects, they bring discredit to the faith and to the Holy Name of Yeshua.

Brethren, this is not what it is about, we need to open our eyes and read the text and give God all that He asks for in Yeshua. This way we will solve the identity problem and be well on our way to going on with the plan of God. Gentile believers need to open their congregations to Grace orientated Messianic bible teachers to learn the ways of the Lord. They also need to support Jewish missions to speed the coming of Messiah, because according to Matt 23:39 the Jews have to invite Him back, since it was them that would not receive Him at His first coming.

Brethren, since we are one body we need to start acting like it, because nothing else we do will be acceptable to a Holy God. We also need to support Israel instead of joining the secular world in condemning her.

The Apostle Paul has said this in Rom15:27

**“For if the Gentiles have been partakers of their spiritual things,
their duty is to minister to them(Jews) in material things”**

There are far to many so called believers involved in the condemning of Israel without making themselves aware of the difference between fact and propaganda. They just believe blindly what they see on TV without collecting the facts, and this is wrong in God's eyes. It is wrong to persecute other members of the body and think you are doing God service. You may say, but they are not in the body? I would say how do you know who is in and who will be out. There are many Jewish believers both in Israel as well as outside of Israel. We need to pray for peace of Jerusalem for we both look for a city who's builder and maker is God, and Yeshua did not come just to bring Rabbinic Jewishness, He came to bring the way to life for all mankind, and reading rabbinicism into the text merely refutes other texts such as Galatians, Romans 8,9,10 and other letters in the New Covenant.