

The Importance of Biblical Unity Between Jew and Gentile!

We read in the Psalms 133:1: “**How good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity.**”

We find in the New Covenant Scriptures the ultimate **restoration** of the Body of Believers **is** our unity!

That becomes clear in the Messiah’s High Priestly prayer before He went to the cross of Calvary – “That we might be one, so the world might believe’ – John 17.

When you and I walk together in this manner, we fulfill the calling of our King. As we receive and embrace one another walking in the fullness of the identity given to each of us by God Himself – Jewish and non-Jewish Believers, One in Messiah, the world will see and understand the time is near for the Second Coming of our Messiah -Yeshua.

Let me give you a practical example of how that united voice – that unity - plays out from the game of baseball.

- One of the more difficult positions to play is 2nd base.
- Because 2nd base is a unique position.
- The first baseman has his own base, the third baseman has his own base, the catcher has his own base, the pitcher’s mound is his territory, right-left-center field have designated positions.

They each have their own base, and they **cover** their own base.

- But the second baseman has to **share** his base, even though it’s *named after him* - he has to **share** it with the **shortstop**.
- As a middle infielder, here’s the rule if you’re playing second base: If the ball is hit to the 3rd base side, the second baseman runs to second - He’s covering second.
- If the ball is hit to the 1st base side, he follows the ball that direction.
- Same thing if the ball is hit to the outfield.
- In other words, the second baseman follows the ball.
- Second basemen and shortstops follow the ball.
- 3rd basemen don’t. You don’t want the 3rd baseman trying to cover a play at 1st.
- It’s not going to work out well.
- Let’s see how this is done.

III: plays from MLB: short stop, second baseman, first baseman.

They are required to practice communication for the sake of the team’s victory!!

- As you think about the game of baseball on a physical level, it contains a spiritual analogy for us in the Body of the Christ - Messiah, which is this:

Have we erroneously had players trying to cover all of the other positions

and not their own?

There must be constant communication between the 2nd baseman and the shortstop.
Why?

**BECAUSE THEY ARE SHARING THE SAME BASE! THEY'RE JUST ON
OPPOSITE SIDES OF IT!**

In the Body of the Messiah comprising both Jews and non-Jews, we need to realize that we have one base! One root system! Jesus Christ – Yeshua Ha Mashiach.

Zions Sake, the Messianic congregation under the leadership of Rabbi Eric Carlson, and World Outreach Worship Center are like the 2nd baseman and shortstop:

- We're not in competition with each other, but we're covering the same base from opposite sides of it. **That's all.**
- We're basically playing the same position. We're on the same team, covering the same base for the same goal – to defeat the opponent!
- So, if the ball is hit and you're fielding it, and you can get to it quicker to turn a double play, my job is to back out and let you touch second and throw to first base, to complete the double play.
- In other words, I'm going to yield the base to my brother. And vice versa.
- That's exactly the way we need to begin to see this **relationship** between ZS & WOWChurch.
- It's two sides of the same base on which the Prophets and the Apostles all rest.
- We've cannot be in the competition mode and must work together.
- We know from the early days of the Body of the Messiah, that whenever Believers get into unity, God shows up! Remember *Shavu'ot*/Pentecost in Acts chapter 2?

The Exciting Re-birth of Messianic Judaism!

Deep within the heart of many believers is a God-given love for Israel, the Jewish people, and more are truly appreciating the fact that Yahweh manifested His intentions through the Jewish people to bring His Word into the earth to be shared by **ALL NATIONS**.

There is a growing understanding among Christians that since the Messiah came from the nation of Israel, that their salvation "is of the Jews" John 4:22.

We live in exciting times which the Prophets longed to see!

- More than half of world Jewry is back in the Land of Israel. More come every year (Zech. 10:6,8,9).
- Both the **physical** and **spiritual** developments among the Jewish people are advancing despite all opposition, at an accelerating rate. Why? Because it is the destiny of the Jewish people!

Hosea 3:4,5 – “For the sons of Israel will live many days without a king or leader, without holy gifts or holy stone pillars, and without linen vests or false gods. ⁵ **After this the sons of Israel will return and look for the Lord their God and for David their king. And they will come shaking before the Lord and receive His goodness in the last days.**”

King David had been dead a few hundred years before this was written, so who is verse 5 referring to?

It's referring to David's offspring – a descendant of David who will perfectly fulfill the role of the Theocratic King and will complete the redemption of mankind – Yeshua the Messiah! - Rev. 22:16 “I am Jesus. I have sent My angel to you with these words to the churches. I am the beginning of David and of his family. I am the bright Morning Star.”

Fast forward nearly 2,800 years and we come into our lifetime witnessing the fulfillment of this prophecy!

Historically, academically, and biblically - faith in Yeshua – Jesus has always had its roots in Judaism.

- The very first followers of Yeshua were Jews who never “converted” to another “religion.”
- These faithful Jewish people brought a Jewish redemptive message of a Jewish Messiah to all the nations. Their actions were well in keeping with the purpose and mission of Israel to be “a light to the nations” and to be a blessing “to all the families of the earth.”
- The New Covenant is a *Jewish* New Covenant, made with the people of Israel – Jer. 31:31; Heb. 8:8 “The days are coming,” says the Lord, “when I will make a New Way of Worship for the Jews and those of the family group of Judah.”
“God was not happy how the people lived by the Old Way of Worship. He said, “The day will come when I will make a New Way of Worship for the Jews and those of the family group of Judah.”

The truth of Yeshua's messiahship must be looked at in its proper context.

That context has been marred by 1,700 years of anti-Jewish Church Councils, Crusades, Inquisitions, pogroms, Nazism, and much more.

The fact remains, if Yeshua is not the Jewish Messiah, then He's nobody's Messiah!

We all need to be reminded that we are part of a prophetic period that consists of the meeting between God's providential timing AND human endeavor. There's a word in the Scriptures that alerts us to this prophetic period and that word is “until.”

- Two “**untils**” in the Word of God stand out:

1. Luke 21:24 “People will be killed by the sword. They will be held in prison by all nations. Jerusalem will be walked over by the people who are not Jews **until their time is finished.**”

If you look at the history of Israel, various nations (Turks, Islamic, British) occupied and trampled down Jerusalem **until** an event in our generation, the Six Day War.

After nearly 2,000 years, in 1967, Jerusalem came back into Jewish hands, and the Jewish people were able to enter again through the Lion’s Gate and proceed to the Western Wall to worship the Living God!

That was a prophetic moment in history between God’s providential timing and the endeavor of a tiny nation - spoken about by Luke, coming to pass before our very eyes!

2. Romans 11:25 Hardening or “blindness,” “**until**” a set time in history.

God’s providential timing meeting human endeavor is happening **now** in this regard!

Jewish people are coming into the Kingdom of God **now**!

There’s a “fullness” that is coming back to the predominantly Gentile Body of the Messiah that includes an embracing of our Jewish roots – that includes a provoking of Jewish people to jealousy.

- The partial blindness is being lifted!

Rom. 11- contains the most important and complete discussion of Jewish people in all of the New Covenant Scriptures and, AT THE SAME TIME, is one of the most **exciting** truths in the New Covenant Scriptures for non-Jewish believers!

Unwrapping the Mystery of This Unity

Rom. 11:11 “I ask then, “Did the Jews fall so they would be lost forever?” No, not at all! It means the people who are not Jews are able to be saved from the punishment of sin because the Jews sinned by not putting their trust in Christ. This made the Jews jealous of those who are not Jews.”

PAUL’S answer to the question regarding Israel’s blindness – is that **it’s not** a forever – they’re under a curse – let them be punished - type of theology, but that the **Jewish** blindness is part of God’s plan for the **Gentiles**!

Paul says that God is bringing in the Gentiles because **He’s still working on Jewish people!**

Rom. 11:12 If the hardening of the majority of Jewish people became riches for the whole world, and if the failure as Jewish people to obtain all of the promises, became riches for all of the nations, then Paul says that non-Jewish believers should re-examine their attitude concerning the Jewish people.

Rather than looking disparagingly toward the hardness of some of the hearts of Jewish

people, Paul says that Gentile believers should be living in **gratitude** that in the future, God is going to bring a prophetic fullness back to the Jewish people!

Just as God used Israel's stumbling as a means of bringing salvation to the Gentiles, so God is now using the salvation among **Gentiles** in order to provoke **Israel** to jealousy!

SADLY - throughout most of the last 2,000 years, many of those who **called themselves** 'Christians' not only have not provoked our Jewish people to jealousy but have engendered distrust and fear; so that the Jewish people, instead of being drawn to love the Jewish Messiah Yeshua, have usually come to dismiss or ignore Him.

Paul's command and challenge to Gentile believers in Rome was to provoke the Jewish people to jealousy!

The Jewish people today ought to be able to look at Christians and see in them, holy lives, peaceful lives, honorable lives, ethical lives, joyful and humble lives, and become jealous and want for themselves whatever is making these Gentiles different and special.

Rom. 11:13a Paul calls the Gentile **believers** in Rome "**Gentiles.**"

He writes in his letter to the Galatians Gal. 2:13 that a Jewish **believer** in Yeshua **remains** a Jew!

All distinctions are not obliterated just because Jews accept the Messiah!

Distinction isn't a bad word with God!

- God desires that **distinct** people can live and bless one another!
- If there is total "uniformity," how can they bless **one another** like the Genesis 12:3 promise states? God said to Abram, "**I will bless those who bless you, but I will curse anyone who curses you; and by you all the families of the earth will be blessed.**"
- Jew and Gentile are to be in "**unity**" in the Body of Messiah, not "**uniformity.**"

We each have a distinct role and function!

Galatians 3:28 says that in the Messiah "**there is neither Jew nor Gentile**" does not refer to an obliteration of distinctions but refers to **equality of status in the Body of the Messiah!**

That becomes obvious as you read the second half of that verse which says, "**there is neither male nor female.**"

Equality of status in the Body of Messiah is what Paul was getting at!

Yeshua showed that both Jew and Gentile are equally needy at the foot of the cross!

Paul's means of expressing this equality and unity is by using the term "**fellow-citizens**"

Eph. 2:19.

There is a deep-seated unity between us! For all intents and purposes,

we are “*mishpochah*,” – “FAMILY.”

The “one new man” is not a **new** stream of the people of God.

It consists of both the righteous “Remnant of Israel” and the righteous “Remnant From Among The Nations” who have been grafted into Israel and who are each individually a “**new man**,” a new creation.

Messianic Judaism seeks to provide a framework in which Jewish believers can express their faith in Yeshua along with their Jewishness.

For 2,000 years, there has been an unnecessary breach between Jew and Gentile!

Neither group has shown much interest in tearing down this barrier.

In this generation, the modern-day Messianic Judaism has been given this mission to unite in fellowship with One Savior and Lord – Yeshua Mashiach.

The object of modern-day Messianic Judaism is not to **destroy** fellowship between Jews and Gentiles in the Body of Messiah, but to **preserve** it!

Prayerfully - both groups will come to appreciate what is available from the other as we have been called by God, as watchmen/watchwomen, to echo the words of the Prophet Isaiah who wrote, “**For Zion’s sake I will not keep silent, for Jerusalem’s sake I will not rest, until her righteousness shines out brightly, and her salvation as a blazing torch**” Isaiah 62:1

I opened this message with Psalms 133:1 “How good and how pleasant it is when brothers dwell together in unity!”

What does it say after that? Ps. 133:2-4 “It is like oil of great worth poured on the head, flowing down through the hair on the face, even the face of Aaron, and flowing down to his coat. It is like the morning water of Hermon coming down upon the hills of Zion.

For there the Lord has given the gift of life that lasts forever.”

When we get unified and in harmony, it brings an anointing, like it did on Aaron!

This unity will bring His Blessing

Acts 2 on the Day of *Shavu’ot* – Pentecost, where Yeshua’s disciples were all in one place and in one **ACCORD, SUDDENLY** – Holy Spirit came and fell on them?

As they came together in unity, they somehow got to that holy place of unity!

When the Body of Messiah gets in unity - **SUDDENLY** there it is – **REVIVAL!**