



Jews For Yeshua Ministry

A Torah and Testimony Revealed Levite Production

"To the Torah and the Testimony, if anybody does not speak according to these words, it is because they have no light in them"

Isaiah 8:20; Revelation 12:17; 14:12



12th Newsletter

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Why Yeshua and His Apostles were not Christians

Before I begin, I will clarify I am a baptized believer in the Son of God who died for my sins and then rose from the grave the 3rd day, so that I too can be raised from the grave to live in His Holy presence someday; **I Corinthians 15:3,4, Hoshea (Hosea) 6:1,2.**

But you may ask, "But isn't that what makes a person a Christian?". Well, I used to believe this was the criteria for being a "Christian", but after almost 40 years of being a believer I have come to realize that there are some major differences between being a believer in Yeshua, the Son of God, and being a Christian.

For one, at the time of Yeshua, all gentiles who became believers prior to the destruction of the Temple were no longer considered to be gentiles, but to be "grafted in" fellow Israelites and worshippers of the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; **Romans 11:1-36, Ephesians 2:11-19.**

In today's Christianity, all who come to believe are expected to be Catholic, or Reform Catholic (Protestant), are expected to remain gentiles, or if of Jewish descent, then considered grafted into the Catholic or Protestant system of theology, and expected to no longer identify themselves as Jewish.

Secondly, the 1st century body of believers were likewise considered a sect of Judaism called the Nazarenes; **Ma'aseh (Acts) 24:5**, not Catholics or Protestant Catholics. This is verified by numerous historians. Yeshua our Savior is the one who founded this Nazarene sect of Judaism, and nobody in this sect was ever called a Christian by anybody until the gentiles started being grafted in ~15 years after Yeshua's death and resurrection; **Ma'aseh (Acts) 11:26.**

The followers of Yeshua who made up this sect of Judaism, regardless of whether they were Jews or grafted in gentiles, gathered every week on the 7th day Sabbath; **Ma'aseh (Acts) 13:14,42,44; 17:1,2; 18:4** and kept the Holy Days of Scripture; **Ma'aseh (Acts) 2:1 (Shavuot); 20:6; I Corinthians 5:6-8; 10:16; 11:20-29 (Passover/Unleavened Bread); Ma'aseh (Acts) 27:9 (Day of Atonement); Ma'aseh (Acts) 18:21 (one of the 3 pilgrimage feasts).** They likewise did not consider Sunday to be the Sabbath, and did not celebrate Christmas or Easter, all three traditions of which were pagan celebrations in Yeshua's day, and none of which were ever kept by any claiming to be believers until long after the Apostles had died off. This is also verified by numerous historians. It is this early sect of Judaism that "Christians" looked like for as long as Yeshua and His Apostles remained alive and in charge of the leadership.

In contrast, a Christian today is not a member of the Nazarene sect of Judaism founded by

Yeshua, but rather a member of the Catholic Church founded by the pagan Emperor Constantine around ~320 AD, or member of a church within the Reform Catholic (Protestant) movement initiated in the 16th century AD. Theological systems of which neither Yeshua nor His Apostles ever founded or participated in.

And contrary to the teachings of Yeshua and His Apostles, the Catholic Church through its founder, the sun worshipping Emperor Constantine, and through the Nicene Council, his paid bishops*¹, and other declarations over time, forbade believers to worship on the 7th day Sabbath, required them to worship on Sunday, and forbade the observance of the biblically ordained Holy Days of Passover through Sukkot, and of all other outward expressions of this Nazarene sect.

This eventual elimination of all outward expressions associated with this Nazarene sect of Judaism, introduced in various stages after the death of the Apostles by gentiles who had taken over the leadership, was not for biblical reasons. Rather, it was to minimize and avoid the persecution attached to association with this original Faith of the Apostles – effectively sterilizing the Faith among gentiles to make it more palatable and “seeker friendly”.

As such they also forbade the circumcision of 8 day old boys*², replacing this biblical practice with infant baptism, introduced the worship of idols – renaming them after “saints”, and ultimately, Christianized the pagan observances of Mithras/Saturnalia and Ishtar, eventually renaming them respectively, Christmas and Easter.

When Constantine came into power he then identified himself with this gentile group of professing believers who had sterilized themselves of any outward appearance of association with the Nazarene sect, and legalized it. As a result, anybody who joined this sterilized version of the Gospel could now believe without fear of persecution, while those who continued to faithfully uphold the original teachings of the Apostles were declared to be heretics, and continued to be persecuted, tortured, imprisoned, and killed. Thus was created the Catholic Church.

People who adhered to these observances instituted by Constantine and his bishops and councils also called themselves “Christians”, even though what they practiced was considerably different, and even unrecognizable in many ways, to what the first century “Christians” practiced and believed. These Constantinian Christians make up today what is known as the Catholic and Reform Catholic (Protestant) church.

The first century Faith of Yeshua and His Apostles was made up of those willing to be persecuted, tortured, imprisoned, and killed for their Faith in Yeshua and His teachings - and

Note *1: *Elders of the Nazarene sect did not accept wages for their service to the community of believers, thereby attracting only the most committed of men as elders. Constantine however, introduced wages for the first time for the bishops and elders he appointed to represent what he wanted them to teach, thereby attracting eventually the most corrupt of individuals who would teach anything for the right price – whose allegiance was to their hefty paychecks and elevated stature rather than to Yeshua and His teachings.*

Note *2: *The Jerusalem Council recorded in Ma’aseh (Acts) 15 was concerning the circumcision of adult Gentile men who had become believers in Yeshua apart from any prior conversion to Temple based Judaism. The circumcision of one’s son on the 8th day after birth was never at issue or disputed while Yeshua or any of His Apostles were alive.*

this new replacement theology of the Catholic Church, made up of those who did not want to suffer persecution, torture, imprisonment, or death for any kind of faith in Him.

That is, the community of people who professed to be believers went from the Faith of the persecuted who refused to assimilate, to a counterfeit religious movement empowering persecutors who fully embraced various degrees of assimilation.

Concerning the Protestant movement, this reform movement only sought to correct certain elements within their mother Catholic Church, in particular pertaining to the sale and use of indulgences for the remittal of sin and escape from the fictitious place of “purgatory”.

In due time as the common people became more familiar with the Scriptures recently made available to them in the common language of the people, other doctrinal issues were also eventually corrected, such as the concepts of penitence, worship of Mary, use of prayer beads, and of the veneration of statues and idols.

The adherents of this reform movement, known today as Protestants, also call themselves “Christians”, and they also continue to persecute, and have at times in their early history, even killed those believers who do not submit to their Reform Catholic (Protestant) way of belief – the Anabaptists (Mennonite and Amish) suffering particularly gruesome tortures and beheadings at the hands of the early Protestants.

However, to their credit and unlike their Catholic forefathers, they were willing to be persecuted, tortured, imprisoned, and killed for refusing to embrace doctrines of the “mother” church they clearly understood to be biblically wrong.

However, neither the Catholic Christians, nor the Protestant (Reform Catholic) Christians, practice the Faith as it was practiced in the first century. And neither was it their intent to do so, as their commitment then, as it is now, are to the teachings introduced by Constantine and formalized by Augustine, and even to some degree, to the teachings of Marcion who they declare to be a heretic – though they embrace his heretical teachings of replacement theology and alleged nullification of God’s law.

It was not the intent of Constantine their founder to assert the 1st century teachings of Yeshua and His Apostles, or to become a “Nazarene Christian”; but rather, to bring unity to his empire by persuading believers to assimilate through compromise. He did this in part by encouraging the continued mixing of elements of the Faith with paganism, and by discontinuing persecution against all who conformed to that “mixture” approved by his paid bishops.

The intent of Protestantism likewise, was not to return to the 1st century teachings of Yeshua and His Apostles as taught within the Nazarene sect of Judaism founded by them, but was to correct certain plainly stated doctrinal errors and practices of their “mother” Catholic church founded upon the teachings of Emperor Constantine and “Pope” Augustine introduced centuries after the resurrection, and oftentimes in stark contrast to the teachings of Yeshua and His Apostles.

However, there are some, like the Amish and a few others, who have been willing to take their biblical expression of faith back to the 2nd century expression as taught by the gentile post-Apostle/pre-Nicene (pre-Constantine) fathers (~100 to 320 AD). That is, to the Faith as expressed by Gentiles who had separated themselves from the Jewish community of believers after the death of the Apostles – which though a considerable improvement over Catholicism, is

still nevertheless not the same as what Yeshua taught the members of His Nazarene sect.

Following is a chart of some of the other main differences between what Yeshua and His Apostles taught compared to what Catholic Christianity teaches.

Yeshua's Nazarene Assembly	The Christian Assembly
Was sect of Judaism created in the 1 st century acknowledging Yeshua as the long awaited Messiah, and founded by Yeshua Himself, called the "Nazarene Sect" and practiced by Jewish and Gentile believers alike.	The Catholic Church was not founded until the 4 th century AD, the Protestant Catholic Church not until the 16 th century, and the Anabaptist though created later only sought to return to the Post Temple Pre-Nicene Gentile expression of the Faith as taught in the 2 nd century, which though a tremendous improvement over where the Protestants were willing to historically go, still fell short in fully embracing the 1 st century Faith as taught and expressed by Yeshua and His Apostles.
Taught no commandments contrary to God's Law	Teaches specifically against many of God's laws, especially concerning any that expose the error of any of her traditions.
Kept the Sabbath	Keeps the "venerable day of the Sun" in place of the 7 th day Sabbath
Kept the dietary laws given by God	Keep the dietary of laws of their culture and as directed by their doctor or dietician.
Taught against any traditions done in place of God's commandments	Teaches against any of God's commandments that go against their manmade traditions.
Welcomed believing gentiles as grafted in citizens of Israel and as fellow heirs of the promises given to Avraham, Isaac, and Jacob and therefore no longer considered gentiles.	Teaches that they have replaced Israel and that all Jews who become believers are grafted into the Catholic/Protestant "church" and system of theology, and so are no longer considered Jewish, and no longer allowed to express themselves as Jewish.
Refused to assimilate into the Greek/Roman culture around them.	Totally embraces assimilation to whatever degree permitted by their particular denomination.
Believes the whole word of God. Those words specifically spoken by God and directly dictated into written form verbatim by Moses are of particular importance.	Say they believe the whole word of God, but clearly and openly oppose many of His and His Son's teachings. The words of God directly spoken to Moses and dictated by him verbatim (and which they call "the Law") are especially targeted if in disagreement with any Catholic/Protestant position or tradition.
Believe that all the prophecies of Scripture are true and will come to pass exactly as prophesied.	Believe that the prophecies concerning Israel's future will not come to pass as prophesied, but have been replaced with promises to "the Church" thereby effectively calling God a liar and His prophets false.

<p>Taught that those who are born of God do not continue in a life of sin; I Yehochanan (I John) 3:6-10, and that anybody who willfully sins must confess and repent of those sins as well; Evreem (Hebrews) 10:26; I Yehochanan (I John) 1:6-9.</p>	<p>Teaches that we will sin all day, every day until the day we die. Also, that repentance is the mere admission to being a sinner, but not necessarily to any change in behavior other than that expected by a person's culture or denomination to be changed.</p>
<p>Taught obedience to God's commandments as a natural expression of one who has been saved; I Yehochanan (I John) 2:29; 5:2, and disobedience to God's commandments as a natural expression of one who is not saved; Romans 8:6-8;</p>	<p>Expects all those who are saved to obey all church traditions, and any commandments of God they espouse and approve of. But that obedience to any of God's commandments unapproved of by the "church" is legalism, trying to earn one's way to heaven, and nullifying of God's grace in one's life. They teach that this type of obedience is somehow proof that one was never saved to begin with – even if they clearly profess to be a believer, had a conversion experience of a supernatural nature, and had their life completely turned around and transformed as a result of that supernatural encounter with the Savior.</p>
<p>Taught that repentance is to stop sinning and "turn back to" God's standard of right living. And taught that we are forgiven of all sins that are past; Romans 3:25, all sins that we have confessed and repented of; but that every new sin we commit we also need to confess and repent of (turn away from – commit ourselves to overcoming); Evreem (Hebrews) 10:26; I Yehochanan (I John) 1:6-9.</p>	<p>Teaches that repentance is to receive Jesus as Lord and mentally assent to sin as wrong, but that all sins past, present, and future are forgiven at the moment one accepts "Jesus" as their Savior. No commitment to change in behavior is required other than to follow the expectations and traditions of your local denomination and culture.</p>
<p>That for as long as the Heavens and Earth stand, not the least of any of God's Law will pass.</p>	<p>That God's Law was done away at the cross except concerning the 10 commandments (less one), and any other commandments approved by your local denomination or culture.</p>
<p>Answered every question and challenge with Scripture, never calling opponents names or assigning labels to them in substitute of a sound response to any challenge presented to them</p>	<p>When they are unable to provide a sound defense from Scripture as to why they do certain things, like for example, Christianized pagan festivals like Easter or Christmas in place of the Holy Days appointed specifically by God –they resort to name calling. That is, they will begin assigning labels, and making accusations, such as "Legalist", "Judaizer", or "trying to earn one's way to Heaven", declare their opponent to be "a denier of God's grace", accuse a person of not being saved, belittling them, marginalizing them, and so on, in order to redirect the focus of their</p>

	inadequate defense away from them and onto their opponent whose positions are actually firmly supported by Scripture. They will do this to make it sound like their opponent doesn't know what they are talking about.
They always spoke and acknowledged the Truth.	Sanctions lying by passing on traditions clearly created by man in place of commandments of God, or that clearly had its roots in paganism in violation of God's word – but despite their awareness of these things will continue to teach those things as if they were supported by Scripture and the Truth of God, rather than expose them for the mere inventions of man and lies that they are.
They were willing to be persecuted and to die rather than compromise God's standards, and any additional standards introduced by His Son.	The "Church" compromises ever more with each passing generation in order to remain "seeker friendly" and therefore becomes more like the world with every passing generation. But yet the world continues to this day to refuse to even remotely resemble a Christian except concerning practices and holidays that were originally practiced exclusively by the world prior to Constantine. In effect, the world is more committed to its values than the Church is committed to maintaining biblical truth. For example, the church has now embraced Yoga, meditation, and Chrislam, women and homosexual pastors, and Christian "Rock", but the world has yet to embrace a single biblical value, and actively opposes biblical values with great zeal, like for example concerning homosexual marriage instead of hetero, abortion over giving birth, birth control over self control, and evolution over creationism, etc...
Defines truth as: the Torah; Mizmor (Psalm) 119:142 , God's commandments; Mizmor (Psalm) 119:151 , the Word; Yehochanan (John) 17:17 ; Yeshua; Yehochanan (John) 14:6 .	Defines the truth as Jesus, and however else your particular denomination or local culture chooses to define it.
Defines light as God's Law; Mishlei (Proverbs) 6:23 , and as Yeshua; Yehochanan (John) 9:5 .	Defines the light as Jesus, and however else your particular denomination or local culture chooses to define it.