

The Messianic Faith

June 2020 Q&A

Today's Questions:

- What are the significant differences in the Messianic following of Yeshua from the traditional modern-day Evangelical following, and a good way to explain this to Evangelical friends to help them appreciate we've not joined a "cult"?
- I recently had a discussion with a friend about the Jerusalem council. I would enjoy hearing you explain the four different pieces of advice they share with the Gentiles.

- Since the Torah is still to be followed, how do we reckon with the different laws that are no longer used, like stoning a harlot in Deut. 22? At what point can we say that those parts of the Law are irrelevant to us?



John 4:22

“You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews.”

Is your faith a religion **about** Jesus?
Or the religion **of** Jesus?

Roman Catholic Influences in Protestantism:

- Day of worship changed from Sabbath to Sunday
 - Passover Seder → Mass → Communion
 - Placement of an “altar” in church buildings
 - *Moedim* replaced with Christmas, Easter, saints’ days, etc.
 - Anti-Semitism
 - Replacement theology
 - Belief in eternal torment for unbelievers
 - Antinomianism (Hebrew Scriptures replaced by Apostolic Scriptures)
 - Rearrangement of the books of the *Tanach*
 - Hebraic thinking replaced by Greek thinking
 - Faith instead of faithfulness
 - Salvation by theology rather than by God
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The Jerusalem Council (Acts 15)

Q: What do we do with all these Gentiles?!

- Circumcised as per rabbinic tradition? (v1)
- Must keep the “whole Torah” of Moses? (v5)

*This dual characterization of Torah – Torah as the “given” wisdom and will of G-d, and Torah as the product of the human mind that receives it and processes it – parallels the Torah’s division into two primary components: the “Written Torah” and the “Oral Torah.” **From its very beginnings the Torah included both “written” and “oral” components.** From its very beginnings as a divine communication to mankind, the Torah was comprised of these two distinct entities.*

✎ Yanki Tauber (Chabad.org)

A: They must keep four “essentials”.

Acts 15:19-20


“Therefore, it is my judgment that we do not harass those who are turning to God from among the Gentiles, but that we write to them that they abstain from ...

- ... the defilement of **idols** and...
- ... **fornication** and ...
- ... what is **strangled** and ...
- ... **blood.**”

Or, to put it another way:

1. **Avoid idolatry**
2. **Abstain from fornication**
3. **Observe the food laws**

Avoid ***treiphah*** + Avoid **blood**
(Ex.22:31) (Lev.17:10-15)



Nahum 2:12

The lion **tore in pieces** [*taraph*] enough for his whelps, and **strangled** for his lionesses ...

Leviticus 17:10

And any man from the house of Israel, or from the sojourners who sojourn among them, who eats any **blood**, I will set My face against that person who eats **blood** and will cut him off from among his people.

*Although, as we have seen, the Jew's mission of holiness encompasses his entire being and all forms of his behavior, **the Torah uses the term holiness specifically with regard to three areas: idolatry, sexual immorality, and forbidden foods.** One who curbs himself from forbidden activities in those areas is on the way to holiness...*

☞ Artscroll Tanach Series – Vayikra

Acts 15:19-21

Therefore, it is my judgment that we do not harass those who are turning to God from among the Gentiles, but that we write to them that they abstain from the defilement of idols and from fornication and from what is strangled and from blood. **For from the earliest times, Moses has had in every city those who proclaim him, with his words being read in the synagogues every Sabbath.**

What can we learn from this?

- The Apostles looked to the Torah for their guidance.
- They held up Torah as a standard for Gentile believers.
- Holy people are expected to abstain from idolatry, fornication and forbidden “foods”.
- Gentiles were expected to learn Torah at synagogue, and ...
- Observe the Sabbath.

John 4:22

“You worship what you do not know. We worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews.”

Deuteronomy 22:22

If a man is found lying with a married woman, then both of them shall die, the man who lay with the woman, and the woman. Thus, you shall purge the evil from Israel.