

## *Unity in the Body of Christ*

### *Old Pharisees, New Pharisees - One New Man or Judaizing*

There are such amazing parallels between the people of G-d during Jesus's day and the people of G-d today. Parallels between the "Church of Jesus's day" and the "Church of today". Parallels between the "religious leaders of Jesus's day" and the "religious leaders of the church today". These parallels are due to the very thing Jesus railed against in the religious leaders of his day. The religious leaders taught theology and doctrines, which were not bearing the standard of G-d's word. Rather they were teachings based on men thinking they knew more than G-d and knew more than G-d about what and how he wanted faithfulness.

There were the Jewish Pharisees who had evolved a system of worship, separate from and not in line with G-d's word and directions. Shortly after sacrificial death of Jesus Christ, the rise of the new Pharisees began, the "Christian Pharisees"!

These "Christian Pharisees", the "Christian Leaders" of the day began to follow the wrong, bad example of the past, the Jewish Pharisees. They decided they knew better than G-d Almighty and Jesus Christ, throwing in their cultural biases' and prejudices. In the fourth century in order to solidify their erroneous ideas and theologies, they convened the infamous Councils of Elvira and Nicaea. Due to these erroneous and false teachings, those "Christian Leaders, the new class of Pharisees" worked diligently to erase the memory of any connection between the Jewish Jesus and faith with worship of "Christianity". Their decisions and comments were not based on G-d's Word and commands, nor the life, ministry and teachings of Jesus Christ. These decisions are certainly not G-d's highest interest and plans for either Israel or the Church.

The new "Christian Pharisees" simply managed to separate us from the blessings of our heritage and nullify the sacrifice of Christ as the old Pharisees nullified G-d's word with their man made traditions.

*Ephesians 2:13-16 (NKJV)* <sup>13</sup> *But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.* <sup>14</sup> *For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation,* <sup>15</sup> *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,* <sup>16</sup> *and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity.*

*Matthew 15:6 (NKJV)* <sup>6</sup> *then he need not honor his father or mother.' Thus, you have made the commandment of God of no effect by your tradition.*

*Mark 7:13 (NKJV)* <sup>13</sup> *making the word of God of no effect through your tradition, which you have handed down. And many such things you do."*

*Matthew 15:7-9 (NKJV)* <sup>7</sup> *Hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy about you, saying:* <sup>8</sup> *'These people draw near to Me with their mouth, And honor Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me.* <sup>9</sup> *And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.'*

Sadly the result of this is that many if not most of modern-day believers, "Christians" do not have a full grasp or understanding of the roots of their faith, the, yes Jewish roots of their faith. Because of this, they only have a partial picture of G-d's Grace and understanding of their rightful inheritance.

Not knowing their heritage, they are not fully able to claim the deep blessings of that inheritance. If you want to have that inheritance, the full value of it in your life, you absolutely must claim it! However, if you do not know your roots, then it is impossible to claim and receive all the fullness of the blessings G-d has for you.

We have long strayed from our path, from our beginnings, where we come from. The Church was grown from the roots of faith as established by G-d Almighty in the Jewish faith through the cornerstone, Jesus Christ/Yeshua HaMashiach.

This separation is by no means G-d's desire or plan for us. He sent His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ to bring us back to unity in Him through His Sacrificial death. We have the power and ability to be fully who we are called to be through greater understanding of our heavenly Father, His Son our savior and the Holy Spirit with the side benefit of ultimately a better understanding of ourselves. Through study of the entire Bible, Old and new Testament, we are actually taken deep into the roots of faith, the Hebrew Roots, giving us a clear understanding our the foundation of our faith and deeper walk with our Heavenly Father. This studying let's return to the proper walk in covenant revelation!

The Covenant Revelation manifests the union, the unity of Jew and Gentile believers and gives way to miraculous signs and wonders, thus demonstrating the power and wisdom of G-d Almighty! (*Ephesians 3:1-7 (NKJV)* <sup>1</sup>For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for you Gentiles-- <sup>2</sup>if indeed you have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which was given to me for you, <sup>3</sup>how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already, <sup>4</sup>by which, **when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ**), <sup>5</sup>**which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets:** <sup>6</sup>**that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel,** <sup>7</sup>of which I became a minister according to the gift of the grace of God given to me by the effective working of His power.)

United, as the One New Man is a sign and wonder, real evidence G-d did not has not and will not break His covenant with the Jews or the Gentiles! Coming together in G-d as the Body of Christ, we create a powerful threefold cord, which stands firm, which we cannot do on our own.

There is full completion when the first covenant is united and fulfilled with the second covenant, which is lacking when the two are separated.

This completion is what the Apostle Paul was talking about in his exhortation concerning the One New Man (*Ephesians 2:19-22 (NKJV)* <sup>19</sup>Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, <sup>20</sup>having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief corner stone, <sup>21</sup>in whom the whole building, **being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord,** <sup>22</sup>**in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.)**

Only and only by coming together in unity as G-d intended can we become the "dwelling in which G-d lives by His spirit". Thus, we can bring honor in worship, recognizing our roots of faith

It is so heart breaking that today this path, which G-d has laid down, is so misunderstood and misapplied. These misunderstandings and misapplications or out right ignoring these scriptures has led to the "New Christian Pharisees" and their man made traditions and teachings, going back to the first centuries after

Jesus finished His earthly ministry. Satan has used to his full advantage the misconception that this would be placing believers back under the law, returning to "Old Testament Legalism", or as Judaizing.

Nothing could further from the truth. The second covenant brings completion not negating or doing away with the first covenant.

As believers, both Jew and Gentile come to understand the roots or beginnings of their faith and the end that path promises for them and then they are starting to walk in fullness of understanding with G-d. This plan and path, which is G-d's work, is a plan and path of fullness, the unity of Jews and Gentiles, our heritage from the past and our inheritance of the present and future. (*Romans 11:1-2 (NKJV)* <sup>1</sup> *I say then, has God cast away His people? Certainly not! For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin.* <sup>2</sup> **God has not cast away His people whom He foreknew.** *Or do you not know what the Scripture says of Elijah, how he pleads with God against Israel, saying, Romans 11:11-12 (NKJV)* <sup>11</sup> *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.* <sup>12</sup> **Now if their fall is riches for the world, and their failure riches for the Gentiles, how much more their fullness!)**

When we accept Jesus/Yeshua as our Messiah, we repent, thus renewing our covenant with G-d (*Romans 5:8-11 (NKJV)* <sup>8</sup> *But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.* <sup>9</sup> *Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.* <sup>10</sup> *For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.* <sup>11</sup> *And not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.)*

Through G-d's grace and providing our salvation, our covenant is restored. However, the fullness of the covenant is revealed through the Holy Spirit and G-d's Word over time.

Remember how the Apostle Paul reveals covenant restoration: *Ephesians 2:11-16 (NKJV)* <sup>11</sup> *Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh--who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands--* <sup>12</sup> *that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.* <sup>13</sup> *But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.* <sup>14</sup> *For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation,* <sup>15</sup> *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,* <sup>16</sup> *and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity.*

*G-d's fulfillment of and the promise of the future through His covenants, is purposed to bring all of believing mankind, Jew and Gentile, together in unity as the "One New Man" is not continuation of the Old Testament Legalism (it did not provide anyone salvation), but salvation, liberation and freedom in Jesus Christ/Yeshua HaMashiach.*

*Knowing or ignoring where we come from says volumes about where we are going. The Good News of the Gospel, the One New Man through the Salvation of Jesus Christ/Yeshua HaMashiach brings G-d's light of truth from the past into the present, giving us light for the path to the future!*