

You know that when you were pagans you were led astray to mute idols, however you were led. (1 Cor. 12:2 ESV)

This is a very important verse for those in or coming out of the Christian and Catholic churches. Why is it so important? Too often I hear Christians and Catholics say they are not Jewish, but “Gentiles”. Again, this is to continue the separation between their belief and the Jewish belief. But is this a correct statement according to the Word of God? No it is not.

In this verse, we see the Apostle Paul stating to the people in Corinth, whom had come out of pagan worship, that they **used to** be pagans but are no longer pagans. When the word pagan is used, that is easy for us to understand. But many people have studied with and may still use the King James Version of the Bible. In this version the word pagans is replaced with Gentiles. The word Gentile in Greek understanding means ‘lost, pagan, and without God.’ If you believe in Messiah, are you any of these understandings? I would pray you were not. Therefore, if we believe in Messiah Yeshua and still call ourselves Gentiles, we are not in line with Scripture.

The term gentile is the Hebrew word ‘goy’ or ‘goyim’ for plural. The Jews use this term as a term of disrespect. It truly means nation of nations. Yet the Strong’s says it means heathen or foreign nation. Are you a foreigner when you are in Messiah? No! **But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, although a wild olive shoot, were grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing root of the olive tree.** (Rom 11:17 ESV) So why do we still like to call ourselves Gentiles when you were not born Jewish? You disrespect yourself and Messiah when you say such things.

Now the battle ground is this...then what do we call ourselves when we were not born ‘Jewish’? People today always want to fit into a category to define what they are or believe. It is human nature I guess for us to do this. So the answer will vary between each person as to how to answer this question. Yet we must understand the term Jew is used for a race of people born from all 12 tribes and is not properly used to designate a religion. For Scripture tells us God did not create a religion to follow, but a Kingdom with One King to obey.

Remember the Mixed Multitude which came out of Egypt with Moses? They were not born Jewish, yet they were identified as Israel. Jewish Sages say the mixed multitude were killed after the golden calf incident. However, Scripture does not back this view up. There was also not a separate count for the mixed multitude, so they either were not counted – not likely – or they were counted with the tribes of Israel. They had been “grafted in”.

So take your time to figure out how you wish to ‘label’ yourself. Quite frankly, I do not like labels. Especially in denominations. When someone asks if I am Jewish or Christian, I use the opportunity to speak about Messiah Yeshua AND His Torah being “The Way”. I do not box myself into a label which the other person wants to put me in, for I will not fit. Have an answer for your belief. Yet bring that answer from Scripture as

your foundation. Not from what someone else says. For that is like building a house on sand next to a river.

Shavua Tov!