

Messianic Judaism Is Not for Everyone

by
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I am not of the opinion that Messianic Judaism is God's preferred religious expression for everyone. Certain Gentile believers are called to a lifelong affiliation within Messianic Judaism (we call these *K'rovei Yisrael*), and they have naturally brought their children up in it. But, as their children become older they develop their own sense of calling (as all must do), and some have chosen the Christian Church and Christian style of life instead. It is understandably disappointing to parents when children choose a different way of expressing their faith, but it should not be too much of a disappointment if their children retain godly values, join good biblical churches, marry believers, and otherwise follow the Lord. Ideally, Gentile believers seeking a Christian church home should select one that teaches correctly about biblical practices and about the Church's connection to Israel and the Jewish People.

It is not, however, the same for Jewish parents and Jewish children. For them, affiliation with a Messianic Jewish congregation should be considered essential because that is where we find Jewish believers living out the covenants that are intended primarily for Jews. Even "churched" Jews should maintain a secondary affiliation with a Messianic Jewish congregation (where possible), and the only real decision should be "which one?"

In cases where attending a Messianic Jewish congregation is not geographically possible, Jewish believers (also Gentile believers who perceive the need) can communicate (sometimes even affiliate) with a Messianic Jewish congregation at a distance in order to maintain a pastoral connection, and potential for Messianic Jewish fellowship. In metropolitan areas such as ours, Jewish believers are blessed to have the option of driving a little further, and affiliating with whichever Messianic Jewish congregation he or she finds especially pleasing. That is entirely acceptable, and transfers of membership between our various local congregations are not uncommon. What is not acceptable, however, is for a Jewish believer (of any age) to leave the assembly of Jewish believers altogether, and exclusively immerse him or herself in a church and lifestyle that does not make it possible to pass on one's Messianic Jewish identity and covenantal responsibilities to the next generation.

Jewish and Gentile parents should understand these things, take them to heart, and bring up their children with appropriate biblical expectations for their future.

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