

APMF Position Regarding Christians

I just received *messiah magazine* Issue 99 and found it very informative, especially the last article on Rabbi Daniel Zion, chief rabbi of Bulgaria, who became a Believer in Yeshua. He consulted the head of the Greek Orthodox Church in Bulgaria who told him, "to forget about Christianity and concentrate on Yeshua Himself." This friendship enabled R. Daniel to prevent any of Bulgaria's Jews from being sent out of the country to Nazi death camps. Later, after immigrating to Israel, R. Daniel was questioned by the Rabbinate about his belief in Yeshua, to which he replied, "that while he accepted Yeshua as the Messiah, he did not accept Christianity as the true expression of the teaching and person of Yeshua the Messiah." "The rabbinical court decided to strip him of his rabbinical title, but the Bulgarian Jews continued to honor Daniel as their rabbi."

I found this not only interesting, but parallels some of our experiences, expresses our knowledge of and analysis of Christianity in general, and that, that we have left behind. However, I have great respect for and appreciation for Evangelical Christians and Churches that have been used by the LORD to bring the basic Gospel to most of us, and have sent missionaries all over the world to bring the Bible and its message to those who have never heard. I just wish that they more accurately represented the teaching and person of Yeshua the Messiah, like we are learning now. Those resistant countries and cultures of the Asia Pacific region might have responded more readily if they had seen the missionaries' practices consistent with what they read in Scripture, especially the lifestyle of Yeshua in the Gospels, that He kept Shabbat, Moedim (appointed times), etc.

There is a bond between those who are truly born-from-Above, whether Messianic or not. We wish to have and maintain friendship with all of them. However, as R. Daniel found out, the clergy kick us out while some of the people still respect us, want to listen to us and maintain our friendship, and others shy away from us as "unclean, apostates, going back under the Law, Judaizers, etc."

What puzzles us is those Christians who have heard the Messianic message loud and clear from our excellent Teachers, understand it as valid and True, and yet refuse to make the necessary changes to their churches or get out and get on the right Foundation. And some Christians who have heard the Messianic message and refuse to accept it, then go and twist it against us to make trouble. Our patience and energy is limited. Our energy henceforth will be spent for those who truly embrace Yeshua as He is portrayed in the Scriptures, which naturally result in forming or joining Messianic Communities on the Torah Foundation, Messiah Yeshua Himself as the Chief Cornerstone. If churches want to invite us to teach or individual Christians want to host a teaching session at their home, we will do what we can to accommodate these requests. We will teach but we will not debate. We are well able to debate, but we see no point in debating if Christians' minds and hearts are already closed.

By the way, *koinonia* is based on *agapao*, which is commitment love, not emotion. That is the "love" that Yeshua requires and we accept, "IF you *agapao* Me, keep/obey My Commandments." Those Christians who obey Him will change to Messianics, naturally. We can still maintain friendship with those who do not, but deep friendships are for those who are truly yoke-fellows, like the Team that makes up APMF. HalleluYah for each one of them! John 13:34-35.

Roger