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Truth Be Told – Should Gentiles Become Jewish?

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There's this question that keeps popping up among some Gentile believers. They're wondering if they need to become Jewish to be truly acceptable to God. Let's set the record straight.



I believe the confusion is centered in the idea of identity, knowing that you are loved and accepted whether you were a Jew or Gentile. If you were born a Gentile, God wasn't surprised. He wasn't upset that you had the audacity

to not be born a Jew. Instead, He accepts you as a Gentile just as He accepted the early Gentile believers. The irony is that back then it was Peter, a Jew who found it hard to accept. And today, some Gentile believers need to hear the reminder of God's love for Gentiles.

First things first, nowhere in Scripture—and I mean nowhere—do we see Gentiles becoming Jews, or Jews losing their Jewish identity. It's simply not there. God created two people groups, Jews and Gentiles, and He has a purpose for both. And you know what? The early church dealt with this exact same question. In Acts 15, we see the first church council in Jerusalem addressing this very issue. Some were saying that Gentile believers needed to be circumcised and keep the law of Moses to be saved. But after much discussion, James stood up and declared, **“¹⁹ Therefore I judge that we should not trouble those from among the Gentiles who are turning to God,...”** (Acts 15:19). Think about that. The leadership of the early church, all of them Jewish believers, made it clear the Gentiles don't need to become Jewish to follow the Jewish Messiah.

This wasn't just a one-time decision at the Jerusalem Council. Throughout his letters, Paul continues to emphasize this truth. In **Ephesians 2:14–16**, he tells us that [Jesus] **“¹⁴ He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation,¹⁵ ...so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross,...”** Notice what Paul doesn't say. He doesn't say that Gentiles become Jews or that Jews become Gentiles. Instead, both maintain their God-given identity while being united in Messiah. And here's something powerful. In **Galatians 3:28–29**, Paul writes, **“²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.²⁹ And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.”** Do you understand what he's saying? Through faith in Messiah, Gentiles become spiritual children of Abraham while remaining Gentiles. You don't need to change your identity to be part of God's family. Paul uses a beautiful metaphor in **Romans 11** to explain this relationship. He describes Israel as a cultivated olive tree and the Gentile believers as wild olive branches being grafted in. The Gentile branches don't become natural branches. They remain who they are. But now they share in the rich nourishment of God's promises. As Paul says in verses **17–18**, **“¹⁷ ...and you, being a wild olive tree, were grafted in among them, and with them became a partaker of the root and fatness of the olive tree,¹⁸ do not boast against the branches....”**

You know what's amazing? God always had the Gentiles in His plan. Listen to what **Isaiah** prophesied in **49:6**, where God says about the Messiah, **“⁶ ... “It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also give You as a light to the Gentiles, that You should be My salvation to the ends of the earth.””** Think about that. God says it would be too small for Messiah to only restore

Israel. His plan was always bigger, always inclusive of the Gentiles while maintaining their identity.

We see this fulfilled beautifully in **Acts 13:47–48**, where Paul and Barnabas declare this same verse [verse 47] to the Gentiles. And the Scripture tells us that **“⁴⁸...when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and glorified the word of the Lord. And as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed.”** This was God’s plan from the beginning, not for Gentiles to become Jews, but for Gentiles to come to know the God of Israel while remaining Gentiles.

And you know what’s beautiful? In **Revelation 7:9–10 (NIV)**, after describing the 144,000 from the tribes of Israel, John saw **“⁹... a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people, and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰ And they cried out in a loud voice: ‘Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.’”** This powerful vision shows us God’s ultimate plan, Jews and Gentiles, each maintaining their distinct identities yet united in worship before the throne.

Listen, friends. Yes, Jesus is coming back to Jerusalem. That’s clear in Scripture. As He said in **Matthew 23:39 (NIV)**, **“³⁹... ‘you will not see Me again until you say, “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord,””**” *Baruch Ha’ba B’Shem Adonai*. But never forget this amazing truth. He’s also coming back for His bride, the church, which is made up of believers from every nation, tribe and tongue. This bride isn’t just a Jewish bride or a Gentile bride. It’s a unified body of believers from all peoples who have put their faith in the Jewish Messiah. What an incredible picture of God’s heart for all nations.

So, you see, God’s faithfulness to Israel and His acceptance of Gentiles aren’t in competition. They’re both part of His perfect plan. As Paul said in **Romans 11:29**, **“²⁹ For the**

gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.” This applies both to God’s covenant with Israel and His calling of Gentile believers. You don’t need to become Jewish to be acceptable to God. He called you as you are. And that’s exactly how He wants you.

* Scripture is taken from the New King James Version unless noted otherwise.

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