

## **CAN A NEW CREATURE ENTERTAIN OLD WAYS?**

You know, I've been around for quite a while in Christian circles and as I continue my walk with Yeshua I continue to see more and more bovinely scatology coming into the church. I know that I just made up a word, and if it becomes popular, I want to claim that I came up with it in February of 2013. If someone else has thought about it before me then I apologize. But what I'm talking about is the ways of the world are being adopted into the church at a rapid pace. Back in the last century we'd see some wacko from time to time and their wackiness would be addressed and dealt with. Most of the time they would not repent of their craziness and would be labeled as heretics or plain old knuckleheads who always had a few followers it seemed. For a period of five or so years I even stopped going to church because I was tired of all of the junk. I later started to go back to fellowship simply because Yahweh said that we need to be with other believers in worship and such; but also, because I decided that I was going to go to church to pray against all of the bizarre stuff that goes on there.

I once heard a story of two or three Christians, filled with the Ruach Ha Kodesh who felt led to sneak into some sort of Satanic church practice. The leader of that satanic church came up to the front and made the comment that there were interlopers in the service and they would not start until the unwanted visitors left. Isn't it sad that the enemy can listen to the demons who are controlling them but Christians have the hardest time with discernment and correct judgment; it's sad, really it is. All sorts of pagan practices are coming into the church and those bringing them always have some convincing concoction of how it relates to the Bible and such. If believers know their Bibles they should confront such things but so many are afraid of being labeled as judgmental, mean and less than loving.

Most of you know that I was born and lived my early life in New Jersey. People back there, and back then were so different than the people today, especially the do-gooders on the left coast. My dad was not afraid to speak his mind, and he was known for being that way and people respected him for it. If someone was doing something stupid, he'd walk up and tell them that they were being stupid and that they needed to start acting correctly. My step-father was the same way, even more abrasive. I can remember him telling us kids, "I don't know what the hell is wrong with you but you better straighten out." You know what; we were embarrassed when we heard things like that. We realized that we were acting like fools and we decided that it was better to act more according to what decent society accepted. It was very common to talk to our peers when we saw stupid behavior in them and we addressed the issue. "Don't be an idiot," or

“quit acting stupid” were common phrases, sometimes accentuated by words that I don’t speak anymore, if you know what I mean.

Today however, we have to worry about hurting someone’s feelings; hurting their self-esteem or being accused of being (ta da) “judgmental.” Well, I’m through with worrying about what other people think. Don’t get me wrong, I’ll act according to how Yahweh wants me to act, but I’m not going to sit around and worry about what people think anymore. I’d rather have someone hate me for telling the truth rather than love me for feeding them fluff. If someone is acting stupid, they’re going to be told so (in as nice a manner as possible). If they’re lying, I’m going to call them a liar and if they’re bringing false doctrine, demonic stuff and/or heresy into the Body of Mashiach then I’m going to try to convince them, and then I’m going to expose them. We have to stop loving people into hell.

I had to laugh this week. I was looking over my Facebook page and noticed that someone had posted graphic image that read “You’re being judgmental (really means) Be quiet and let me sin in secret.” Isn’t that so true? When I was a little boy (trying to convey that I was immature) my mother told me not to reach for the teapot that was full of scalding water. I can’t remember back that far, but I probably mused that she didn’t know what she was talking about and I reached for it anyway; scalding my hand and arm. I recovered for sure, but it was a painful recovery. My actions were, in essence, telling my mother, “just shut up and let me learn the hard way.” And what word do we use for that action? We use the word disobedience.

Recently we were in the company of a young child who was in a sassing mood. We were trying to explain to this child how to eat properly in a restaurant setting. We were being nice, we really were; trying to explain in slow and methodical ways what was right behavior and wrong behavior at the table. The young person started to talk back and get almost mocking toward the adults so we removed his food plate. He’d eaten about half of it beforehand but we weren’t going to let him be rewarded for his bad behavior. We left the restaurant and the child proceeded to tell us how we were being mean. He then started to manufacture things that really didn’t happen and he told us that we had ruined eating, which he claimed was one his favorite things to do. Now, this young person is a child and he was acting like a child so you couldn’t really get that upset with him; but firmness was needed. After things calmed down, he was able to understand what had been done and he finally admitted that the whole bad event had been escalated by him. Ah, the satisfaction of seeing someone of that age accepting responsibility was refreshing given that people who call themselves adults and are many times his age cannot and will not be reasoned with in the same fashion. I guess that some people never grow up, sad to say.

Being a watchman for Yahweh is not an easy thing. Those of you who are called to the same office know that to be so true. We tend to see things in black and white; there are no grays. We try to convey the heart of the teachings and the Ruach of Yahweh to people and they are just set in their ways and refuse to change anything or to even look to see if they are doing something that is leading them or could potentially lead them down a wrong path. I really don't think that on the last day, when all of our actions will be judged worthy or unworthy; that Yeshua will chastise us for trying to steer people back onto the narrow path and away from the wide path that leads toward destruction.

Every believer is called in a unique way to minister to a person or a group of people. I've known people who came of the Goth community who minister to Goths. There are former Mormons who called to minister to Mormons. There former members of Vatican doctrine who are called to minister to Catholics; the list is almost endless. I've known some of these people as they have come to churches that I attend and they are just normal people who worship like everyone else. As some of Jewish extraction I prefer to honor Saturday as the Sabbath, because Saturday is the Sabbath, or Shabbat as we call it. I prefer to eat Kosher and I prefer to celebrate Yahweh's Feasts as He commanded the Children of Israel to do, and to perform perpetually; forever. I do not however flaunt it before the congregation that I'm attending. I don't get up in front of the church and dance like a Hasidic; I don't wear my Tallit and I don't move from front to back while praying. I don't do these things while I'm with my Goyim brothers and sisters in Yeshua. Why you ask? Well, I believe that the focus should be on Yeshua, and totally on Yeshua; not on who I am or where I come from or what I do.

Again, let me reiterate that just like it says in Scripture; when we are in Mashiach, we are a New Creature; old things have PASSED AWAY, and behold ALL THINGS ARE NEW. Paul said that through the inspiration of the Ruach Ha Kodesh because Yahweh knows that when people start placing labels upon themselves, they immediately begin to think of themselves as special and set apart. The only permission that we have to do any such thing in this regard is to acknowledge that we are set apart in Yeshua; a peculiar people (set apart and special) because of Yeshua.

My ancestry is quite interesting. Sure, there is Jewish in there, but I have an Italian last name. My other ancestors come from a variety of places including; Denmark, Germany, Poland and Austria. Does that mean that I have to minister to those people? Well, sure, if Yahweh tells me to. Does it mean that when I go to church, I have to wear lederhosen like the Austrians; sip my coffee from a beer stein, wear a Viking helmet and eat potato pancakes; doing all these things

while wearing my Jewish regalia? Heck no I don't do those things because it would be ridiculous and I'd be a major distraction. People would have their eyes on me and they wouldn't have their eyes on Yeshua.

I am in Mashiach, so I'm a new creature. Although the vessel that contains my soul and spirit does bear the DNA of all of those former national identities it has now become a Beit Ha Mikdash, or Holy Temple for the Holy Spirit to dwell in. In Scripture, Yahweh made it clear that there was only one place where the Temple should stand and also where the daily sacrifice would be performed. That place was on the Temple Mountain in Yerushalayim. After the tribes split, and the Northern Ten Tribes built their own temple in Samaria, Yahweh swore that he would never recognize those sacrifices and He made it clear that he had nothing to do with that temple. In present times, each person is a Temple of the Ruach Ha Kodesh and we meet corporately to become one Temple of the Ruach Ha Kodesh. The Spirit in me bears witness to the Spirit in other believers and we are one in His Spirit and one in His Love.

In former times Yahweh was very disappointed and angered because the rebellious Jewish priests and elders brought foreign gods into the Beit Ha Mikdash. They sacrificed to those foreign gods at the same time they were sacrificing to Yahweh. Today there are some believers who bring foreign ways into the Church under the guise that these "Christians" are witnessing to other peoples. This would be fine if the church was being attended by those "other peoples" but when it is not then attempts to bring foreign cultures into a church are in vain, or done in vanity. Paul said that he was all things to all men; yes, that is in scripture; but he was referring to the fact that when he was in Greece he acted like a Grecian so as to minister to the Greeks; a Roman when he was in Rome ministering to the Romans and so on and so forth. When Paul returned to a Jewish church he would put on the Jewish garb because he was amongst his own again.

Even people in the secular world understand this principal. If you go to most churches you get dressed up for church. If you're going to somewhere casual you dress casual. If I went to a Luau in Hawaii dressed in a full tuxedo I'd stand out and would probably be ribbed about being too dressed up. Some would probably mumble that I was trying to draw attention or I might be too good for the more relaxed people. We all know how people talk. In my line of work, if I went to work dressed in my pajamas, they would send me home, telling me to dress appropriately. There is a proper way of doing things, even in the secular world; and if they can understand this then why do some believers in Yeshua demand that they wear special clothing during church service. Personally, I think it is because so many people these days have an identity crisis going on within themselves. What a pity.

Why would anyone, who is given so many titles, like; ambassadors for Yahweh, Sons of God, Kings and Priests and so many others; why would they insist on having an identity crisis. Are the titles above not enough for some people? Is being adopted by Yahweh; bought and paid for by His Blood and promised the resurrection not enough? Are they bored with their gifts from Yahweh? Well, only Yahweh knows the heart of every individual; this is true. Could it be that some people are purposefully trying to bring New Age beliefs into the church under the auspices of “ministering” to special groups of people? Again, only Yahweh knows the heart. But we can ascertain things by looking at the fruit that those people are bearing. One sign is when a person “renames” any name of Yahweh, aside from what is traditional within Christian and Messianic circles.

For instance, when they start talking about the “great spirit,” or “universal truth,” or “many pathways” then we have to be on the watch. For instance, one person posted on Facebook that they were thankful to the “Great Spirit” for allowing them to worship Yahweh. When asked about it this person excused it away as ignorance, saying that they were thanking the “Holy Spirit” for allowing them to worship Yahweh. One can see the reasoning behind this because it is the Ruach Ha Kodesh that allows us to worship Yeshua and Aveinu. However, when asking this person their “Ancient Pathways Healing Room and other things on Facebook; because I really wanted to know where they were coming from; the person unfriended both my wife and myself. This is a suspicious act for sure.

I am a watchman for Yahweh; one called to sit on the wall of the city and call to the city when the enemy is encroaching upon the walls. I’m proud to be one of His watchmen and if asked about this aspect of ministry I’m glad to sit down and discuss it with anyone. If I felt that I had to unfriend anyone because they ask me about “ministry” I would wonder about myself; what my motives really are and if I really should be doing what I am doing. To cast away someone because they are asking questions about my ministry would make me wonder if I was really working in the “light” of Yeshua or if my intentions were of another nature. Personally, I’ve suffered a lot at the hands of unscrupulous people who have decided that what Yahweh has had me tell them really isn’t from Yahweh’s Ruach but have ascribed those words, visions and dreams as coming from familiar spirits and/or fallen angels. This sort of accusation causes one to reel back with circumspection and to ask Yahweh if He’s really talking or it is another. Right about that time one, or two, or three people will write to me in what seems like out of the blue to tell me that the things that have been given to me have ministered to them. That, plus knowing that the accusers are demonically and self-deluded (as confirmed by their own words and actions) that causes me to press on. From the time of Noah to John the Baptist and beyond

prophets have suffered from such people. Most have been killed in the most horrible ways, so the words of a couple of deluded reprobates in Tennessee is mild in my estimation.

The crux of the matter, especially for this article is that we are New Creatures when we come to Elohim through the blood of Mashiach Yeshua. We wear new clothes because the old ones are of no use anymore. We drive new cars because the old ones have failed us and we buy new homes because the old ones are old and no longer suit us. Do we go back to those old things? NO! When I get a new car, for instance, I relish the new car smell, the new features and if I think of the old car at all it is to remember how worn out and in need of retirement. I show off the new car to my friends and exult in how happy I am that I've been blessed with the new car. I try to explain to people why their cars are getting old and that they might want to upgrade too. Everything is moving forward, not backward. Yes, the crux is that we are New Creatures, and we're not to emulate the old things nor go back to the; nor are we to try to justify the old. We are to be living examples of the New Birth and all that comes with being new. We are to bring our new nature to those who don't have it yet. I don't take parts of my old car and place them on the new car, so to speak. I live my new life in such a way that the other people see the change and want to have what I have. To do otherwise would be like giving them a can of "new car smell" and telling them that they can spray that in their car and it would be just like a new car. In the Kingdom of Yahweh there is NO "just like" being born again and there is NO "just like" being a New Creature in Yeshua. Yeshua came to redeem the creature, not the created things. Things cannot be redeemed; only people can be redeemed.

*For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again. Therefore, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him thus no longer. **Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.** 2 Corinthians 5:14-17*

"All Things" refers to the nature of the New Creature, not his or her belongings, but the Creature only. Again, who, having become new, would want to become old again or would want to emulate the things of the old. When my dad got saved it was because he saw a new David; the same with my sister, my mother and some other relatives. They saw the change in me and they liked it. They liked it so much that they wanted to be just like the changed person that they saw in front of them. That is what we're supposed to be like. In the Book of Acts, it says that the

worldly people saw the change in the people who became New Creatures and they remarked, “see the love that they have one for another.” They were tired of the old and wanted the new.

What does Scripture say about people who wanted to go back to their old ways and still follow Yeshua? Well, here is one example:

*And it came to pass, that, as they went in the way, a certain man said unto him, Lord, I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest. And Jesus said unto him, Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head. And he said unto another, Follow me. But he said, Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father. Jesus said unto him, Let the dead bury their dead: but go thou and preach the kingdom of God. And another also said, Lord, I will follow thee; but let me first go bid them farewell, which are at home at my house. **And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God. Luke 9:57-62***

A farmer plows in order to plant seeds. The seeds then germinate in the soil and after a season of growth the crop is harvested. Why did Yeshua make the plow statement above. Plowing back in his time was much different than it here in the modern world. Today we have tractors with GPS units that drive the tractor pulling the plow, by remote control. In Yeshua’s day you hooked up the plow to one or two animals and the animal pulled the plow while the farmer rode on the back of the plow and steered the animals in a straight manner. If not steered, the animals would pull the plow off of the straight and narrow path that was intended and they would plow crooked, or if unevenly yoked they would plow in circles. In other words, if you looked back, your field was ruined and the crop would not yield what you intended it to yield. Also, when you would flood the furrows to water the field it would be impossible because the water could not reach all of the plants. You would have a disaster on your hands.

Yeshua compares winning souls to crops many times; that is the believer’s mission in life. If you or anyone can’t get the first part right, you’re worthless to Yahweh’s Kingdom. If you can’t plow right, you won’t grow your crop right and you won’t be able to harvest. Therefore, you can’t go back to old things or use old things to bring people into the Kingdom of Yahweh in an effective manner. Also, you cannot really meet with the other farmers and have true fellowship with them because they will see you as odd. If you’re bringing weed seeds into the fellowship you cannot expect those who are planting wheat to take you seriously. In fact, you will be shunned because weeds tend to grow faster, spread their seed faster and your weeds will

work their way into your neighboring farmer's fields, ruining his field also. You're not only unfit for the Kingdom of Yahweh; you're corrupting it with foreign seeds, so to speak.

I'm urging people, begging you for goodness sake. If you are involved in doctrines of foreign cultures and/or their religious practices; leave them immediately. You're serving two masters and Yeshua said that this practice is impossible and not profitable. If you're involved in ministering to such people then practice your ministry in their fields, far away from the wheat that is growing in Yahweh's garden. DON'T bring leaven into the Church of Yahweh and don't force us to try to accept foreign and dangerous practices. If you want to fool around with false doctrines then get out of Yahweh's Church on your own because I can promise that Yahweh Himself will remove you from the presence of His People. Yahweh is jealous for His People and He doesn't tolerate corruption very well.

For the Elect; if you have such people in your fellowship, I encourage you to pray that Yahweh will reveal them for who they are. This works very well. Also pray that Yahweh will convict the pastors, elders and the regular congregants to put such people out of the church. The New Age in any form has no place in any fellowship where Yahweh's people meet to worship Him. Foreign ways, foreign items, dances, chants and such CANNOT be redeemed; only people can be redeemed. Yeshua didn't come a ceremonial item and he did not die as a ceremonial item to redeem them. He came to save men and women who want to be redeemed and who accept His free gift of salvation. Enough said. Bless you in the name of Yahweh Yeshua