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 Faith Bible Church
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<http://fbcweb.org/doctrines.html>

JEWISH APOLOGETICS (14)
 ANSWERING JEWISH OBJECTION #5
 (DDR #633)

Objection #5: “Messianic Judaism, or Hebrew Christianity, is just one big deception, designed to lure unsuspecting Jews into Christianity. Half of the people involved are not even Jewish. Most of those who are Jewish were Christian ministers who changed their names to sound more authentic.

To this objection Brown replies:

Maybe a bad experience with a Messianic Jew has given you a wrong impression of the whole. Is it possible you have misjudged our hearts and motives without knowing the facts? Most Jews who have come to know Jesus as Messiah have experienced a deep reawakening of their Jewishness. Many have recovered aspects of the biblical Jewish lifestyle, while other have made *aliyah* (i.e., emigrated to Israel) for life. In fact, their children now attend Israeli schools and fight the Israeli army. It is because these people have so deeply recovered their Jewishness that some of them have changed their names—e.g., from Martin to Moishe. Others changed their names so as to refute the lie of past “Christian” anti-Semitism, which said, “You can’t be Jewish and believe in Jesus.” As for the Gentile believers who have joined Messianic Jewish congregations, they have done so out of love for Israel and the Jewish life. Is this wrong?¹

Let’s understand this objection. Why do Jews feel this way? There are several reasons—some Messianic congregations are mainly Gentile, some Messianic leaders are, in fact, Gentiles, and Messianic leaders do not have Rabbi/Jewish credentials. While it is true that some Christians join Messianic congregations because they think they will be closer to God or “cool,” the reason that a great number of Jews join the congregations is because they do not care for church traditions (i.e. holy days, saint days), and they see the Jewish traditions as more biblical as they reflect Jewish holy days of the Old Testament. While there have been cases where a reverend

¹Michael L. Brown, *Answering Jewish Objections to Jesus: General and Historical Objections*, 1ST ed. (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Books, 2000), 9-15. In this work, Brown lists the objection and then gives a short response, which is followed by a more detailed response. This DDR series, for the most part, tracks the objection and his *short* response, after which you will find my comments. I highly recommend his book if you are interested in his detailed response (there is far too much material to include in the DDRs).

will call himself a Rabbi and set up a Messianic congregation for the purposes of evangelism, this is no longer the norm. Most Jews who are in Messianic congregations because they desire to retain their Jewishness.

Of course, the most important thing in any church is the teaching of the Word of God so the believer can grow and enjoy a *life* of worship. The culture is not an issue unless it gets in the way of a growing spiritual life focused on Jesus Christ.

In Him,

Undershepherd Don