

## Ask the Rabbi

### Submitted Question #2:

I read your paper on What Makes a Jew and I have a follow-up question.

If 1 Corinthians 7:17-20 says that each of us should remain the way we were when we were called, does that mean called to be saved or called to follow *Torah*? And what happens if you are saved or called as a Christian and then find out the truth about *Torah* Law? Should you keep celebrating Christmas and Easter or should you instead keep the High Holy Days and those Feasts and Fasts that are found in the Bible?

### The Rabbi's Answer:

The 1 Corinthians passage is talking about circumcision, which means identity -- not how you live your life vis-à-vis *Torah*. It certainly doesn't refer to salvation, otherwise Gentiles would never be saved; they would stay as they originally were.

There is nothing wrong in celebrating Christmas and Easter unless it is done in a way that dishonors Yeshua. They both have good biblical themes. There is no contradiction between celebrating those Christian holidays and also keeping *Torah* in an appropriate way, but keeping Christmas and Easter is not encouraged within Messianic Jewish communities because our cultural identification is with the Jewish world -- not the Christian world.

A key question is: "What is an appropriate way for a Gentile to keep *Torah*?" First of all, the way I read Isaiah 56:1-8, God's Sabbaths are for everyone -- Jews and non-Jews alike but, for the Gentile who is not a covenant part of a Jewish community, keeping the Lord's Sabbaths are a blessing -- not a commandment. For a Gentile who is *k'rov Yisrael* (called to and immersed in a Jewish community) it is different. *K'rovei Yisrael* should keep the Sabbaths the same way that others in their Jewish community keep them. Gentiles who are called to and live in a Christian community have greater liberty, except that keeping Sabbaths always means resting and doing no regular work. As for other aspects of keeping *Torah*, we must consult the *Ruach HaKodesh* for how to apply them in the New Covenant.

Thank you for your follow-up question.