

NEITHER JEWISH NOR CHRISTIAN

"There are some of us Jews who do believe that Jesus is the messiah, who do believe that there are messianic prophecies concerning a suffering servant who would come and suffer and die for the sins of the people, and rise again... And those of us who believe that are no less Jewish" (David Brickner, Executive director of "Jews for Jesus", in a Larry King Show in January, 2000).

Under the broad (and perhaps inaccurate) banner of "The Messianic Movement" many groups and fellowships today are leaning over towards one extreme - either towards Judaism or towards Christianity. What they do not realise is that there really is no compatibility between Judaism and Christianity. These two religious mainstreams are mutually exclusive. If you choose one, you must give up the other! You cannot have both, because there are certain typical beliefs inherent to each one of these religions that are directly opposed to certain typical beliefs of the other. Ignorance about this fact is one of the main reasons why many adherents of both Judaism and Christianity do not take seriously any of the claims of the so called "Messianic Movement".

While it is absolutely true that Judaism and Christianity cannot fit into the same "box", it is also true that what is known today as the "New Testament" (Messianic Scriptures), is a collection of documents originally intended to reflect the convictions of a group of people who firmly believed in, and focused their lives upon, what is known today as the "Old Testament" (Pre-messianic Scriptures). How is that possible? How can Judaism and Christianity not be compatible, while the Old Testament and the New Testament are fully compatible? It is possible simply because the modern-day religious system of Judaism have serious reservations about the New Testament, but nevertheless deviates from the Old Testament in many respects. And, by the same token, the modern-day religious system of Christianity have serious reservations about the Old Testament, but nevertheless deviates from the New Testament in many respects. Those who are seriously seeking for truth are advised not to look at any of the proposals of these two religious systems unless these proposals are a true reflection of what is being taught in both the Old Testament (PMS) and the New Testament (MS). Let us try to look into this matter a little deeper ...

Modern-day Practice or Belief	Christian belief: Typical or Incompatible?	Jewish belief: Typical or Incompatible?	Scriptures (both PMS and MS): Typical or Incompatible?
Praying to Y'shua as though He is Yahweh	T	I	I
Replacing Torah with faith In Y'shua	T	I	I
Not regarding Y'shua as the promised Messiah	I	T	I
Rejecting Miracles and Resurrection of Y'shua	I	T	I
Regarding pre-messianic prophecies as valid and true	T	T	T
Identifying with the mood and worship style of the psalms	T	T	T
Worshipping Yahweh by literally calling on his Name	I	I	T
Serving Yahweh without oral tradition or church doctrine	I	I	T

Let us be extremely watchful and let us ensure that we are not confused about what we believe and what not, why we believe the way we do, and where we had been before we decided to take this route of belief.