

# Boehm Boys Blog

## Let's Clarify Our Terms – I Am A Jew!

Posted on October 7, 2009 by boehmboys |

(by Thomas) The [article \(http://boehmboys.files.wordpress.com/2010/01/10-6-09-tennessean-boehm-boys-article.pdf\)](http://boehmboys.files.wordpress.com/2010/01/10-6-09-tennessean-boehm-boys-article.pdf) in yesterday's newspaper got many things right. There were, however, some misleading terms that cloud the dialogue. The two "C" words, for example, "Christian" and "convert". I'd like to set the record straight and deepen the dialogue for those willing to wade past the confusion and labels handed down for centuries. [Let's clarify our terms, I am a Jew! \(http://boehmboys.files.wordpress.com/2009/10/tennessean-response-lets-clarify-our-terms-i-am-a-jew.pdf\)](http://boehmboys.files.wordpress.com/2009/10/tennessean-response-lets-clarify-our-terms-i-am-a-jew.pdf)

As far as whether I am a Christian, as the caption in the picture noted, let me be clear. I was born a Jew. I became a Bar Mitzvah, was confirmed in Temple, went to Israel with a team of Jewish college youth from around the country, was married under a Chuppah, both of my parents and all my grandparents were Jewish. Hitler would have killed me without thinking twice. I love my Tanakh (a.k.a. Old Testament) and I love the G-d Who is in it. I also believe with all my heart that these writings of the family of Israel point to a Messiah, who will one day rule the world as King. Furthermore, I believe the identity of this Messiah is a Jewish man who walked the earth roughly 2000 years ago. There were many like me who became convinced to follow him as he taught, healed, and exposed the hearts of many. He was a Jew and he came to the Jews. His followers were primarily Jews and many of them wrote about him, and wrote to others about him. We have these writings as additional writings of the family of Israel that confirm the identity of this Messiah (a.k.a. New Testament). So, if by the term "Christian" you mean do I love and follow Yeshua as Messiah and do I believe that ALL the writings of the family of Israel, given not just to enlighten the Jews but all the world, are true and trustworthy, then the I will not protest that label. If, on the other hand, you mean am I no longer Jewish, then I reject equally wholeheartedly the meaning and implication of such a label. I am a Jew. I am a Jew who believes in Messiah. I am a Jew who believes that Yeshua is the Messiah.

In other words, the term “Christian” means different things to different people. In fact, if you ask 10 people around Nashville what the term means, you will likely get quite different answers. Evangelical, mainline Protestant, Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, Jewish, Agnostic, Atheist. Each will have a different way of “unpacking” or defining this label. Unfortunately, labels often get used to clarify exactly who is “US” and who is “THEM”. The history of Christianity is tragically filled with repeated wars and murders against those who did not have the same definitions or theology. Oftentimes, this division was an “in house” debate between people who all wore the same label, “Christian”, but viewed themselves as the REAL kind while others were not.

This issue of my identifying myself as a Jew is an “in house” debate as well. Jews do not agree on what is the definition of a Jew. Which brings me to the second word “convert.” The article said I converted in college. Well, if by this term we mean “teshuva”, the Hebrew word for repentance, or literally “turning away and going the other direction” the only conversion I underwent was turning away from my rebellion against G-d and turning and running back TO Him. In other words, while you could say I converted from my sin back to G-d, it would be totally inaccurate, misleading and untrue to say that I converted from one religion to another. Religion is man’s path to try and reach G-d. I believe G-d is more interested in having a relationship with people. So, I did not convert away from being a Jew. Yeshua did not call the people of Israel to turn away from being Jews. To imply as much by using this common term “convert” only serves to keep the dialogue on a more superficial level and helps preserve the religious “status quo” where many Jews and Christians are quite comfortable, but perhaps only seeing through a glass dimly. Let’s deepen the dialogue and try to see more clearly. The fruit of such an endeavor can be love. Indeed that is what has happened with my father and me. To what degree is love the fruit of your dialogue with those with whom you may disagree? Why not commit to pursue this love at whatever cost. 1 Corinthians 13 exhorts us that “the GREATEST of these is love!”

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## 3 Responses



**Debbie Davis**, on [November 4, 2009 at 6:46 AM](#) said: [Edit Comment](#)

AWESOME explanation Thomas! Thank-you for helping some of us that are quite ‘ignorant’ to such terms. I am now in the process of trying to enlighten myself to Judaism as I realize that’s where we all basically started. I am so facinated by all the history and how it ties into my religion (Catholic). Thanks to you and your Dad for ‘loving each other enough’ to open a dialogue and to also share it

with us!  
Debbie Davis

Reply



**boehmboys**, on November 6, 2009 at 10:30 PM said: Edit Comment

Your welcome Debbie...and thanks for your input! We are blessed and encouraged through this extended dialogue as well. Keep up the good studying and if your church would like us to come speak, go to the resources page, download a flier and share it with the relevant "gatekeepers" of your community. Let the dialogue continue...and deepen!!

Reply



**Terri Hightower**, on March 3, 2010 at 4:16 AM said: Edit Comment

Thank you so very much for sharing this incredible "love" with me. I am gentile and by the blood of Jesus- grafted in to you, Israel- the natural olive tree. and we both share in the Holy root of Messiah. Who can understand this Divine plan- first to the Jew then to the gentile. I have recently returned from my first trip to Israel. The restoration and the Blessings being poured upon the land are just astonishing and of course a direct prophecy fulfillment of Ezekiel- it is the most exciting thing I have ever studied -I love the history and the ancient finds that continue to prove our Creator is the Master and Author of Love and every single moment and event are under His watchful eye. Praise and Honor and Blessings to you as you stand boldly before your people- proclaiming the greatest message the universe has ever heard. Truth will endure and we will all be living in "The Land" soon.

As a gentile I have become so aware of how we have been duped by the Roman Catholic Church-(satan) They tried to take your Jewish-ness from you and in turn made us all pagan worshipers. Even the day of worship is a celebration to a fertility goddess- so sad- we rob ourselves of the Blessing of the Sabbath- Thank you so much for writing on this Blog and sharing this. I know your Dad and your Step Mom- I love and respect them both. We have many friends in common. I love Israel and the Jews. My CHristian roots are part of you. For such a time as this you are delivering a message of Hope to your people. May the Power and Peace of Jesus Messiah abide with you. I will be at your next meeting-  
Terri Hightower-

Reply

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