

THE MEANING OF "CHURCH" AND "ECCLESIA"

Let us make it clear from the very beginning that the established religious system, which manifests itself in the abomination called "church", is not of Yahuah (Father). We intend to make it very clear, by studying the Greek words found in the Brit Chadasha (New Testament), that the pattern which Yahuah (Father) intends His people to follow and live by is the Congregation/Assembly (Ecclesia) system, and is radically different than that which calls itself "church" in our day. As you read this short study the truth will dawn on you that Mashiachians (Set-Apart Ones) today have been fed a lie, and that they have been enslaved by the religious traditions of men. If you truly love Yahusha (Son) and desire to follow Him in total obedience then you must seriously consider the facts that follow. You are encourage each and every person who names the name of Mashiach (Messiah) to pray, fast and seek Yahuah (Father) concerning the important differences between how the first Mashiachians (Set-Apart Ones) lived and how Mashiachians (Set-Apart Ones) live today.

THE CORRECT MEANING OF "CHURCH"

Let's start by defining the word "Church" which comes from the Old English and German word pronounced "kirche." In Scotland, it was "kirk."

The following entries are from the Oxford Universal English Dictionary:

Church [Old English *cirice*, *circe*; Middle English *chereche*, *chiriche*, *chirche*; whence *churche*, *cherche*, etc.: -Greek *Kuriakon*...]

Kirk The Northern English and Scottish form of CHURCH, in all its senses.

In the earlier Greek It was pronounced "*ku-ri-a-kos*" or "*ku-ri-a-kon*." As you can see, this word doesn't even resemble the Greek word "*ecclesia*" whose place it has usurped. The meaning of "*Ku-ri-a-kos*" is understood by its root: "*Ku-ri-os*," which means "*lord*." The Greek "*kuriakos*" eventually came to be used in Old English form as "*cirice*" (Kee-ree-ke), then "*churche*" (kerke), and eventually "*church*" in its traditional pronunciation. A church, then, is correctly something that "*pertains to, or belongs to, a lord*."

Now, as you can see, there is a major problem here. The translators broke the rules in a big way. When they inserted the word "*church*" in the English versions, they were not translating the Greek word "*kuriakos*", as one might expect. Rather, they were substituting an entirely different Greek word. This was not honest! The word "*church*" would have been an acceptable translation for the Greek word "*kuriakos*." However, not by the wildest imagination of the most liberal translator can it ever be an acceptable translation for the Greek word "*ecclesia*." Are you following this? Consider it carefully. This truth will answer many questions you've had about churches, and the kingdom.

THE CORRECT MEANING OF "ECCLESIA"

Now, let's look at the word, "*ecclesia*". This Greek word appears in the Greek Brit Chadasha (New Testament) approximately 115 times. That's just in this one grammatical form. It appears also in other forms. And in every instance, except three, it is wrongly translated as "*church*" in the King James Version. Those three exceptions are found in Acts 19:32, 39, 41. In these instances the translators rendered it "*assembly*" instead of "*church*." But, the Greek word is exactly the same as the other 112 entries where it was changed to "*church*" wrongly.

In Acts 19, "*ecclesia*" is a town council: a civil body in Ephesus. Thus, the translators were forced to abandon their fake translation in these three instances. Nonetheless, 112 times they changed it to "*church*." This fact has been covered-up under centuries of misuse and ignorance. The Greek word "*ecclesia*" is correctly defined as: "The called-out (ones)" [ECC = out; KALEO = call]. Thus, you can see how this word was used to indicate a civil body of select (called, elected) people.

According to the Encyclopedia Britannica:

In the Brit Chadasha (New Testament), "*ecclesia*" (signifying convocation) is the only single word used for church. It (*ecclesia*) was the name given to the governmental assembly of the city of Athens, duly convoked (called out) by proper officers and possessing all political power including even juridical functions.

Apparently, in Greece an *ecclesia* had no resemblance to a church. An "*ecclesia*" was a civil assembly in Athens even before the writing of the Brit Chadasha (New Testament). In the Oxford Universal English Dictionary (considered the standard for the English language) the word "*ecclesia*" is listed in its English form as used by our English forefathers. (Nowadays, only forms of the word appear - like, "*ecclesiastical*").

Quoting from the Oxford Universal English Dictionary on the word "*ecclesia*":

Ecclesia [mediaeval Latin, and Greek - from : SUMMONED] -A regularly convoked assembly, especially the general assembly of Athenians. Later, the regular word for church.

Thus, two of the most prestigious word resources in the English language confirm the fact that an "*ecclesia*" was originally a select civil body, summoned or convoked for a particular purpose. What, then, did the writers of the Brit Chadasha (New Testament) mean when they used the word "*ecclesia*" to describe a Mashiachians (Set-Apart Ones) body of people? We can assume that they intended to convey the original Greek meaning of the word: a body of Mashiachians (Set-Apart Ones) called out of the Roman and Judean system to come together into a separate civil community. It meant a politically autonomous body of Mashiachians (Set-Apart Ones) under no king but Yahusha (Son); under no other jurisdiction but that of Yahusha (Son). No man ruled them! Only Mashiach (Messiah). And that was the reason these same Mashiachians (Set-Apart Ones) ran into trouble with kings and rulers; were arrested, crucified and martyred. They dropped Caesar as their King and took up Mashiach (Messiah).

In Acts 17, verses 1-6 we see that Paul and Silas had a reputation that preceded them. They were "turning the world (system) upside down." What was their inflaming message? Were

they telling the people to find a minister and support him; go to church every weekend; be nice to their neighbors? Could this have been the message that set the city fathers against them? Or maybe they were asking people to send their tithes to them so they could build a nice church or develop a recreation center? No? What then? What were these guys doing that was "turning the world system upside down"? The answer is found in verse 7:

Act 17:7 whom Jason has received. And all of them are acting contrary to the dogmas of Caesar, saying there is another sovereign, יהושע."

Now is that clear? Do you see what they were doing? They were announcing another KING! Not Caesar! This was a king who was bigger than Caesar. They were forming civil bodies that no longer looked to Caesar as their king. They were forming civil outposts for Mashiach's (Messiah's) conquering army! They were at war!

Paul and Silas weren't "church builders" like preachers today claim. They weren't proselytizing people from one church or synagogue to another. They were kingdom builders! They were dethroning rulers in the minds of the people and alienating them from the mental hold Caesar had upon them through heathenistic (central) government. They were teaching the principles of Mashiach's (Messiah's) government. They were putting forth the call of Yahuah (Father) to whomever would hear and obey, and those whose hearts responded to the call became citizens of Mashiach (Messiah)'s kingdom and joined themselves to the ecclesia, or community of believers.

CHURCH AND STATE DESTROYED LIBERTY

The Oxford Dictionary also has an interesting entry under "*congregation*":

...used by Tyndale as a translation of 'ecclesia' in the Brit Chadasha (New Testament), and by the sixteenth century reformers instead of "church." (*William Tyndale was the fifteenth century reformer and Bible translator murdered by the church)*

Tyndale was willing to die for Yahuah's (Father's) word and truth. He didn't like the word "*church*." Instead, he used the word "*congregation*." Now that tells us something! Tyndale, and other sixteenth-century reformers who were more reputable, did not like the word "*church*." They used other words like "*congregation*," "*governmental assembly*," etc.

When you consider the fact that an "*ecclesia*" was "*a civil body politic*", this is strong proof that the Mashiach's (Messiah's) ecclesia we read about in the Brit Chadasha (New Testament) were independent civil bodies of Mashiachians (Set-Apart Ones) -independent from worldly kings and governors, ruled by the Theocratic government of Yahuah's (Father's) Ruach (Spirit). They wanted freedom to serve King Yahusha (Son). They weren't building and attending churches! Please understand! The pattern laid down in the Brit Chadasha (New Testament) bears no resemblance to what we know today as "*church*". Yahuah's (Father's) people are meant to live by the ecclesia pattern together in communities, holding all things common, under the government of Yahuah (Father) through His anointed leaders. Quit saying "*church*" when it is supposed to be "*ecclesia*"! It's an important step in retrieving your brain from the trap of religious confusion.

MASHIACHIAN (MESSIAHITE) SET-APART ONES

Independent self-government under Mashiach (Messiah)! That is what the ecclesia represents. Not a religious organization for meeting on weekends. The Bible does not indicate that the church would eventually take the place of the ecclesia. The change of words was not sanctioned by Scripture. There is NO Scriptural authority for Mashiachians (Set-Apart Ones) to build churches, attend churches, or support churches! Churches are ungodly organizations designed for and by the heathen.

We should be forming and defending the ecclesia Congregation/Assembly instead of the disgusting church with their con games, entertainment, cultic mystery, childishness, and heathenistic worldly nonsense. We once used the word "church" to describe ourselves, but no more than Yahuah (Father). We're doing our best to break that image and stronghold. It's a slow process, but we're putting the old church ways behind us.

THE HEATHENISTIC AND IDOLATOUS MUST END

If you profess to follow Mashiach (Messiah), then it's time you quit voluntarily feeding the anti-Mashiach (Messiah) beast. Men who want to sincerely follow Mashiach (Messiah) must wean themselves from the worldly government and church. It is the height of absurdity for a Mashiachians (Messiahites) to attend and support the very institutions which are destroying his relationship with Yahuah (Father) and Yahusha (Son). Those who voluntarily support the man-made religious church system, by believing and teaching that they are good in any way, or that they help us, or that we need them, are still living in a dream world of deception. The ecclesia system, with it's Theocratic government and individual responsibility, is capable of freeing us from the bondage of religion. True shalom (peace) and liberty cannot be found outside of Mashiach (Messiah). Mashiach's (Messiah's) system is the ecclesia system. Freedom awaits all those who will break away from the religious slavery of church and become a humble bondservant of Yahusha (Son) Mashiach (Messiah). We must stop idolizing men in their religious hypocrisy and let Mashiach (Messiah) once and for all be our King!

So, there is really no other choice for those who would truly follow the pattern laid down for us in Yahuah's (Father's) Word. We must do the same thing the apostles did. We must form ourselves into actual communities under the guidance of Yahuah's (Father's) anointed and appointed leaders, called out and separated from the world, with none other than Yahusha (Son) Mashiach (Messiah) as our ruler and King. In other words, the *ECCLESIA!*

As a whole, Mashiachians (Set-Apart Ones) have departed from the pattern laid down in the book of Acts and have built, according to their own wisdom and traditions, an artificial and phony, religious mess called the "church". It's time to REVOLT against the wisdom of our religious flesh and get back to the wisdom of Yahuah (Father). It's time to re-evaluate and re-examine everything about how you think the true followers of Yahusha (Son) should live. It's time for Revolution against Dead Religion! We should be determined to change the way the world thinks about how true followers of Yahusha (Son) should live. Yahuah (Father) does marvelous and wonderful things for those who are willing to sacrifice their all for His All.