

בְּמִדְבָּר

B'midbar

(in the wilderness of)

B'midbar [Numbers] 1:1-4:20

הַבְּרִית הַחֲדָשָׁה

HaB'rit HaChadashah

(the new covenant)

Qorintyah Aleph [1st Corinthians] 12:1-31

Unity: A Scriptural Definition

Qorintyah Aleph (1st Corinthians) 12:19

And if they were all one member, where is the body?

The question that Shaul asks is a very important question, a question that is ignored by many today in the believing community. There are many groups that have existed since Mashiach and even groups today which attempt to force and enforce uniformity and conformity amongst its members. Those who do such things wrongly believe that unity will be attained when every single member looks, acts and talks the same. This is simply not true.

Please recall from our Torah portion this week that each person was to camp and march under his own degel, standard, banner, or flag. This strongly implies that each family and each tribe had certain characteristics that may not have been found in other families and tribes. YHWH does not desire for each one of us to look alike. What He desires from His people is for each one of us to be the person that He has created us to be.

Qorintyah Aleph (1st Corinthians) 12:18

But now Elohim has set the members each one of them in the body, even as it pleased Him.

YHWH has created each and every one of us to do a very unique task and to fit into the body of Mashiach, which is Israel, in a very special and distinctive way. If a person fails to be the person that YHWH has created him to be, then he has failed to do YHWH's will in his life. But this task can be quite formidable when those around us are attempting to squeeze us into a mold of their own design. Many leaders get the idea that their view of what a believer is to look like is, and then they attempt to squeeze everyone into that same idea or mold. This does not please our heavenly Father at all!

Romans 12:2

And be not fashioned according to this world; but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, and you may prove what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of Elohim.

A true leader of YHWH, one who is truly after the heart of our heavenly Father is one who helps each person be who YHWH has created him to be. He is such a man who allows YHWH to be sovereign over each person and does not attempt to be sovereign over another or as Yeshua said:

Matithyah (Matthew) 20:25-28

25 But Yeshua called them to Himself, and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them.

26 Not so shall it be among you; but whosoever would become great among you shall be your minister;

27 and whosoever would be first among you shall be your servant;

28 even as the Son of man came not to be ministered to, but to minister, and to give His life a ransom for many."

Notice that Yeshua states that we are not to lord it over one another. We are to serve one another and we are to do this in His love. As He laid down His life for us, we are to lay our lives down for one another. This we are to see exemplified in and from those who are our leaders. If we are not seeing this in our leaders then we had better go and find one who is living this life and serve shoulder to shoulder with him.

Ephesians 4:11-16

11 And He gave some to be apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and some, teachers;

12 for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of ministering, for the building up of the body of the Mashiach;

13 till we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of Elohim, to a full grown man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Mashiach;

14 that we may be no longer children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, in craftiness, after the wiles of error;

15 but speaking truth in love, we may grow up into Mashiach, who is the head,

16 from whom all the body fitly framed and knit together through that which every joint supplies, according to the working in due measure of each several part, makes the increase of the body to the building up of itself in love.

YHWH gave some to be leaders as apostles, some as prophets, some as evangelists, some as pastors and some as teachers. Those so equipped then are to help equip the body of Mashiach to be the body of Mashiach. Let us list what these leaders are to do.

1. Help to perfect the set-apart ones
2. Minister to the set-apart ones
3. Build up the set-apart ones as the body of Mashiach

They are to do this until we all reach that level of unity in our faith in Mashiach. We have not reached this level of unity, so where are those who are doing this equipping? Mostly what we see today are those who are simply bilking the sheep.

Yechezqel (Ezekiel) 34:1-10

1 And the word of YHWH came to me, saying,

2 "Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel, prophesy, and say to them, even to the shepherds, 'Thus says Adonai YHWH; "Woe to the shepherds of Israel that do feed themselves! Should not the shepherds feed the sheep?"

3 You eat the fat, and you clothe yourself with the wool, you kill the fatlings; but you feed not the sheep.

4 The diseased you have not strengthened, neither have you healed that which was sick, neither have you bound up that which was broken, neither have you brought back that which was driven away, neither have you sought that which was lost; but with force and with rigor have you ruled over them.

5 And they were scattered, because there was no shepherd; and they became food to all the beasts of the field, and were scattered.

6 My sheep wandered through all the mountains, and upon every high hill; yea, my sheep were scattered upon all the face of the earth; and there was none that did search or seek after them." ' "

7 Therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of YHWH;

8 "As I live," says Adonai YHWH, "surely forasmuch as My sheep became a prey, and My sheep became food to all the beasts of the field, because there was no shepherd, neither did My shepherds search for My sheep, but the shepherds fed themselves, and fed not My sheep;

9 therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of YHWH;

10 'Thus says Adonai YHWH; "Behold, I am against the shepherds; and I will require My sheep at their hand, and cause them to cease from feeding the sheep; neither shall the shepherds feed themselves anymore; and I will deliver My sheep from their mouth, that they may not be food for them." ' "

Truly there is nothing new under the sun! As it was in the days of Yechezqel, so it is today. There are so many who have set themselves up as shepherds of His people only to live off of the sheep and do nothing to feed the sheep of YHWH His true and good word!

Unity comes about when His shepherds do the task that YHWH has called them to do without fleeing the flock! Unity comes when the shepherds allow YHWH to be sovereign over each person. Unity comes when the shepherds stop lording it over His people.

We are to help one another and to lift one another up and help one another grow into a mature person in Mashiach. If one is more concerned about his fellow having the right beliefs, then how can he help him grow up in Mashiach? While this may in fact be a concern at times, what should be more of a concern is how one is living and conducting his life. If one is living according to the standards of Torah and has accepted Yeshua as Mashiach, then he is part of Israel. As such, we need to grow, care and nurture one another and stop beating one another up for not believing exactly the same thing in exactly the same way!

ABBA YHWH, unify us in the love of Mashiach that those looking at us would know we are Your people by our love for one another; in the name of Yeshua our Mashiach. Amein.

Shabbat Shalom

Zerubbabel ben Emunah

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