

Small Group Study Guide: "When is a Gentile No Longer a Gentile?"
Series: Are We Following The Way? (Part 4) May 30, 2026

Discussion Questions

1. Why is it important to understand the diversity within first-century Judaism when reading the Brit Chadasha? How does this change your perspective on Paul's letters?
2. What was the difference between a "Gentile" and a "God-fearer" in the first century? Why does this distinction matter for understanding the Book of Acts and Paul's mission?
3. Read Acts 14:1 and Galatians 3:28 together. How do we reconcile Paul saying there is "neither Jew nor Greek" while still acknowledging distinctions between Jewish and Gentile believers?
4. The message mentioned two approaches to holiness: Nachmanides (pursuing higher spiritual planes) and Maimonides (finding holiness in everyday balance). Which approach resonates more with you? Why?
5. Consider 1 Corinthians 7:17-20. What does it mean for you personally to "remain in the calling in which you were called"? How does this apply to your spiritual journey?
6. The Didache says, "if you are able to bear the Lord's entire yoke, you will be perfect (Greek: telios); but if you are not able to do this, do what you can." How does this perspective on progressive obedience encourage or challenge you?
7. The message states: "You can say what you believe BUT do you DO what you say you believe." What is one area where your actions need to align better with your stated beliefs?

8. How can we "elevate our spiritual life" without falling into legalism or performance-based faith? What practical steps can help us grow in obedience while resting in grace?

9. The message emphasizes that "God's image is in every human, and we must uphold God's holy reputation in the world." How does this truth affect:

- How you treat others who are different from you?
- How you represent God in your workplace, neighborhood, or family?

10. Read the principles at the end of the message (below) about historical Judaism. Which of these resonates most with you right now? How can you apply it this week?

First... there is life and living... the full enjoyment of life and creation as God intended	Religious practices are good and useful.... but taking action on the word of God is more important. You can say what you believe BUT do you DO what you say you believe.
In the discussion of theological or religious stuff, it is good to ask questions.	Seek unity in the midst of diversity. We are not monolithic. We have different callings. We have different spiritual strengths and weaknesses. We are called to build each other up – not tear down
Obedience to God brings enjoyment of life. Being aligned with God make you a whole person. Life comes from God and should be enjoyed.	A life lived walking with God... in obedience to God... also comes with responsibilities
God's teachings – the Torah... or Law...is an invitation to choose a series of opportunities to walk with Him... and to demonstrate a concern for people around us.	God is compassionate and ALWAYS gives us the opportunity to repent and get back on track. When you sin.. repent and don't do it again.
	You must live in such a way that you always testify to God's holy nature. What you say and do demonstrates your relationship with God and to the reality of God. God's image is in every human. We must uphold God's holy reputation in the world.