

# CONCERNING ISRAEL AND THE CHURCH

## AFFIRMATIONS & DENIALS

(TOPIC NO. 20)

(Revised 2/9/96)

I. **We affirm** that by virtue of divine election,<sup>1</sup> the preservation and ultimate ingrafting of Jewish people demonstrate God's mercy and faithfulness to His Word and serves the purpose of the conversion of the Gentiles just as the ingrafting of the Gentiles serves the purpose of the conversion of the Jews.

**We deny** that this "divine election" implies the salvation of individual Jews without their repentance and conversion through the Gospel.

1. Rom. 11:1-2, 25-26

II. **We affirm** that Christians of all nations are called to show love and mercy to Jewish people and to call them to repentance as with other peoples as part of their witness.<sup>1</sup>

**We deny** that seeking to bring Jews to the knowledge of Jesus the Messiah is demeaning, disrespectful, or unloving.<sup>2</sup>

1. Rom. 11:30-31
2. Rom. 11:14; 9:3

III. **We affirm** that Christians of all nations are indebted to the Jewish people for preserving the Scriptures and especially to the saved remnant of ancient Israel who were faithful to the covenants and brought the gospel to the world.<sup>1</sup>

**We deny** that this gives ground for Christians to idolize the Jewish people who will also be indebted to Christians of other nations at the end of the age for their salvation.<sup>2</sup>

1. Rom. 9:4-5; 11:18
2. Rom. 11:14, 30-32

IV. **We affirm** the legitimacy of Jewish followers of Jesus remaining part of their people whether individually or in Messianic Jewish congregations, or in Messianic Jewish cell groups in the structure of the larger Church.

**We deny** the validity of forming congregations with exclusive physical descent membership policies, or sectarian attitudes of separation from the larger Body of Christ<sup>1</sup> or that maintaining Jewish cultural expressions should be required.

1. Gal. 3:28; Eph. 2:14-18

V. **We affirm** the unity in the Messiah of Jew and Gentile as one new man and the spiritual seed of Abraham.<sup>1</sup>

**We deny** that this precludes uniquely Jewish or other cultural/ethnic expressions of New Covenant faith or differences of calling among people in the Body of Christ.<sup>2</sup>

1. Gal. 3:28-29; Eph. 1:6-7
2. Rom. 11:29; 1 Cor. 1:2; 7:17-24

VI. **We affirm** that the return of the Jewish people to the land of Israel may or may not be part of God's prophetic fulfillment in working to bring all elect "Israel" to Himself. We further affirm that Jews who believe in Christ will be grafted back into the "Olive Tree" in which all followers of Jesus find their sustenance.<sup>1</sup>

**We deny** that this gives Israel the right to treat Gentiles in the Promised Land with injustice or give an unqualified right and mandate to take by military force at the present time the land promised to Abraham.

1. Rom. 11:23-26

VII. **We affirm** that all forms of anti-Semitism are contrary to Christian faith. We further affirm that the Jewish people as a people are rich in cultural contributions to the world, a culture with significant praiseworthy elements.<sup>1</sup>

**We deny** that Rabbinical Judaism is an adequate faith for the salvation of the Jewish people.<sup>2</sup>

1. Gen. 12:1-3; Rom. 9:15
2. Rom. 10:1-3

VIII. **We affirm** that, with regard to salvation, God has always had only two categories of people those who are His people and are saved and those who are not His people and are lost.

**We deny** that the Jewish people comprise a third category of humanity as if there are the saved, the lost, and the Jews.

IX. **We affirm** that the "middle wall of partition"<sup>1</sup> has been broken down and there is now "one new man" in Christ, which comprise God's people.

**We deny** that God seeks to have all people groups dissolve into a homogeneity or that God may not have purposes for varieties of people.

1. Eph. 2:14