

## Response to article

["Can Christians participate in worldly activities such as going to Bars?"](#)

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MATSATI • Ohio, USA

matsati@matsati.com • <http://www.matsati.com/>

August 2, 2005

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I received a question from a brother in Yeshua Hamashiach concerning the article about Christians going to bars/clubs. Below is a copy of the email that I received and then my response to the email and the article.

### Email

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**From:** Nathan

**Sent:** Friday, July 29, 2005 9:45 AM

**To:** matsati@matsati.com

**Subject:** Christians going to bars.

I just read your article on Christians going to bars.

I agree with you in the sense that there is no real purpose for Christians going to bars.

But I would just like to point out the argument that you used with

*But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an Extortioner ;with such an one no not to eat. 1Corinthians 5:11.*

A very important part of that verse is “if any man that is called a brother”

I don't think it is saying that we shouldn't associate with sinners. For without God in their life all people can easily fall into these categories.

I think it important that we preach to these people and talk to them in our lives.

I wanted to send this article to someone but I fear that argument might mislead them.

Those are just my thoughts on the subject.

I appreciate the work you do with your site and I thank God for you ministry.

- God Bless

- Nathan

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## Response

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Hello Nathan,

Thank you for your comments I greatly appreciate any and all comments and criticisms, etc. I agree with you about the verse that says "...if any man who is called a brother ..." (1) the apostle Paul is talking about a brother in the faith (2) not referring to befriending unbelievers for the purpose of witnessing/living ones life for Christ amongst the lost (unsaved). The point I was trying to make was concerning a believer's outward faith towards others especially unbelievers. Having participated in the bar/club environment before, it is obviously not the environment/venue for ministering/witnessing to unbelievers on the topic of faith and salvation through Yeshua Hamashiach (Jesus the Messiah). Some people also will justify going to bars/clubs by saying how Yeshua ate with the sinners and publicans. The difference here is Yeshua did not participate (take part, engage, join) in the sinful lifestyles of the people whom he had dinner with in their homes, Yeshua taught hallachah (the way) concerning the rabbinic teaching in his day and taught the scriptures. A couple questions we should ask about the bar/club environment are (i) what takes place physically in a bar/club and (ii) what takes place verbally in a bar/club. Answering question (i) what takes place is alcoholism and lascivious dancing that is based upon a sexual appetite, sexual longing, desire, passion, sexuality, lechery, and lecherousness. These are the sorts of things that go through the imaginations of men when they see women dancing provocatively and the women who dance in such ways are doing so for the express purpose of rising up these desires within men. Now I am not saying alcohol is evil, nor is dancing evil, but it is the purpose these things are used for that lead to a disobedient lifestyle. Yeshua drank wine in moderation, he did not get drunk, and even king David danced (3) before the Lord and it was not a sin. The question about speech (ii) what takes place verbally is the most horrible speech imaginable to man laced with profanity. I know people who use the "F" word juxtaposed to every other word with each sentence they put together. It is absolutely ridiculous. God has called us to be a Holy people unto him, he stated in the Torah (first 5 books of the Bible) and also in the New Testament to be holy in all manner of conversation for it is written be ye holy for I am holy. (4) There are Christians however who have grieved the Holy Spirit so much that they are not convicted of the sins of "lashon harah" (evil speech) (5) and thus they swear and say they can not help it. I don't believe that is a reasonable excuse at all. However, the main point I wanted to make in that article (6) was to deal with the concept of one living their life for Yeshua Hamashiach (outward faith) and if it is possible to do so within the context of a bar/club environment. I do not believe it is possible, and further, I propose that a Christian has no reason for going to a bar besides to live a less than obedient life. This does not mean we should not befriend unbelievers, but there are other things we can do besides participating in such a worldly activity and becoming a hypocrite in our walk with Yeshua.

There was something else I wanted to comment upon concerning fellow believers. I think there are differences here where we need to have discernment upon concerning the heart of those we call brothers in the Faith. Let me explain what I mean here. Questions we should ask ourselves to start, (i) what is the initial unsaved state of man (old man), (ii) how does struggling

with sin fit into the new found life in Yeshua Hamashiach, (iii) how does this fit into 1 Cor. 5:11 and our brothers and sisters in Yeshua.(1)

**Question (i):**

As believers we come from an initially unsaved state, living in an unsaved world, and in a corruptible body (Sinful flesh). The article (6) does a good job of laying out what the "old man" is like and what the new man should be in Yeshua Hamashiach so I do not think it is necessary to go into this further (I have attached the article to this email).

**Question (ii & iii):**

As believers living in a sinful body yet being saved by grace in Yeshua, we will struggle daily with the temptations we are drawn too. I have found a great analogy in the Torah that relates to the process of struggling with sin. When God delivered Yisrael (Israel) from Egypt and then bringing them into the Promised Land; I believe we can learn something from this by drawing a parallel along side of the issue of struggling with sin. Before we were saved, there were many strongholds of sin within our lives. Heck, I venture to say that some of us did not really know that we had strongholds because sin is enjoyable to a certain extent; before we were saved we lived in the pleasures of sin, etc. In the same way the promised land was given to the nations (goyim, gentiles, unbelievers) and they built cities (strongholds), and planted vineyards, etc., they also had their high places where they worshiped their false gods. Something to notice though, God did not give Yisrael the land free of its inhabitants, the land needed cleansing and the strongholds needed to be broken down. When a man becomes saved by grace through faith in Yeshua, God begins to work in our lives to break down these strongholds so that we are conformed more unto the likeness of his son Yeshua.(7-9) God is essentially preparing us for Heaven. In the Promised Land, Yisrael had to conquer and break down every stronghold they came across including burning all of the high places where the goyim worshiped their false gods and as a Christian, we have to go through that same process. Therefore, in the same way with a Christian's life, there will be many strongholds that need to be broken down and wiped clean. One's life will not come without problems, hurts, pains, all of these things are meant for us to grow spiritually.

The point I am making is the difference between a brother who is struggling with sin, trying to live his life obediently for the Lord, and running the race(10, 11) that is set before us as compared to the brother who is living a life of sin (12) and does not repent and change his ways but rather continues in lawlessness. The Apostle Paul is speaking of this later brother who lives a continual life of disobedience in lawlessness and sin being unrepentant.

**Conclusions:**

Even though many people today are very serious about their faith inwardly, there are few who are truly serious about their faith outwardly. A lot of Christians believe faith is an inward thing only, but this is very foreign to the Bible. In fact, Yeshua saw peoples faith in action (13, 14), it is expected, we step out in faith first and then God works (remember Lazarus at the tomb, Yeshua commanded they remove the stone first, etc)! Just like in our prayer life, God already knows what we need, but we have to ask first.

Nathan, I hope this clarifies the questions you had about the article. Maybe along with this response your friend could read it and understand and not be misled.

## References and Notes

1. **1 Cor. 5:11**; In Scofield, C. I., *Scofield Study Bible, KJV*, Oxford University Press: New York, 2003.
2. Note: "Brother in the faith" refers to fellow believers in Yeshua Hamashiakh (Jesus the Messiah). DDM, 2005.
3. **2 Sam. 6:14**; In Scofield, C. I., *Scofield Study Bible, KJV*, Oxford University Press: New York, 2003.
4. **1 Peter 1:14-16**; In Scofield, C. I., *Scofield Study Bible, KJV*, Oxford University Press: New York, 2003.
5. Hegg, T. Lashon Harah.  
<http://www.torahresource.com/English%20Articles/Leshon%20Hara.pdf> (July 29, 2005),
6. Miller, D. D. Can Christians be different than the World and Still Participate in "Worldly" Activities, Such as Going to Bars? <http://www.matsati.com/bars.pdf> (July 29, 2005),
7. **Rom. 8:28-29**; In Scofield, C. I., *Scofield Study Bible, KJV*, Oxford University Press: New York, 2003.
8. **1Cor15:49**; In Scofield, C. I., *Scofield Study Bible, KJV*, Oxford University Press: New York, 2003.
9. **2 Cor. 3:18** In Scofield, C. I., *Scofield Study Bible, KJV*, Oxford University Press: New York, 2003.
10. **1 Cor. 9:24** In Scofield, C. I., *Scofield Study Bible, KJV*, Oxford University Press: New York, 2003.
11. **Heb.12:1** In Scofield, C. I., *Scofield Study Bible, KJV*, Oxford University Press: New York, 2003.
12. Note: "Sin" refers to sin defined according to the Torah of God. Without the Torah we would not know that we sin or what sin really is, this is why it is written in midrashic literature that God blessed us with the gift of Torah. Without the Torah, we would not recognize we are sinners in need of a saviour Yeshua Hamashiach.; DDM, 2005.
13. **Mar2:5**; In Scofield, C. I., *Scofield Study Bible, KJV*, Oxford University Press: New York, 2003.
14. **Matt9:22**; In Scofield, C. I., *Scofield Study Bible, KJV*, Oxford University Press: New York, 2003.

Blessings in Messiah Yeshua,

MATSATI (מצאתי)

Website: <http://www.matsati.com/>

IRC UnderNet: #Hebrew, #Religion, #MessianicJudaism

הללויה לארבעה בוראי דרבינו ישוע מנחם במשיח לעולם ועד:

Hallelujah for our Lord, our Teacher, our Rabbi, "YESHUA" King Messiah for ever and ever!!!