

Byna Means Understanding

B'ney Yosef North America was delighted to discover their initials spelled out the Hebrew word *byna*, meaning understanding. It is related to the word *bein*, meaning between or to separate. This knowledge clarifies the meaning of the New Testament passage, 2 Timothy 2:15 NKJV "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." In Hebrew the concept of understanding comes from the ability to distinguish properly between truth and fiction, right and wrong, good and evil and any number of concepts that can be divided into multiple categorizations. I say multiple rather than two because if we spend our time dividing all concepts into only two options, we will likely only skim the surface of truth. Truth cannot be found by making bifurcations. *Byna* (understanding) is found when things are **properly** *bein* (divided). While BYNA is a complimentary acronym, the mere forming of an acrostic is insufficient to establish the validity of the association. What is the understanding that BYNA wishes to disseminate and what is the proper way to divide in order to distinguish properly between wisdom and deception?

Anyone who takes a good look at the Hebrew Roots / Messianic Movement will discover a lot of dividing. Division seems to be something we have excelled in, but the question has not been proven as to whether we have developed understanding from our division or if we have increased destruction. Let me suggest that this cannot be clearly delineated by a bifurcation, a destructive side versus a side that clarifies understanding. In reality there are varying degrees of each being accomplished. I think a good list of destructive behavior might help reveal if we are mostly operating in divisive behavior or in a manner in which Yosef would be proud, since the name *Yosef* comes from the word *asaf*, meaning to gather. So, Yosef means, he will gather, or Yah has added. The information we share can cause scattering and division, or it can be a catalyst for unity, facilitating a gathering together of all involved. BYNA wishes to be the latter.

BYNA does not desire to start a new denomination. We certainly have enough already and furthermore, if we desired to start one, we would start at least 20 in the process due to the variation in beliefs. Denominations are formed around a common belief, and it is apparent that we do not all share a common belief at present. This means that we must develop our *BYNA* (understanding) around the ability to gather, not to separate. In essence our rallying cry cannot be around a group of doctrines, but hopefully our unity can be found in an agreement of proper behavior. In the next few paragraphs, let's consider the behavior that creates division.

First let's look at the dogmatic holding to a belief and claiming all others must agree with you prior to your willingness to accept them. This is divisive. If you cannot find good in a brother even when he disagrees with you on the proper calendar to follow, maybe you are focusing too much on your specific interpretation rather than encouraging your brothers to determine what God desires in their life. There were some specific Pharisees in the time of Yeshua that were very rigid in their interpretation of the law. They tithed their dill, mint and cumin. This was not criticized one bit by Yeshua, but He did declare that they were neglecting the weightier matters of the law. If we are so focused on our particular understanding of the calendar, that we cannot come together for the festivals, then we have tithed in dill, mint and cumin but missed the weightier matters of the law. The festivals are for assemblies, to gather Israel together, but if we divide over the dates and cannot come together, the purpose for which we assemble is being destroyed by our personal insistence on our current perception of what is correct.

It is a delight to know that within the Eldership of BYNA there are at least three different understandings concerning the calendar. It has never been an issue and I doubt it ever will be. All it takes not to make it an issue in fellowship, is not to make it an issue in fellowship. These

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fellow Elders are very dear to me and I consider them to be some of the wisest men in the movement. It is a blessing to be *echad* with them. This comes from a respect of them and their ability to determine what God has for them in their lives. Unity is a blessing!

Heresy is a greater sin than missing the “proper” date. The use of heresy in this manner may be new to you so to understand the author’s intent, please refer to [Heresy in the Hebrew Roots Movement](#), a more in-depth discussion on the subject. Heresy is the act of forcing your opinion, understanding, belief, or firmly held conviction upon everyone else with whom you associate. It isn’t good enough for you to act according to your belief, you must force others to agree with you and act in a similar manner. This is evidence of insecurity. If a person has not well developed his basis for his beliefs, but feels strongly that he is correct, he reveals his insecurity by demanding others agree with him. He separates from others based on his lack of understanding. Isn’t this the type of behavior that creates division? It is time we call this what it is. It is immaturity. This behavior will not bring about any kind of gathering. This is not Yosef, one who will gather, rather this is an anti-Yosef, one of divisiveness. It is from HaSatan “the destroyer.” Let’s not call it anything else.

Forcing your current precise understanding of a subject on others is poised in the presentation of being exactly correct. It is passed off as being righteous since one desires to be pure before God. In reality, it is juvenile behavior showing a complete lack of maturity and is destructive in nature. Proper division is separating from those who wish to act in this manner. John 13:35 declares truth. NKJV "By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." So, in love, we must separate from the hostile, critical spirit that causes division as it grows. This is a division of understanding. One that recognizes unfruitful behavior and desires to form associations with loving and caring people who better represent the Torah community. No one will embrace a Torah community that is hostile, demeaning, arrogant, forceful, mean spirited, vengeful, hateful, malicious and just down right unwelcoming. Yosef means to gather or to add. Unfortunately some claiming to be Yosef have been spending too much time as adders rather than gatherers.

Divisions based on behavior start with a resolve to stop this behavior in ourselves. We first must recognize our own problem and separate ourselves from it, before we can go further. If we see others separating themselves from everyone based on belief and decry their actions, but consider our own reasoning to disassociate based on belief as reasonable, we are acting as the heretics we are trying to correct. Objective and honest self-evaluation is the only way to begin this journey in understanding. If we can come to understand those who disagree, we have begun down the right path. Understanding does not require agreement, it only requires respect for them and for their ability to discover their path. So respect is crucial in beginning to “rightly divide the word of truth,” because without respect we will cut off those who need our encouragement the most.

In a following article we will discuss another common behavior that divides rather than gathers. It is my intent to unveil misguided behavior of well-meaning people who have mistakenly embraced a deception of *HaSatan*. If you wish to join a movement based on gathering the house of Yosef, please continue to read so we can learn positive ways to grow and avoid destructive tendencies that often mask themselves as striving to be holy.

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