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# THE FIRST CENTURY CHURCH

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by Dave R. Mode, Jr.

The 1st century church is regarded as the model and pattern for the Christian faith of our day. However, a majority of believers in Messiah Yeshua (Jesus) are not aware of what the 1st century church was like in teaching and practice from both a biblical and historical perspective. A look at some of the following points will give a brief outline of the 1st century church.

### ***According to history and the Scriptures the 1st century Church:***

- 1) Believed in salvation by grace. (Ephesians 2:8)
- 2) Believed the lifestyle of the believer is to keep the commandments
  - The way that pleases God (I John 3:22)
  - The way of intimacy with God (loving God) (I John 2:3, & 5:3)
- 3) Celebrated the 7 annual Feasts of YHVH according to Leviticus ch. 23:  
Two of these 7 are noted in the New Covenant Scriptures.
  - Shavuot/Feast of Weeks (Pentecost - Acts 20:16)
  - Passover (Lord's Supper - I Corinthians 11:20)

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4) Saw themselves as the true Israel - the Israel of God that received the New Covenant prophesied in Jeremiah 31:31-34. (Galatians 6:16; Hebrews 8:6-12)

5) Was recognized as a sect of Judaism called "the Nazarenes". (Acts 24:5)

6) Saw believers from other nations (Gentiles) as grafted into Israel through the Messiah Yeshua. (Romans 11:13-18)

7) Congregation (Assembly) in Jerusalem was the model for all the other assemblies throughout the world to follow. (I Thessalonians 2:14)

8) Worshipped on the 7th day Sabbath, and after the Sabbath on the evening of the 1st day of the week (after sundown on Saturday night - see Acts 20:7). (Acts 13:14, 15:27, 16:13, 17:2, 20:7)

9) Used the interlocking menorah, star of David and fish symbol as a seal of identification. This seal was imprinted on many artifacts found in the baptismal

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