On Being Jewish
Ohev Yisrael
9/6/23

There is a long history of how one defines being Jewish. This is not to cover this topic exhaustively. Tradition states that one is a Jew if one's mother is Jewish. Anyone reading the Bible will see that one is typically identified as Jewish if at least one's father is Jewish. Many within modern Judaism, outside of Orthodoxy, will identify someone as Jewish with either a Jewish father or mother. The modern state of Israel allows anyone with one Jewish grandparent as eligible to receive citizenship, though one is demarcated as Jewish on their citizenship as Jewish if their mother or maternal grandmother is Jewish.

We at Ohev Yisrael recognize anyone as Jewish if they have at least verifiable Jewish grandparent. The modern state of Israel requires verification for anyone claiming to be Jewish. There is even biblical precedent for this when many within the Jewish community returned to the land of Israel from Persia. Others may have Jewish ancestry, and we want people to claim it and celebrate it, but it doesn't necessarily classify one as being Jewish.

Such specificity will also help clear up any confusion and can help people worship God and exalt Yeshua be it as a Jew or a Gentile will clarity, confidence, and joy in whom God has made them.