

ICCJ International Abrahamic Forum
International Conference

**Combatting Our Teachings of Contempt;
Jewish, Christian and Muslim Introspection and Projection**

27 June 2013, Workshop Session 1 Liturgy

Rabbi Ehud Bandel and Sheikh Ghassan Manasra
The Morning Blessings

1. Rabbi Yehuda says: A man is obligated daily to recite: “Blessed is God who has not made me a Gentile, who has not made me a boor, who has not made me a woman.” Tosefta Berachot 6:18.
2. According to Diogenes Laertius, a historian of the second century CE, Socrates (or some other Greek sage) said he had three blessings: “that I was born a human being and not a beast, a man and not a woman, a Greek and not a Barbarian” (Vit. Phil. 1.33)
3. But before faith came, we were kept in custody under the law, being shut up to the faith which was later to be revealed. 24 Therefore the Law has become our tutor to lead us to Christ, so that we may be justified by faith. 25 But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor. 26 For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. 27 For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s descendants, heirs according to promise. Galatians 3
4. R. Meir used to say, A man is bound to say the following three blessings daily: ‘[Blessed art thou . . .] who hast made me an Israelite ‘. . . who hast not made me a woman’; and ‘. . . who hast not made me a brutish man’ BT Menachot b
5. I bring heaven and earth to witness that the Divine Spirit rests upon a non-Jew as well as upon a Jew, upon a woman as well as upon a man, upon a maidservant as well as a manservant. ALL depends on the deeds of a particular individual. (Yalkut Shimoni, Shoftim 42)