

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

ACTS 4:10-12.

1. Some say: "There's nothing in a name." What if one misspells or mispronounces your name? What if boy proposes to girl & girl says "yes" but wants to wear the name of another boy? Naming our children.
 2. God gave names. For example: Gen. 17:5, 15; Luke 1:11-13; John 1:42.
 3. In religion the name is important too! Acts 3:6-7; 4:10-12; Eph. 1:20-23; Phil. 2:8-11; Mt.28:18.
- I. The Name of God's only begotten Son is Important to Him! [John 3:16; Luke 2:11-14].
- A. God gave a specific Name for His only begotten Son (John 1:1-4, 5; 14; 3:16).
 - B. "21 And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins. 22 Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, 23 Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us" (Matt. 1:21-23; cf. Luke 1:31-35; cf. Isa. 7:14).
- II. The Name that God's Children Wear is Important to Him.
- A. "And the Gentiles shall see thy righteousness, and all kings thy glory: and thou shalt be called by a new name, which the mouth of the LORD shall name" (Isa. 62:2).
 - B. Fulfilled in Acts 11, after the Gentiles heard the gospel & obeyed it in Acts 10 (cf. Rom. 1:16-17).
"And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch" (Acts 11:26).
1. Christ's followers, the children of God (Gal. 3:26-28), make up His church—Rom. 16:16.
 2. He is the Builder (Mat. 16:18) & Owner (Acts 20:28; Eph. 5:25) & Lord (1 Tim. 6:14-16).
 3. He is the Head & Saviour (Col. 1:18; Eph. 5:23; Acts 2:38, 41, 47; 1 Cor. 12:13; Jn. 3:5).
 4. It is His body (Eph. 1:22-23; 4:4; Col. 1:18; Rom. 12:4-5). "22 But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, 23 To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, 24 And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel" (Heb. 12:22-24). Jesus Christ is the "firstborn from the dead" (Col. 1:18).
 5. The church is married to Christ—"Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God" (Rom. 7:4). ILLU. about boy proposing to girl.
- III. Is the Name You Wear in Religion Important to You?

- A. We have proven this by the Scriptures that the Name is important to God! Denominations are guilty of wearing false names (1 Cor. 1:10-13; 4:6). Wealthy Lady asked preacher to come to her house on Monday a.m. & she handed him a check for \$1000.00. Excitedly he went to the bank and there discovered it had not been signed. When he returned, the lady told him to sign it himself since he had preached the morning before that, “There’s nothing in a name”! I Pet. 4:11.
- B. To be the Lord’s church we must honor His name in deed, as well as in word! 1 Jn.3:18; Jn. 14:15; Col. 3:17. ILLU—You can be put a Cadillac crest on a VW but that won’t make it a Cadillac!
- C. Is your religious organization you found in the Bible? Reve. 22:18-19. If not, obey the gospel & be saved & added to the church of Christ. It is in the Bible (Rom. 16:16); Established on Pentecost Day in Acts 2! Mk. 16:15-16; Acts 18:8; 2:38, 41, 47; 8:32-39; 22:16; Gal. 3:27; Rom.6:3-5.