

# Are names important?

- Exodus 3:13-15
- Names\*:
  - Have Meaning & Significance
  - Signify relationships
  - Are a memorial to identity and character
- Abraham
  - Genesis 17:4,5
- Jesus
  - Matthew 1:21
- How important is a scriptural name for the church?
  - Let us consider in this lesson  
(For those who think it unimportant, is *any* name ok?)

(\*from The Church: A Biblical Perspective, L.A.Stauffer, 1994, pp.58-59)

- Using the names of men to designate God's people is wrong
  - John 17:20-21
    - Against the spirit and desire of Christ
  - 1 Corinthians 1:10-15
    - Condemned in the apostles' doctrine
  - They are divisive in nature
  - They give honor to men and direct honor away from Christ
  - They are a stumbling block
- The New Testament condemns denominational names
  - John 15:1-6 is abused to support denominationalism

- Colossians 3:17
- 1 Peter 4:11
- 2 Timothy 1:13
- The New Testament uses these names or words for individuals who are members of the church:
  - Disciples – Acts 20:7
  - Saints – 1 Corinthians 1:2
  - Christians – Acts 11:26
  - Brethren – Colossians 1:2
  - Sons of God – Galatians 3:26
  - Children of God – 1 John 3:1
  - Heirs of God – Romans 8:17
  - Royal priesthood or priests – 1 Peter 2:9

- The name Christian:

- Acts 11:26

- “were called” = chrematidzo means to speak as an oracle, to be divinely warned, to be called from a divine source; then it could not have been given in derision (Roy Cogdill, The New Testament Church, 1979, p 71)

- Isaiah 62:2

- Acts 26:28-29

- 1 Peter 4:14-16

- There were no hyphenated Christians in the New Testament

- What about religious titles (Reverend, Father, “the Pastor”, etc.)?

- 1 Peter 4:11

- Matthew 23:9

- Psalm 111:9 (KJV)

- John 5:44

- Acts 14:23

- The church belongs to God and Christ.
- The church is according to the eternal purpose of God. It is His family, His house, His temple, His kingdom.
  - Ephesians 3:10-11; 2:19
  - 1 Corinthians 3:16-17
  - Acts 8:12
- The church was built by Christ. He is its head, redeemer, savior, husband, ,king, and lawgiver.
  - Matthew 16:18
  - Ephesians 1:22-23
  - Acts 20:28
  - Ephesians 5:23-25
  - Colossians 1:13
  - James 4:11-12

- Names or designations used in the New Testament for the church:
  - The church
    - e.g. Romans 16:1
  - The churches
    - Galatians 1:2
  - The church of God, the church of the living God, the churches of God, the church of the Thessalonians in God, the churches of God which are in Judea in Christ Jesus
    - 1 Corinthians 1:2; 1 Timothy 3:15; 2 Thessalonians 1:4; 1 Thessalonians 1:1, 2:14
  - The church of the Lord, the churches of Christ, the churches of Judea in Christ, body of Christ
    - Acts 20:28; Romans 16:16; Galatians 1:22; Ephesians 4:12
  - The church of the firstborn
    - Hebrews 12:23

# Importance of the church wearing the name God has given:

- Colossians 3:17
- The church is the bride of Christ and should wear His name
  - 2 Corinthians 11:2
- The church is God's family and should wear His name
  - 1 Timothy 3:15; Ephesians 3:14, 15
- Sectarian, denominational names are divisive and a departure from sound words, the apostles' doctrine