

Introduction

I said this morning that as we lead up to **CHRISTMAS** this year and probably even a little beyond that point, we're going to focus in our morning services on the **FIVE DESCRIPTIVE NAMES OF MESSIAH** that are given in **ISAIAH 9:6!** We will begin that, **LORD** willing, next **SUNDAY MORNING!**

We began this morning laying a foundation for those messages to come as we asked the question, **WHAT IS IN A NAME?**

Proverbs 22:1– “A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches”

Ecclesiastes 7:1– “A good name is better than precious ointment”

Tonight's message is a **“side message”** so to speak. Tonight I want us to look at the **NAMES** in **SCRIPTURE** that are associated with our being **“IN CHRIST”** as we continue to look at **WHAT IS IN A NAME?**

We said that a **NAME (GOOD OR BAD)** normally comes from one's **CHARACTER** or **REPUTATION**, but tonight I want us to see that it can come from those we are associated with as well!

We, as **CHRISTIANS**, have taken the name of **CHRIST**, that's why it's so important that we be **very careful of how we live**. We need to do everything we can to have a **GOOD TESTIMONY** because we are **REPRESENTATIVES** or **AMBASSADORS FOR CHRIST!**

We **REPRESENT** the **KING of kings** and **LORD of lords to this world**, so it is of utmost importance that we be godly men and women in **CHARACTER** as our lives reflect on **CHRIST** and how others see **HIM!**

There are some **Names That Have Been Given to God's People–** **What is in these names that we are called?** That's what we want to focus on tonight!

I. WE WHO ARE CHRIST'S ARE CALLED “CHILDREN OF GOD!” AND “SONS OF GOD!” (*Galatians 3:26-28; 4:4-7*)
These **NAMES** Describe Our **CONNECTION To GOD IN CHRIST!**

What I mean is that **through our FAITH in CHRIST**, we have been **BORN AGAIN of the SPIRIT into GOD'S FAMILY** and because of our **ADOPTION** we are placed as **legal sons and heirs with the rights and full privileges of such!**

ADOPTION for us as **BELIEVERS** is both a **PRESENT POSSESSION**, as well as a **FUTURE HOPE!** We are **ADOPTED SONS OF GOD** already, but we do not yet enjoy all the blessings of being **CHILDREN OF GOD** and won't until our resurrection! **Nevertheless, THEY ARE OURS!**

Romans 8:23– “And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.”

These **NAMES** also speak to the fact that **IN CHRIST** we are **PARTAKERS of GOD'S DIVINE NATURE!**

2 Peter 1:3-4– “3 According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: 4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

1 John 3:1-2– “1 Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. 2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.”

II. WE WHO ARE CHRIST'S ARE CALLED “BRETHREN!”
The **NAME BRETHREN** Describes Our **CONNECTION** With Others Who Are **IN CHRIST!** (*Acts 15:36*)

“BRETHREN” is used 73 times in Acts and the Epistles in reference to those who are part of the **FAMILY OF GOD!**– i.e. those who have been **BORN AGAIN OF THE SPIRIT OF GOD!**

A. **“BRETHREN” Denotes Our Family Association!**

I have two brothers–Ronnie and Randy! Ronnie is my older brother who still lives in Brunswick, Georgia. Randy is my younger brother who went home to be with the LORD on August 1 of this year.

The three of us **share a COMMON CONNECTION. We share a FAMILY RELATIONSHIP. We have the same FATHER and MOTHER! We share our FAMILY NAME and we share our FAMILY LIKENESS.**

I also have many BROTHERS and SISTERS IN CHRIST! We also share a COMMON CONNECTION! We also share a FAMILY RELATIONSHIP! We have the same HEAVENLY FATHER! We share our FAMILY NAME and we share our FAMILY LIKENESS!

*John 1:12–“But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become **the sons of God**, even to them that believe on his name:”*

*1 John 3:1-2--“Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called **the sons of God**: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. Beloved, now are we **the sons of God**, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.”*

“BRETHREN” Denotes Our Family Association...

B. **“BRETHREN” Denotes Our Family Alliance!**

When things are as they should be, **there is a CLOSENESS OF FAMILY MEMBERS!**

The BOND of being of the SAME BLOOD is a strong BOND! We who have been SAVED are ALL of the BLOOD OF CHRIST!

III. **WE WHO ARE CHRIST’S ARE CALLED “BELIEVERS!”
The Name BELIEVERS Describes Our CONVICTIONS About CHRIST And HIS WORD! (Acts 5:12-14)**

The actual term **“BELIEVERS”** is only used twice in **SCRIPTURE**. Here in *Acts 5:14* and *1 Timothy 4:12*.

*1 Timothy 4:12–“Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the **believers**, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.”*

Now there are plenty of the other forms of the word **BELIEVE** used. (**BELIEVED, BELIEVEST, BELIEVETH, BELIEVING, BELIEF**) These all are tied to where we have our **TRUST!**

A. **“BELIEVERS” Is A Name Associated With Our FAITH In WHO JESUS IS!**

When Philip preached **JESUS** to the Ethiopian eunuch, the eunuch asked Philip what hindered him from being baptized.

*Acts 8:37–“If thou **believest** with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I **believe** that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.”*

B. **“BELIEVERS” Is A Name Associated With BELIEF In WHAT JESUS SAID! (JOHN 14:6)**

Now if you BELIEVE that JESUS is just “a way” and not “THE WAY,” then you are NOT a true BELIEVER!

Acts 4:12–“Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.”

If you don’t **BELIEVE** that, then you are not a **“BELIEVER!”**

C. **“BELIEVERS” Is A Name Associated With TRUST In WHAT JESUS HAS DONE!**

*1 Corinthians 15:3–4— “3 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that **Christ died for our sins** according to the scriptures; 4 And that **he was buried**, and that **he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:**”*

*Romans. 10:9- “That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that **God hath raised him from the dead**, thou shalt be saved.”*

IV. **WE WHO ARE CHRIST’S ARE CALLED “SAINTS”–
The Name SAINTS Describes Our CHARACTER From CHRIST!
(1 Corinthians 1:2)**

“SAINTS” is used in 95 verses of SCRIPTURE in both the OLD and NEW TESTAMENTS!

“SAINTS” – means “SACRED” or “HOLY” or “CONSECRATED.”

In fact, it is translated “HOLY” in many places.

To be “HOLY” means “to be set apart from something unto something!”

A “SAINT” is one who has been *set apart from sin unto God!*

The name “SAINT” pretty much says “that's God's property!”

A “SAINT” is one who has been “made holy by the blood of CHRIST!”

*1 Peter 1:15-16–“But as he which hath called you is **holy**, so be ye **holy** in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye **holy**; for I am **holy**.”*

If we are saved by GOD’S GRACE, we are **SAINTS** and we should act like the **SAINTS** we are!

V. **WE WHO ARE CHRIST’S ARE CALLED “CHRISTIANS”–
The Name CHRISTIAN Describes Our CONDUCT In CHRIST!
(Acts 11:19-26)**

This word **CHRISTIAN** or **CHRISTIANS** is only used in three places in SCRIPTURE.

“CHRISTIAN”–means “Christ-like” or rather “a follower of Christ.”

King Agrippa told Paul in Acts 26:28, “Almost thou persuadest me to be a **Christian**.”

*1 Peter 4:16–“Yet if any man suffer as a **Christian**, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf.”*

VI. **WE WHO ARE CHRIST’S ARE CALLED “DISCIPLES”–
The Name DISCIPLES Describes Our COMMITMENT To
CHRIST! (Luke 14:26-27, 33)**

“Disciple” literally means “A learner.”

A. **To Truly Be A DISCIPLE We Must Love CHRIST More Than Our Family And Our Own Selves! (vs. 26)**

B. **To Truly Be A DISCIPLE We Must Endure Hardships For The Cause Of CHRIST! (vs. 27)**

C. **To Truly Be A DISCIPLE We Must Be Willing To Forsake All For CHRIST! (vs. 33)**

Conclusion

Do these names describe you?

Child of God or Son of God, Brethren, Believer, Saint, Christian, Disciple.

These names should describe us if we are saved!

Are you living up to your God-given names?

2 Timothy 2:19–“Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.”