

## Seven Reasons For Being Called A Christian

### INTRO

1. Names are important: Change Warrior River Road to Allison/Bonnet Parkway.
2. “What **kind** of Christian are you?” (The name has become generic, like “car”: Ford, Chevy, Buick, etc.) Check of local phone book reveals these church names:
  - a. Bible characters: John Baptist, Paul, Peter, James, John, Matthew, Mark, Luke, Mary (Queen of the Universe), Joseph, Mary Magdalene, Elizabeth, Stephen.
  - b. Saints/scholars: St. Andrews, St. Augustine, St. Charles, St. Frances of Assisi, St. Margaret Mary, St. Thomas Aquinas, St. Nicholas, St. George, St. Christopher, St. Alban, St. Lawrence, St. Michael, John Knox, Martin Luther.
  - c. Even places: Bethesda, Bethel, Bethlehem, Shiloh, Antioch, Jerusalem, Canaan, Mars’ Hill, Mt. Nebo, Mt. Olive, Mt. Sinai, Mt. Zion.
3. What should a follower of Christ call himself? With what/whom do we wish to be identified?

### 1. OWNERSHIP

- A. We often put our names on our possessions to identify them (“I don’t see your **name** on it!”). Baseball glove, test papers, car (Dyle), pew ...
- B. We were bought by Christ (I Cor 7:22-23), purchased by His blood (Ac 20:28).

### 2. HONOR (For sacrifice offered)

- A. I Cor 1:12-13 - Paul says it is inappropriate to be called by the name of someone who didn’t provide the sacrifice for sin.
- B. This is an **undeserved** honor to the one who didn’t die and a **dishonor** to the one who did.

### 3. AUTHORITY (For salvation)

- A. Ac 4:7-12 - No other name provides entry into realm of spiritual blessings.
- B. Illus: Use of Brad Marshall’s name to play golf at Woodward Country Club.

#### 4. MARRIAGE

- A. Normally, the wife takes the husband's name in marriage; feminist ideology tells women to follow their own agenda and keep or hyphenate maiden name.
- B. Rom 7:4 - Married to the one raised from the dead. Do we declare our independence by not wearing His name? Are we embarrassed to wear it? Selfish? **Why should Melanie marry me and wear her old boyfriend's name?**

#### 5. PROMINENCE

- A. Because of the price, sacrifice, suffering, authority, resurrection, etc. Christ has been given the **highest name** - Phil 2:9.
- B. To wear any other name is a step down. When we can wear the name of the King of the Universe, who wants an inferior name?

#### 6. DIVINE DESIGNATION

- A. Ac 11:26 - The disciples were first called "Christians" in Antioch:
  - 1. Term "called" most often refers to God's calling.
  - 2. Some grammatical weight to Paul and Barnabas doing the calling, not a derogatory misnomer of the Gentiles then used by disciples.
  - 3. The context deals with issues among them, not with outside influences.
- B. It is certain that the word was approved by the Spirit and used throughout history from this point forward.

#### 7. COMMENDATION - Jesus commends the church at Pergamos for "holding fast to My name" (Rev 2:13). So should we!

#### Observations:

- 1. If people are not content with authority for Bible name, they will not be content with Bible authority for other things.
- 2. Having the right name doesn't guarantee right relationship. But **not** having right name guarantees **not having a right relationship!**
- 3. We are **Christians** individually, and collectively we are the **church of Christ**.