What's In A Name?

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INTRODUCTION

- And names do have meanings.
- We read in Acts chapter 11 and in verse 26 that the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.
- But those names or those descriptions that God has placed upon us aren't just descriptive, they're conscriptive. That is that they place upon us a responsibility.

1 Called to Be Saints

1 Corinthians 1:2; 1 Peter 2:9

- To the church of God, which is at Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints.
- If you're a Christian, you're a saint.
- The words saint, sanctified, and holy all come from the same original root word. That just simply means something that's been set apart, that's been separated for a particular purpose or use.
- You are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, his own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.
- Would they ever say of you don't look like a Christian I've ever seen?
- There should be something about our character, about our language, about our dress and the way we talk and the way we act and the places we go that should be something distinctive about us.

2 A Disciple Is a Follower

Acts 11:26

- A disciple is somebody who has discipline.
- A disciple of Christ is someone who's going to know about God and Jesus Christ and His will, His teachings, but it's going to say, I am a follower.
- We don't just follow what He has taught, we follow Him. We walk in His footsteps. We live as He lived. We love as He loved.
- If we're to be His disciple, if we're to be His follower, we must take up our cross and follow him.
- Would he look at my life and my behavior and my commitment and my dedication and say, that person follows me? Have I taken up my cross?
- Can you really say that you're his disciple if his things don't truly come first in your life?

3 We Are Brethren

1 Timothy 4:12; 1 Peter 1:22; Matthew 23:8

- Since you've purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit, in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart.

- The idea that we're brethren speaks to affection. That we have this family love.
- You may not have a physical family to model this spiritual family after, but you have a spiritual family to make up for what you lost in that physical family.
- It speaks of affection, but it speaks of equality. That if we're in Christ, we have brothers and sisters, then that means that we're all the same.
- And being brethren, it's going to change the way we deal with disagreements.
- That's the conscription that this name puts on us. We're brethren. We'll work it out somehow.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **Why not be a part of his special people? Why not be his follower? Why not be God's child and be initiated and adopted into the most wonderful family you'll ever know or find?**

MY NOTES