

WHAT IS IN A NAME?
PROVERBS 22:1

Introduction

What is in a name? Our text says:

Proverbs 22:1—“A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favour rather than silver and gold.”

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

Do you know what your name means? I remember when we named our children we gave a lot of thought to what we were going to name them.

“Charity” – “Agape love”

“Philip” – “Lover of horses.” ??? OK, so we didn’t actually know the meaning of the name, but rather named him after one of the Bibles finest evangelists.

In Scripture we find where God changed the name of some folks:

In *Genesis 17:5*, after God renewed His covenant with **Abram**, He changed **Abram’s** name to **Abraham**.

Abram – meant “High father”

Abraham – meant “Father of a multitude”

In *Genesis 17:15*, God changed **Sarai’s** name to **Sarah**.

Sarai – meant “Dominative” or “Domineering”

Sarah – meant “Princess”

In *Genesis 32:28*, God changed **Jacob’s** name to **Israel**.

Jacob – meant “Heel catcher” or “supplanter”

Israel – meant “He will rule as God,” or “a prince of God”

In Scripture, we also find where some people changed their own names:

In *Ruth 1* we find that after **Naomi** returned to Bethlehem from **Moab** where her husband and two sons died, she changed her name from **Naomi** to **Mara**.

Ruth 1:20-21—“And she said unto them, Call me not Naomi, call me Mara: for the Almighty hath dealt very bitterly with me. I went out full, and the LORD hath brought me home again empty: why then call ye me Naomi, seeing the LORD hath testified against me, and the Almighty hath afflicted me?”

WHAT IS IN A NAME?
PROVERBS 22:1

Naomi – meant “Pleasant.”

Mara – meant “Bitter.”

In Scripture, we also find where other people changed the names of God’s people:

When **Daniel and the Hebrew children** were taken captive to Babylon.

Their Hebrew names were associated with their Godly heritage.

The Chaldeans wanted Daniel and the Hebrew Children to forget about their Godly heritage.

The world would have us to forget our spiritual heritage also!

When we got saved God made all things new. It says in *2 Corinthians 5:17*—“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold all things are become new.”

We got a **new nature** complete with a **different set of values and desires**. Many of us made new friends because our old friends didn’t care to have anything to do with us anymore.

On top of a new nature with a new set of values and desires, we also got a new name! Before we got saved we were **children of the devil**, but now we are the **children of God**. We got a new family and so we took on the family name!

I may not have a name that is well-known here on earth, but it made news in Heaven when I got saved and Praise God my name has been recorded in The Lamb’s Book of Life!

**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 look at tonight.

WHAT IS IN A NAME?
PROVERBS 22:1

I. **“BELIEVERS”--Describes Our Convictions About Christ And His Word! (Acts 5:12-16)**

The 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.”

A. **“Believers” Is A Name Associated With Faith In Who Jesus Is.**

The Ethiopian 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)**

C. **“Believers” Is A Name Associated With Trust In What Jesus Has Done.**

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.”

II. **“BRETHREN”--Describes Our Connection 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.

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

I have two brothers–Ronnie and Randy. We share a common connection. We share a family relationship. We have the same father and mother.

WHAT IS IN A NAME?
PROVERBS 22:1

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!

“BELIEVERS”--Describes Our Convictions About Christ And His Word!

“BRETHREN”--Describes Our Connection In Christ!

III. **“SAINTS”--Describes Our Character From Christ! (1 Corinthians 1:2)**

“Saints” is used in 95 verses of Scripture in both the Old and New Testament!

“Saints” – means *“sacred”* or *“holy”* or *“consecrated”*.
In fact it is translated *“holy”* in many places.

WHAT IS IN A NAME?
PROVERBS 22:1

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!*”

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!

“*BELIEVERS*”–Describes Our Convictions About Christ And His Word!

“*BRETHREN*”–Describes Our Connection In Christ!

“*SAINTS*”–Describes Our Character From Christ!

IV. “*CHRISTIANS*”– Describes Our Conduct In Christ!
(Acts 11:19-26)

This word is only used in three places in Scripture.

“*Christian*”–means “*little Christ*” 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.”

V. “*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 God More Than Our Family And Our Own Selves! (vs. 26)

WHAT IS IN A NAME?
PROVERBS 22:1

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?

Believer, Brethren, Saint, Christian, Disciple.

These names should describe us if we are saved!

Are you living up to your God-given name?

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.”