

Name of the Church

I. There is Something in a Name---They Are Important to God.

- A. (Isa 7:14) Immanuel, *the prophetic name given to Christ.* – (Mat 1:23).
- B. (John 1:42) Simon's name changed to Cephas / Peter by Jesus.
- C. (Gen 32:27-28) Jacob's name changed to Israel by an angel.
- D. (Gen 17:5) Abram's name changed to Abraham by God.
- E. (Ex 3:14) God's eternity expressed by His chosen name—I AM.

II. What the Church was Called.

- A. (Mat 16:18) My church. –*It's Christ's possession.*
- B. (Acts 8:1) The church. –*It is the ecclesia, the called-out people.*
- C. (1 Cor 1:2) The church of God. –*Shows design by the Father.*
- D. (Rom 16:16) Churches of Christ. –*The Local congregations are Christ's.*
- E. (Eph 4:12) The body of Christ. –*Shows the relationship to Christ as head.*
- F. (1 Tim 3:15) Church of the living God. –*No man nor idol owns the church..*

III. What the Members were Called.

- A. (Acts 20:1) Disciples — *students and followers.*
- B. (1 Cor 1:2) Saints – *Holy in life, or set-apart for God.*
- C. (1 Cor 15:6) Brethren — *shows our relationship to each other.*
- D. (Rom 8:14) Sons of God – *Shows our relationship to the Father. (1 John 3:1)*
- E. (Acts 11:26) Christians — *Shows they were dedicated to Jesus Christ.*
- F. (1 Pet 2:9) Priests — *designed to offer up personal sacrifice to God.*

IV. The Testimony of Spurgeon and Luther.

- A. **Charles Spurgeon**—*one of the greatest Baptist preachers.*
"I say of the Baptist name, let it perish, but let Christ's name last forever. I look forward with pleasure, to the day when there will not be a Baptist living. I hope they will soon be gone. I hope the Baptist name will soon perish; but let Christ's name endure forever."
Spurgeon Memorial Library, vol. 1 p.168.
- B. **Martin Luther**—*"I pray you to leave my name alone, and call not yourselves Lutherans, but Christians. Who is Luther? My doctrine is not mine. I have not been crucified for anyone. St Paul would not let any call themselves after Paul, nor of Peter, but of Christ. How then does it befit me, a miserable bag of dust and ashes, to give my name to the children of God? Cease, my dear friends, to cling to these party names and distinctions: away with all; and let us call ourselves only Christians after him from whom our doctrine comes."*
The Life of Luther, by Stork 1 p.289.

1 Cor 1:12-15 Now I mean this, that each one of you is saying, "I am of Paul," and "I of Apollos," and "I of Cephas," and "I of Christ." Has Christ been divided? Paul was not crucified for you, was he? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, so that no one would say you were baptized in my name.