

"Nothing in a Name"

Written by Wayne Teel
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I have been told by many religious people, "There is nothing in a name!" This statement came about in order for denominations to justify the hundreds of different names they use. This is a very deceiving and dishonest statement on the surface and it flies in the face of plain Bible truth. This is how far some folks will go to try to justify religious division.

Denominational people claim it doesn't matter what the church is called. Where does this statement appear in the Bible? Let me suggest to you there is no Biblical basis for the concept that any name men choose to call the church does not matter to God. I can assure you that it matters greatly to God what name we use to call the church of which we are a member.

Jesus was crucified and died for HIS church, not some denominational church with names given by men. Jesus built His church and died for His church (Matthew 16:18, Acts 20:28), so why would His church not be called after Him? People will call themselves after the denomination they belong to but the Bible says disciples of Christ were called "Christians" (Acts 11:26), not some denominational name.

"But if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not feel ashamed, but in that name let him glorify God" (1Peter 4:16). Where does the Bible say we are glorifying Christ when we are called by a denominational name? "And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men, by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:10-12). The name of Jesus Christ is the ONLY name by which we can be saved. Why do men say the name they call themselves religiously doesn't matter?

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I have had "pastors" refuse to even discuss the subject of what the Lord's church should be called. They say the name doesn't matter. I know these "pastors" do not truly mean what they say when they make this statement. If you ask them to remove the name they use to designate their denomination and simply put up a sign, "the church of Christ meets here," they all refuse to do so. So I guess it really does matter to them what the name of THEIR church is called!