

# What's in a Name?

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## INTRO.

This past week – I was doing some cleanup of old church files – I had saved on a thumb drive ... It was interesting to see some of the vision and purpose statements that I had written a decade ago ... Then I came across the document where we changed the name of the church ... I began to reflect upon that time – and the more I thought about it – I believe we missed what God was actually doing for this body from a spiritual perspective ... There is a major spiritual principle behind “names” that I don't think we have fully grasped from a spiritual perspective ... Let me give you that principle and then we will break it down:

### What you name – you have influence and control over

Catch this - - Names are significant for many reasons ... Names are a form of identity ... Names can define purpose ... Names can create a destiny.

See, back in the day – one of the purposes for changing the name of the church was to change its identity ... For some reason – the community had a strange view of the church when we were on Mountain Rd. ... I forget all the names we were called back then – maybe some of you remember – but let's just say they were not flattering in the least bit ... It was obvious Liberty A/G was not viewed in our community as God wanted us viewed ... Not only that – but when God sent me here to lead the church – He told me to redefine its purpose and destiny ... Which butted heads with a lot of the old school folk who attended the church ... We won't go there now – other than to say I think we missed a key element in the name change ... The main purpose was not to change our identity so that the community would have a different perspective concerning the church ... God had a bigger purpose in mind which we need to come back around to ... Now catch this spiritual principle ... In order to redefine a purpose and a destiny – God always starts with a name change.

**Genesis 17:2-6 Living Bible**

I will prepare a contract between us, - guaranteeing to make you into a mighty nation. ... In fact, you shall be the father of not only one nation, - but a multitude of nations!” ... Abram fell face downward in the dust as God talked with him. ... 5 “What’s more,” - God told him, - - **“I am changing your name.** ... It is no longer ‘Abram’ (‘Exalted Father’), - - but ‘Abraham’ (‘Father of Nations’) - - for that is what you will be. ... I have declared it. ... 6 I will give you millions of descendants who will form many nations! ... Kings shall be among your descendants!

It was interesting as I browsed through those old church files ... That I came across a document where I wrote for a vision statement - - DCC exists to help guide people into their God-given destiny ... Unfortunately – I don’t think I nor we – fully grasped the spiritual implications of that vision statement ... Let me clarify – unless you understand this principle of the “name change” and how to apply this spiritual principle to your own life ... You can never help others to discover their God-given destiny ... I’ll throw this in here – when you became born-again – you had a “name change” in the spirit realm ... I’ll go deeper into this later – but notice these following scriptures:

### **Isaiah 62:2 New Life Version**

The nations will see that you are right and good. ... All kings will see your shining-greatness. ... And **you will be called by a new name** - which the mouth of the Lord will give.

### **Revelation 2:17 The Voice**

“Let the person who is able to hear, - listen to and follow what the Spirit proclaims - to all the churches. ... To the one who conquers - through faithfulness even unto death, - I will feed you with hidden manna - and give you a white stone. ... Upon this stone, **a new name is engraved.** ... No one knows this name except for its recipient.”

### **Catch this by the revelation of the Spirit**

**In order to discover your God-given destiny – You must understand that you have a “new name” which carries with it - your true identity – purpose – and destiny**

Now – because we have not fully grasped this spiritual principle – we seek to discover our identity – purpose – and destiny – which is contained in the name – we have been given in this natural realm ... Let me help you understand this ... Your parents gave you a name ... That name is typically identified with another person within your family lineage ... For example – I am a junior – so by default my name identifies me with my father ... My daughter’s name is MaryKatherine which is actually her whole first name as we did not give her a middle name ... But her name is a combination of her mother’s and grandmother’s name ... Because of that her name identifies her with two people ... Which if you have a middle name – that does the same thing ... Why did I share this? ... Your name identifies you as an individual – but it also connects you to a person – a generational heritage – which includes a purpose and destiny ... This spiritual connection must be dealt with – disconnected in a sense – so that you may connect with your “new name” – which carries with it – a new identity – a new generational heritage – a new purpose – and a new destiny ... I pray by the Spirit you are catching this revelation.

**Whoever names you – will have control / influence over you**

**Genesis 2:18-20 New King James Version**

And the Lord God said, - “It is not good that man should be alone; - I will make him a helper comparable to him.” ... 19 Out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to Adam to see what he would call them. ... And **whatever Adam called each living creature, - that was its name.** ... 20 So Adam gave names to all cattle, to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field. ... But for Adam there was not found a helper comparable to him.

**Genesis 1:26 New King James Version**

Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; - - **let them have dominion (rule – power over – be masters over – authority) over** - - the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

## How does this Spiritual Principle affect us Individually?

Now catch this – you have the capability of functioning under two different names ... Each of these names are constantly trying to influence you ... One name came from this natural realm and the other name came from the spirit realm.

### Romans 8:6-7 The Voice

A mind focused on the flesh - is doomed to death, ... but a mind focused on the Spirit - will find full life and complete peace. ... 7 You see, - a mind focused on the flesh is declaring war against God; - it defies the authority of God's law - and is incapable of following His path.

### Natural Realm Influence - - “A mind focused on the Flesh”

Now catch this the best you can ... **Your fleshly name will directly influence your Identity** ...

Let me clarify ... Your parents named you and because of that reality – they will have an influence / control over you – even from the grave ... I hope you realize that every person who was ever born never dies ... They simply change residence from this realm into the spirit realm ... The spirit realm has two locations of occupancy ... One is called heaven and the other is called hell ... The choice of residency in the spirit realm is decided on this side of the grave ... Now let's go a bit deeper in this spiritual principle:

For example, let's say your parents are no longer living ... They have passed into the spirit realm ... How many would admit - - that you dream about them - - you can still hear their voice in your head - - you still feel shame or guilt if you did something you know that they didn't like ... How about this – how many of you will not throw something out because your parent or auntie so-and-so gave it to you – yet they have been dead for years ... Are you catching the point? ... This is an indication that you are functioning with a fleshly mindset ... You are functioning under your earthly name ... You are functioning according to your fleshly identity ... Here is another quick example ... I have heard people say something like this ... “We {insert last name} don't do things like that - - or say things like that ... This is clearly tying “a name” with an identity.

## **Your Fleshly Name will Directly Influence your Purpose**

Many times, you will notice within the family lineage – people involved in the same types of vocation ... Maybe not doing the exact same vocation but similar in purpose ... For example: let's say within the family lineage – there is a purpose of community service / serving people ... So, some may be involved in the medical field – some may be involved in social work – some may be teachers – etc. ... The point is their name / heritage / lineage is directly tied to purpose ... This purpose maybe positive or negative in nature ... Within the family lineage maybe divorce – drunkenness – a certain form of disease – etc. ... A name is directly tied to purpose.

### **Genesis 3:20 Names of God Bible**

Adam named his wife Eve [Life] - - **because she became the mother of every living person.**

### **Genesis 1:27-28 Modern English Version**

So, God created man in His own image; - in the image of God He created him; - male and female He created them. ... 28 God blessed them and said to them, - - “Be fruitful and multiply, and **replenish the earth** and subdue it. ... Rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

### **Genesis 2:18 Names of God Bible**

Then Yahweh Elohim said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. ... I will make a helper who is right for him.”

### **Genesis 3:16 The Voice**

(to the woman) As a consequence of your actions, I will increase your suffering—the pain of childbirth - - And the sorrow of bringing forth the next generation. ... You will desire your husband; - but rather than a companion, - He will be the dominant partner.

Notice – these biblical examples are showing the direct correlation that names directly influence identity and purpose ... The thing I want to make clear is - - Who is the one “naming” will have the influence ... This is where it is critical to make the distinction between “natural beings” naming and God naming ... Now – catch this the best way you can ... The enemy of our soul

knows this principle – probably better than we do ... Because of this – we have been ignorant of his devices ... So let me close this morning by exposing a device of the enemy that is in operation today

### **The Issue of Re-Naming**

Remember – **What you Name – You have influence / control over** ... I have already showed you – that this is a spiritual principle – that we must take seriously – and not be ignorant of ... The enemy of our soul also knows this spiritual principle and have been exploiting this principle in order to enact his ungodly agenda ... This agenda revolves around – Renaming or Rebranding.

### **Democracy rather than Constitutional Republic**

“Democracy is a universally recognized ideal and is one of the core values and principles of the United Nations. Democracy provides an environment for the protection and effective realization of human rights” ... “The meaning of DEMOCRACY is government by the people; especially: rule of the majority.”

A constitutional republic is a form of government in which the people hold power but elect representatives to exercise that power. ... The US Constitution provides the framework for how the federal and state governments are structured and places significant limits on their powers. ... A federal republic is one in which a federal government is given only limited powers for limited purposes, while state governments retain most powers of government. ... Most residents are also subject to a state government and various units of local government, including counties, municipalities, and special districts.

### **Christian Nationalist**

The segment was titled: “The Republican Mess - - How Christian Nationalism could shape a 2nd Trump term”

“The one thing that unites all of them – because there are many groups orbiting Trump is - - but the thing that unites them as Christian nationalist – not Christians by the way – because

Christian nationalist is very different – is that they believe that our rights as Americans – as all human beings – don't come from any earthly authority – they don't come from Congress – they don't come from the Supreme Court – they come from God”

### **TAKE AWAY**

So – what is my point? ... The enemy know this spiritual principle - - Who ever names a thing – will have control and influence over the thing ... So, there is a concerted effort by the enemy to influence our form of government by “renaming” it ... There is a concerted effort by the enemy to influence the body of Christ by “renaming” it ... It is critical – that we are not ignorant – of the devil's devices ... We must wage spiritual warfare – war in the spirit realm – to destroy the enemy's intent.

### **Matthew 18:18 Amplified Bible**

I assure you and most solemnly say to you, - - whatever you bind [forbid, declare to be improper and unlawful] on earth - - shall have [already] been bound in heaven, - - and whatever you loose [permit, declare lawful] on earth - - shall have [already] been loosed in heaven.

### **Matthew 18:19-20 New Life Version**

19 Again I tell you this: If two of you agree on earth about anything you pray for, it will be done for you by My Father in heaven. ... 20 For where two or three are gathered together in My name, there I am with them.”