

Some Biblical Terminology Describing Who We Are

I. Introduction:

A. People so very often become denominational with defining their religious following and that is wrong (**I Corinthians 1:10-13**).

1. When I often teach about the relationship we have with God, I see a disconnect in some wherein we properly pray “our Father” (**Matthew 6:9**), but don’t seem to fully grasp we are “His children” (**Romans 9:24-26**).

2. We must loose ourselves from the organizational thinking that creates a barrier in understanding of who we really are and what relationship we have with our Heavenly Father. We [the saved] are not just some religious group that wears a name (**I John 3:1-3**).

B. The goal of this lesson is **not** to give you a complete list of all the proper terms we are known by, but to show you that we are not just “Christians” or “the church of Christ”. The fact is, those terms are amongst some of the fewest used in the Scriptures. Think about that... **I Peter 4:11**

1. Don’t panic, I am not saying it is unscriptural to be called “Christians” or “the church of Christ” (which specifically appears ZERO times in the KJV, ASV, NKJV, etc.). We will see those are lawful terms and they continue to be expedient and constructive (**I Corinthians 10:23**).

2. However, we do not want to be “brand loyal” and thus as blind and prejudice as were the Jews (**Matthew 15:1-14**) with some kind of fear of not being among denominationally minded churches of Christ of today (**John 12:36-43**).

II. Body: There Is Something In A Name (**Acts 4:10-12**), But There Comes A Responsibility With Wearing That Name (**II Timothy 2:19**).

A. As individuals that belong to the Lord here are **SOME** terms that properly identify who we are:

1. Disciples [over 200 x’s in Matthew - Acts] (**Acts 6:1; 11:29**).

2. Friends (**John 15:13-15** and **III John 1:14**).

3. Saints [appears over 60 X’s] (**I Corinthians 1:2** and **Ephesians 2:19**).

4. The elect (**Colossians 3:12**).

5. Chosen, royal priesthood, holy nation, peculiar people (**I Peter 2:9**).

6. Children of God, sons and daughters of God (**Matthew 5:9** and **II Corinthians 6:14-18**).

7. Believers (**Acts 5:14** and **I Timothy 4:12**).

8. In talking to or about each other: Brother (**Colossians 4:9**), sister (**Romans 16:1**), brethren (**Romans 15:14**), family (**Ephesians 3:14-15**), even a brotherhood (**I Peter 2:17**).

9. Christian(s) [3x’s in Scriptures; yet most common used???) (**Acts 11:26, Acts 26:28, and I Peter 4:16**).

10. The called (**Romans 1:6; 8:28**; cf. **II Thessalonians 2:14**).

11. We could go on and on to even uncommon, unclear terms, “sweet savor of Christ” (**II Corinthians 2:15**), “lively stones” (**I Peter 2:5**), etc.

B. As a group of people that belong to the Lord here are SOME terms that properly identify who we are:

1. The church [assembly; gathering in public] (**Matthew 18:17, Acts 2:47, Acts 5:11, Acts 8:1; 3, Acts 11:26, Acts 12:1, Acts 12:5, Acts 14:27, Acts 15:3-4, Acts 18:22, Acts 20:17, I Corinthians 6:4, I Corinthians 12:28, I Corinthians 14:4-5; 12; 28; 35, Ephesians 1:22, Ephesians 3:10, Ephesians 5:23-25; 29, Philippians 3:6, I Timothy 5:16, Hebrews 2:12, and III John 1:6; 9-10**)

2. The church [assembly] in/of/at (**Acts 11:22, Acts 13:1, Romans 16:1; 5, Philemon 1:2, Colossians 4:15-16, I Thessalonians 1:1, II Thessalonians 1:1, I Peter 5:13, and Revelation 2:1; 2:8; 2:12; 2:18; 3:1; 3:7; 3:14**)

3. The church [assembly] of God [living God] (**Acts 20:28, I Corinthians 1:2, I Corinthians 10:32, I Corinthians 11:22, I Corinthians 15:9, II Corinthians 1:1, Galatians 1:13, and I Timothy 3:5; 15**).

4. The general assembly and church of the firstborn (**Hebrews 12:22-23**).

5. Churches of Christ (**Romans 16:16**).

6. The body of Christ (**Colossians 1:18; 24**).

7. Churches of the saints (**I Corinthians 14:33**).

8. As God’s people, we are referred to the house or building of God/Christ (**I Corinthians 3:9** and **Hebrews 3:1-6**).

9. Marvelous terms regarding the kingdom (**Luke 17:20-21, Colossians 1:13, and Hebrews 12:28**).

10. Again, we could go on and on here to even with uncommon terms such as “this way” (**Acts 9:1-2**).

C. Our true identity comes more-so through what we do rather than how we verbally identify ourselves (**Jeremiah 7:1-11**).

1. Having God is about abiding in His doctrine (**II John 1:9**).

2. Being a follower of Christ is about really following Him (**I John 2:3-6**).

3. Being the body, church that belongs to Christ is about our collective purity through absolute subjection to Him (**Ephesians 5:23-27**).

4. The point of all this is, terms and outward appearances that identify God’s people is NOT what matters most to the Lord (**Romans 2:23-29**).

III. Conclusion: *“Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular”* (**I Corinthians 12:27**).