

# New Testament Names Of Individual Christians

**Intro:** Gen. 32:27-28 <sup>27</sup> And he said unto him, What is thy name? And he said, Jacob. <sup>28</sup> And he said, Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel: for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed.” There are those today who claim there is nothing in a name. “A rose by any other name would smell as sweet.” Of course, in reality this is not truly believed. No one will accept a check, deed or contract with just any name on it. It does make a difference to men as well as to God.

1. Isa. 62:2 <sup>2</sup> And the Gentiles shall see thy righteousness, and all kings thy glory: and thou shalt be called by a new name, which the mouth of the Lord shall name.”
2. Christian is that new name.
3. However, there are other names applied to the Christian that shows what it means to be a Christian.

## I. DISCIPLE

### A. Used in the first five books of the New Testament more often than anywhere else.

1. Matthew 75 times
2. Mark 46 times
3. Luke 38 times
4. John 81 times
5. Acts 31 times.
6. It is used 271 times in the first five books.

### B. Disciple means, “student, pupil, or learner.”

1. This presupposes a teacher.
2. Biblical usage: we are students in the school of Christ. cf. John 3:1-2 <sup>1</sup> There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: <sup>2</sup> The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him.”
  - a. Mat. 11:29 <sup>29</sup> Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.”
  - b. John 6:45 <sup>45</sup> It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me.”
  - c. John 8:31-32 <sup>31</sup> Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; <sup>32</sup> And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”
3. There is a misuse of this term today; “the discipling movement.”
  - a. Taking someone, already a Christian, and discipling him.
    - (1) This is creating oneself in that person, not Christ.
    - (2) It presupposes that not all Christians are disciples, which is false.
  - b. This is used by the Crossroads/Boston International Church of Christ cult.

### C. How many of us can truthfully say we are disciples of Christ?

1. Are we ever learning of Christ?
2. Are we continuing in His word?

## II. SAINT

### A. Found more than sixty times in the New Testament.

### B. Misconceptions concerning this term.

### C. Saint means, “sanctified one”.

1. How are we sanctified?
  - a. John 17:17 <sup>“17</sup> Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.” cf. disciple—by Christ words.
  - b. Heb. 10:10 <sup>“10</sup> By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.”
  - c. 1 Cor. 1:2 <sup>“2</sup> Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours:”
2. We are sanctified in Christ.
  - a. Gal. 3:27 <sup>“27</sup> For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.”
  - b. Rom. 6:3-6 <sup>“3</sup> Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? <sup>4</sup>Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. <sup>5</sup>For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: <sup>6</sup>Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.”
  - c. To be sanctified means to be freed or cleansed from sin.
  - d. Acts 2:38 <sup>“38</sup> Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost; Acts 22:16 <sup>“16</sup> And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.”

### D. Can we truthfully be called saints, are we truly set apart, devoted, consecrated to the Lord?

## III. BRETHREN

### A. Used more than one hundred times.

1. Mat. 12:49 <sup>“49</sup> And he stretched forth his hand toward his disciples, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren!”
2. Mat. 23:8 <sup>“8</sup> But be not ye called Rabbi: for one is your Master, even Christ; and all ye are brethren.”
3. Gal. 1:2 <sup>“2</sup> And all the brethren which are with me, unto the churches of Galatia:”

### B. Suggest the fraternal feature of the church.

1. We are members of the same family.
2. This is the reason why we cannot call denominational friends “brother.”

### C. What it means to be brothers.

1. Gen. 13:8 <sup>“8</sup> And Abram said unto Lot, Let there be no strife, I pray thee, between me and thee, and between my herdmen and thy herdmen; for we be brethren.”
2. Psa. 133:1 <sup>“1</sup> Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!”
3. 1 John 2:10 <sup>“10</sup> He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him.”
4. 1 John 3:13-14 <sup>“13</sup> Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you. <sup>14</sup>We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death.”

### D. Can the world look at us and say we are truly brothers.

**IV. CHRISTIAN.****A. The term means Christ-like.****B. This term includes all the others.**

1. Acts 11:26 <sup>“26</sup> And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.”
2. Acts 26:28 <sup>“28</sup> Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian.”
3. 1 Pet. 4:16 <sup>“16</sup> Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf.”

**Conclusion:** Will you not become a Christian today if you have never become such. Or, if you are not living as these terms suggest, then begin to live up to the name God has given you to wear.