



BIBLE TALK

Mike King

Question: Does it make any difference in the name used in referring to the church?

Answer: God's names for His church and her members were selected by God Himself. Most people are surprised to learn that God never chose one name for **His Church**, but distinctive phrases.

God refers to His church as: "*church of God*" (I Cor. 1:2), "*church of the firstborn*" (Heb. 12:23), "churches of Christ" (Rom. 16:16), "*body of Christ*" (Col. 1:24), "*bride of Christ*" (Rev. 21:2), and "*house of God*" (I Tim. 3:15). None of the above references to the church are denominational names. They do not reference different "churches," but to God's one **Spiritual Kingdom**. Note as well, that each of these Bible expressions glorify God and His Son. God, therefore, has chosen these expressions to refer to **His Church**.

God calls His people: "*Christians*" (Acts 11:26), "*saints*" (Rom. 1:7), "*children*" (Gal. 3:26), "disciples" (Jn. 15:8). "*priests*" (I Pet. 2:5), and "*brethren*" (Gal. 6:1). The name "*Christian*" marks one as being owned by Christ. Every Christian is a "*saint*" for he has been sanctified (I Cor. 6:9-11); he is a "*child of God*" for he has been born again (I Pet. 1:22,23; Gal. 3:26,27); he is a "*disciple*" because he continues to learn and follow his Lord (Acts 11:19-32,26); he is a "*priest*" empowered to worship and serve God directly through Christ, his High Priest (I Pet. 2:5); he and his fellow-Christians are called "*brethren*" because they are children of God, their heavenly Father (I Jn. 3:13-15). Keep in mind that there is salvation in no other name but Jesus' (Acts 4:12). We should wear only biblical designations.

For inquiries or free Bible study by mail, contact:

New Albany Church of Christ

***P.O. Box 148, 511 Hwy 15 S ~ New Albany, MS 38652
nacoc.us ~ 662-534-4649 ~ bibletalk.mlk@gmail.com***