

BEAR THE NAME

By Anna Gerhauser @ Church on the Park | 25 October 2020

*"I am no longer in the world; and yet they themselves are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, **keep them in Your name**, the name which You have given Me, that they may be one even as We are." John 17:11 (NASB)*

Some versions say, "protect them by the power of your name" or "Keep them faithful to the name". Both are true. And both are interconnected.

"Keep" - keep watch over, guard, preserve, pay attention to, take care of, keep firm

"In" - in, one with, in union with, joined closely to

"Your name" - person, title, reputation, fame, office, authority

BELONGING | OWNERSHIP

God's people are marked with His name.

ToyStory - Andy's favourite toys (Woody and Buzz Lightyear) had Andy's name written on their foot with permanent ink.

Why do kids name their toys? Cause they don't want to lose them. We don't want someone else to take it. The same reason we label things that are precious to us. The same reason we label clothes and stuff when kids go off to camp. The same reason we label our lunch when we put it in the fridge at work. We put our name on things to say that **this belongs to no one else but me. If your name isn't on it, it's not yours.**

When we are saved, **God puts His name on us.** He is saying, **"You belong to Me."**

*“For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth **to be his people, his treasured possession.**” Deuteronomy 7:6*

In verse 7 we see God has set His affection on us, He chose us because He loved us, not because we deserved it. You are extremely precious to Him. Because we are God’s people, because we have His name, we receive God’s blessings and favour, His love and protection... in the same way a child is adopted and receives a new family name, that child receives the protection and provision of his/her new parents. We who bear His name, belong to Him and He belongs to us.

Mutual belonging. “My beloved is mine and I am His” SOS 2:16

*I will pour out my Spirit on your offspring,
and my blessing on your descendants.
They will spring up like grass in a meadow,
like poplar trees by flowing streams.
Some will say, ‘**I belong to the Lord**’;
others will call themselves by the name of Jacob;
still **others will write on their hand, ‘The Lord’s,’**
and will take the name Israel. (Isaiah 44:3b-5)*

“See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands; your walls are ever before me.” (Isaiah 49:16)

Baptised into the name of Christ, into a covenant relationship.

Do you live with a daily awareness that you belong to God?

Can people look at you, at your life and know who you belong to? Who and what is most important to you?

*“Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? **You are not your own; you were bought at a price.** Therefore honour God with your bodies.” (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)*

Do you live to please the Lord? Who do you live to please? Can people look at your life and know who you belong to? Who calls the shots? Your flesh? Your friends? Your family? **Who do you give your “yes” to?** A wise woman once said to me, that until I can say “no”, I will never be able to fully say “yes” to God. Romans 8

If something belongs to someone else, and **you want to use it, what do you do?** ASK. We are not to live however we want, do whatever we want with our bodies, with our lives. It doesn't belong to us. Ask the Lord - just like David continually "enquired of the Lord."

What does that look like in everyday life? Daily surrender. Praying Galatians 2:20 over yourself.

God's heart is to **keep** us, to preserve us to the end, but we must not allow anything else to own us, to put their name on us. Above everything, we belong to God.

*"But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. **10** Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.*

Living Godly Lives in a Pagan Society

11 Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. **12** Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us." (1 Peter 2:9-12)

REPRESENT

Illustration: How Mary Donaldson of Tasmania, Australia, married Crown Prince Frederik of Denmark and became Crown Princess Mary of Denmark.

Mary had to learn all about Danish culture and customs, language, etiquette, how to dress... her first loyalty had to be Denmark, not Australia. She has so embraced the Danish way of life, that she even speaks English with a Danish accent.

When an Aussie reporter asked her who she would be supporting at the Olympic Games, Mary said she would support Australia unless they were competing against Denmark.

When you are saved, you are a NEW CREATION, you have become part of the bride of Christ, the King of Kings. You are now part of God's royal family - you are part of a NEW KINGDOM, a NEW CULTURE. You represent God's Kingdom, His name, on the earth.

God gives you the Holy Spirit to teach you His ways. Continually pray, “Teach me your ways” (Psalm 25). As you read the Word, pray “teach me Your ways”. Live sensitive to Him and quickly obey. He is your helper 24/7.

God’s name and His Kingdom become your first priority. When our natural culture competes with God’s culture, God’s Kingdom must win in our lives. Your first loyalty must be to God and His ways.

*“He guides me along the right paths for his name’s sake.”
Psalms 23:3 NIV*

God wants a people who will represent His name - His Kingdom- on the earth.

*“Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but **let God** transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God’s will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.” (Romans 12:2)*

*“They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. **Sanctify them by the truth; Your word is truth.**” (John 17:16, 17)*

If you are not daily allowing the Lord to transform you, daily washing your mind with His Word, YOU WILL be conformed to this world.

When you read the Word, pray: “Jesus, show me what you’re REALLY like.”

What do you think of when you say the name “McDonalds”? “Outback Steakhouse”? “Motto Motto”? “Little Singapore”? **Restaurants by the same name** are expected to serve the same type of food, the same quality of food and service, the same decor and the same prices. They have a name, a brand, a reputation to protect.

Illustration: authentic **Banh Mi factory** draws big crowds because, once they taste it, they want more, they don’t want second best.

As the people of God, we bear His name; we are called to represent WHO HE IS, WHAT HE IS LIKE - how He does things - to the world, the same way Jesus revealed the Father to the world when He was a man, walking on the earth.

FRUIT ILLUSTRATION: No matter how much you call a banana a coconut, and that it is from a coconut tree, you know it is not a coconut.

What is the fruit of our life? What do people taste when they come close to us? If it isn't like Jesus, if it's not a holy life, you have become separated from the vine and need to quickly repent. (John 15; Matthew 7:15-20 - "you shall know them by their fruits")

Do you live to glorify the name of Jesus above all else?

I'm asking a lot of questions this morning, but the Scripture says:

"Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you--unless, of course, you fail the test?" (2 Corinthians 13:5)

In fact, we need to live like this, **not hiding** from God or ignoring His voice, but, **like David**, constantly asking God to examine us, to see if there is anything in our lives that He doesn't want. To **live walking in repentance** - if the Holy Spirit convicts you of something, you quickly repent of it and get rid of it by His power. If you have hurt someone, you ask for their forgiveness. This is how a Christian walks.

Jesus prayed "keep them in your name" because **only those who live like this** - who live with a daily awareness that they belong to God, who live in union with God, daily receiving His life-giving grace, who live to glory God, **will make it to the end.**

Then I looked, and there before me was the Lamb, standing on Mount Zion, and with him 144,000 who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads. (Revelation 14:1)

"They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads." (Rev 22:4)

If the Holy Spirit is convicting you that you are not living as one who bears the name of Christ, please repent, turn from sin and receive His forgiveness. Surrender your life afresh and ask the Holy Spirit to help you.

If you are listening to this and thinking, "This IS how I live. I live daily surrendered to Jesus. I live to glorify His Name," we must be careful not to stand from afar and accuse the church, but instead be like Nehemiah and Daniel and intercede and repent as part of God's people who have failed. I love how Daniel prays for Israel.

*“Now, Lord our God, who brought your people out of Egypt with a mighty hand and who made for yourself a name that endures to this day, we have sinned, we have done wrong. **16** Lord, in keeping with all your righteous acts, turn away your anger and your wrath from Jerusalem, your city, your holy hill. Our sins and the iniquities of our ancestors have made Jerusalem and your people an object of scorn to all those around us.*

***17** “Now, our God, hear the prayers and petitions of your servant. For your sake, Lord, look with favor on your desolate sanctuary. **18** Give ear, our God, and hear; open your eyes and see the desolation of the city that bears your Name. We do not make requests of you because we are righteous, but because of your great mercy. **19** Lord, listen! Lord, forgive! Lord, hear and act! For your sake, my God, do not delay, **because your city and your people bear your Name.**” (Daniel 9:15-19)*

END.

“The name of the LORD is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe.” (Proverbs 18:10)

[John 10:29,30](#)

My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand...

[Psalm 17:8,9](#)

Keep me as the apple of the eye, hide me under the shadow of thy wings,

[Psalm 79:9](#)

Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of thy name: and deliver us, and purge away our sins, for thy name's sake.

“Those that name the name of the Lord must depart from iniquity”

My counsel is this: Live freely, animated and motivated by God's Spirit. Then you won't feed the compulsions of selfishness. For there is a root of sinful self-interest in us that is at odds with a free spirit, just as the free spirit is incompatible with selfishness. These two ways of life are antithetical, so that you cannot live at times one way and at times another way according to how you feel on any given day. Why don't you choose to be led by the Spirit and so escape the erratic compulsions of a law-dominated existence? (Galatians 5:17)

Tried to put OUR name on God. To transform Him to OUR image. To try and rebrand God.