

Faith Of Our Youth

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"The Voice of Young Christian Faith"

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"Just A. Name"

by Darrell Russell

"Wisdom of Our Elders"

EVERY "ONE"

by Bill Hensley

About two months ago, I ran across an article in the local newspaper. It was about a young man who changed his name. I don't recall what his previous name was, but he changed it to "Just A. Name". I don't know his purpose for doing this. Maybe he was trying to be cute or funny, or possibly, he was just wanting to draw attention to himself. I asked myself this question, "Was his name so meaningless and without any value that he could just up and change it?" I then asked "What is in a name?"

Is your name just a title? Is it just something a person would use to get your attention? Names do have meanings. Parents put a great amount of thought and consideration into choosing names for their children. They might choose a name that means something special to them. A name might be chosen from the Bible after a person who had good characteristics, or a person who was righteous and feared God. A parent wouldn't insult a child by giving a name such as Jezebel or Judas. My point being, we are wrong to say there isn't any meaning in a name. Ultimately, your name represents you. It represents who you are. It represents your ideals and what you stand for. It represents your personality and your characteristics. Ask yourself, "What do people think about when they hear my name?"

Let's consider the name of Jesus. What do we think of when we hear His name? We think of things such as His birth, the examples and teachings, His death, burial and resurrection. I think of the power and the authority in His name. Jesus said in Matthew 28:18 "All power is given to me in heaven and earth." We also see that salvation can only be attained through the name of Jesus. "Neither is there salvation in any other, for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved" (Acts 4:12). The scriptures also tell us that God "has put all things to the church,"

It has been said that, "the outstanding number with God is one." Everyone is very special to God! He gave each person the very best He had—a precious soul. Jesus placed the soul as the greatest part of each human. So, when we begin counting, let us begin with one person—our own body with a soul from God.

How you and I face life is very important to God the Father. In our daily activities it would be great to begin consideration with ourselves and our relationship to the Father. Think of the plus for a righteous life, if thus is truly our course for every day living.

Worship begins in the public assembly, which is where we meet with God and our brethren. That worship is enlarged when we leave that assembly and go forth into another week of Christian living. This is the presenting of our body as a living sacrifice, day by day, as we live and grow. (Rom. 12:1)

In the assembly on the Lord's Day, we begin each week by honoring God. This can have a personal bearing as we walk the daily path. God is concerned about each of his children—the young Christian and the older person in life. Both are a concern to the Almighty!

The answer Christ gave the lawyer who offered tempting question, "Which is the great commandment," is a real help in meeting the requirements of our relationship to God. Remember Jesus' words: "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind" (Matt. 22:37). All true Christians know this to be true. To practice this outstanding love is a vital link in the Christian ministry of each saint in Christ.

Remember, we express our love for God by keeping His commandments. This was the vital truth offered by Jesus as He talked to His disciples. "If ye love me, keep my commandments" (John 14:15). And again, we hear the Savior, "Ye are my friends, if you do whatsoever I command you" (John 15:14).

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Ephesians 1:22. This clearly points out the church, His body, must wear the name of Christ. Anything not governed or regulated by Christ, and Christ only, has no authority. Any name given to the church other than those given in the Bible are unscriptural. Giving honor to another person or name (diverting from Christ) is not right. Let's remember that simply the name of the church does not make it scriptural; rather, following His teaching and guidelines make a church scriptural.

I want to draw this down to a more personal level. When we accept Christ as our Savior, we become

part of His family. Being a Christian, we wear His name. We represent Christ and what He stands for. This puts a great responsibility on our shoulders. How are we representing Christ? Are we living in such a way as to bring glory to Christ? Does our conduct taint the name of Christ and His church. 1 Timothy 4:12 says "Let no man despise thy youth, but be an example of the believers in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity." As we go through life, let's strive to do just that and bring glory to the NAME of Christ.

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Member of Brookfield Church of Christ

Are We Being the Best Christian Example We Can Be?

by Rebecca Duckstein

"And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God" (Rom. 12:2).

I would like to begin with an incident that happened at a church meeting a few years ago. The entertainment that evening was skating at a local skating rink. While I was there, I overheard a conversation with a teenager and the DJ. The teenager requested a certain song, to which the DJ responded, "Don't you think that's a little too heavy for a Christian?" I was rather embarrassed to hear someone of the world tell someone who was a Christian that it wasn't an appropriate song for Christians to hear. It sounded a little backwards to me. The verse above tells us we are to separate ourselves from the world and be changed. Also, in 1 John 2:15-17 it says, "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever."

If you have ever studied about the life of Jesus, you will find that he was always different from the world. There are lots of verses in the Bible that tell us we are to be different from the

world. You are unique and different from everyone no matter how much you would like to be like someone else. Difference as individuals is not as important as Christians being different from the world. I know it is very difficult for most people to be considered "uncool" by their peers, but is being cool really that important in the long run?

When you get to be, well, not as young as you are now, are you going to be hanging around with the same kind of people? Try to ask yourselves this, "Would Jesus be doing and saying the same things I am doing and saying?" By trying to be

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The peer pressure can be pretty heavy at times, but I've always found it helpful to pray for strength and endurance. Besides, I think it makes one stronger if one can withstand temptation. In James 1:12-15 it says, "Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him. Let no man say when he is tempted,

I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death."

I think if someone is going to say they are a Christian, they need to act like it, instead of faking it on Sunday then acting just like the rest of the world during the week. For example, some teenagers like to flirt and use their bodies in ways a Christian shouldn't. Here are some verses that speak against such things: Romans 12:1, 1 Timothy 2:9, 2 Timothy 2:22, and Proverbs 6:16-19.

You may not know it, but there's a person younger than you out there who really admires you. That person is always watching you and trying to imitate what you do. They want to be just like you!! Now, wouldn't you really feel great if someone became a Christian and got to heaven just from watching you and doing what you did? We are commanded to be a good example in 1 Timothy 4:12 where it says, "let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity."

When I am having trouble, I find the best thing to do is to pray and ask God for His help and guidance (James

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1:5, 6; John 14:27). I also find it helpful to read the Bible. Some of my favorite books in the Bible are: Psalms, Proverbs, and James. I find a lot in Proverbs on how to live a good Christian life and how to be a good Christian woman--especially Proverbs 31:10-31. I really like Psalms because of the praise David gives to God even when he was having a hard time, and I like James because it has a lot in it which I enjoy.

In conclusion, I'd like to say that I am NOT perfect, so this article is as much for me as it is for you. With a lot of God's help, I hope to become the Christian young lady that He wants me to be. Finally, I would like to leave you with this verse: "For I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor heights, nor depth, nor any other creature shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 8:38, 39).

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It may seem too simple to define love as the Holy Spirit did to John. "This is the love, that we walk after his commandments" (II John 6). To total the score, we begin with our own personal life. We learn His Word, so we can know His commands. We do His commands out of fervent and genuine love. We grow daily. Like the tree, we grow up and out, toward God each day. (Psalm 1:3)

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Meditations of My Heart

Thou hast made me to glorify Thy name.

Thy joy is a heart contrite and clean,

That when Thou comest in power to glean

To take where Thou has prepared a home,

Shall find rest for its feet, never to roam.

But You only, Lord, have these mansions seen.

Through prophet's eyes do we know You have been

Among them, O Ancient of Days, the same.

Consider my soul, now, Father of Light,

For Thy sorrow worketh in me to gain

Pardon from sin, and favor in Thy sight

That a pleasing steward I may remain.

When Thy tender mercies Thou does bestow,

No yoke shall I bear, Thy peace shall I know.

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