

HELEN SANDERS

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WHAT'S IN A NAME?

We are known by our name. I was named after my mother's sister Helen. My middle name Marie came from my mother's mother, my grandmother. When I was growing up my next-door neighbor was also named Helen. In those days, a mother would call out our name at the door to get our attention. It became quite clear if someone yelled "Helen" that both of us would think it was for us, so our mothers started using our middle names along with our first names. My friend became "Helen Christine" while I was "Helen Marie." That name still sticks with me and is still used by those closest to me.

In Ecclesiastes 7:1 it says, ***"A good name is better than precious ointment..."*** In those early bible days, ointment was very expensive. A woman might save a lifetime to buy the ointment that would be used for her wedding. To verify this, Judas got mad at Jesus when he allowed Mary to pour her "ointment" upon his head and feet. It was indeed her most precious treasure. A good name is worth more than any precious ointment you could buy. A good name is obtained by doing the right things. It is an earned privilege to have a "good name."

There is also another way a "name" is used. When a woman enters into the covenant of marriage, she takes the name of her husband as her own. She receives from him his "name" that is his birthright. It is precious to him and should never be taken lightly.

There is another name that we receive through covenant also, it is the name "Christian" or follower of Christ. It comes from the word "Christ" which is the name of Jesus, the anointed one or Messiah. When we enter into covenant through salvation with Jesus, we now are "His" and "He" is ours. We take on His name - Christian. It is an eternal covenant, bound by the blood of Jesus. There could be no name more precious to us. It is a name that calms storms, opens blind eyes, opens the deaf ears, and binds demons. Never discount the name "Christian."

Remember, Jesus said "His sheep hear his voice". He knows each of us by name. So, what's in a name? Everything if you have Jesus' name in your life!