

## *When I Fall In Love: Something About The Name*

Reconnect – February 20, 2011

**We know what real love is because Jesus gave up his life for us. So we also ought to give up our lives for our brothers and sisters. If someone has enough money to live well and sees a brother or sister in need but shows no compassion—how can God’s love be in that person?**

**Dear children, let’s not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions. Our actions will show that we belong to the truth, so we will be confident when we stand before God. Even if we feel guilty, God is greater than our feelings, and he knows everything.**

**Dear friends, if we don’t feel guilty, we can come to God with bold confidence. And we will receive from him whatever we ask because we obey him and do the things that please him.**

**And this is his commandment: We must believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as he commanded us. Those who obey God’s commandments remain in fellowship with him, and he with them. And we know he lives in us because the Spirit he gave us lives in us.**

**I John 3:16-24, NLT**

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**Text: Philippians 2:3-11; I John 3:16-24; Colossians 3:15-17**

**Key Thought:** What will you do with the name of Jesus?

### **Something about the name**

- I learned a song when I was pretty young, sitting the very odd Sunday through church, and again hearing different people that I knew – old people – singing it
- I realize now that at that time it was new stuff – cutting edge stuff at the time – like our Crowders and Tomlins today
- Maybe you’ve heard of it, but maybe not – it was called “There’s just something about that name” written by Bill and Gloria Gaither back in 1970

*Jesus, Jesus, Jesus – there’s just something about that name*

*Master, Saviour, Jesus – like the fragrance after the rain*

*Jesus, Jesus, Jesus – let all heaven and earth proclaim*

*Kings and kingdoms will all pass away*

*But there’s something about that name*

- That song has stuck with me all my life – it has come to me in some of my most troubled times, my darkest, most difficult moments and brought me peace, helping me to focus on Jesus – because there really is something about that name
- On the surface, it doesn’t seem like much – not hard to say, not many letters, not super dramatic
- You can look up the meaning (God saves), you can trace the background of the name (Jesus is the Greek form of the Hebrew/Aramaic Y’Shua, or Joshua)

- You can read books written about Jesus, tracing his life and thought and impact on the world that has come after him
- But that's not where the something is

### **A dividing line**

- Dig a little deeper, though, and you find there are certainly some unique features at work surrounding this name
- There always seems to be controversy around this name
- Was He real? What did He believe? Did He have a secret wife? What was His secret knowledge? Did He really believe that He was God? Did He really say and do what is recorded in the Bible?
- If you can work a controversy around Jesus into a book or a movie, it will get press, and it will, generally, sell, with the classic example being *The Da Vinci Code*
- And speaking of God, most people are comfortable with the word "god" and can agree that it may be used in the presence of others with differing beliefs, as a point of agreement – "we are all god's children" or "you're in my thoughts and prayers"
- But bring up this name and a line is drawn – a dividing line, even in those who are willing to say it and how they do so
- There is no name so popular all around the world as a curse – irrespective of first language, or background, or context

### **All around the world**

- And speaking of all around the world, this name is an instant identifier – those who are called "Christian", "Jesus-followers"

- Some wear it like an ill-fitting hockey jersey that's been handed down through the generations, tattered and torn
- But many – hundreds of millions, actually – BEAR it – have surrendered everything to be called by this name – family, friends, reputation, wealth, social standing, hope of promotion or advancement, riches, home and future – all of it gone, for the sake of a name, to have a name to be called by
- Why would anyone DO that, just for a name?

### **The owner of the name**

- It's the owner of the name – quite frankly, there has never been anyone like him before or since
- Jesus – God becoming a person – walking in our shoes, and reaching out to us to try to lead us back in His steps
- When you read the parts of the Bible that trace the history of Christianity after Jesus, you find person after person, town after town, transformed by trusting in this name, of a person they never actually physically met or saw
- They are physically healed, or emotionally set free, or miraculously helped – but not through superstition, or by somehow learning a magic word to meditate on or speak
- No, they are transformed by the power of a relationship with this Jesus – by God in a person, coming into their lives too
- Jesus said that if a person wanted to follow Him, if they wanted to know what it was to be with Him, that they needed to basically live in His name – to pray using it, to be baptized in it, to speak it and remember it and teach it and tell it to anyone who would listen, to be comforted and guided by it

## **So what's in a name for YOU?**

- So here's my question this morning: where do you stand with this name? What's in a name – this name – for you? How do you use it and what meaning does it hold for you? But even more importantly, what place does the person behind the name hold in your life?
- Are you willing – no, are you wanting to be called by that name, the name of Jesus? That name that divides, that polarizes, and yet that name that saves and heals and sets free, even the hardest of people, even the wickedest worst dirty rotten sinners who have done nothing but hurt others?
- There is something about that name, and if you call on it – if you reach out to Him, you are never alone, never on your own, never abandoned, never forsaken, always loved and chosen and part of God's family
- But you have to be willing to reach out and be called by that name – there is no neutral ground in a relationship, the name is too big for ignorance or indifference – and so that's my question this morning:

## **Key Thought:**

### **What will you do with the name of Jesus?**

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.”

**(Colossians 3:15-17, NLT)**