

Family Meeting

Name Change

Welcome to Family Church. We are excited that you are here today... We are starting a new series entitled "Family Meeting".

Growing up in the McKelvey house once a year at least Mom or Dad would feel that there was a family matter that was urgent enough to call a Family Meeting.

Once a Family Meeting was called it was an open door for discussion and to voice your feelings about how things were going.

You could say anything you wanted during the family meeting without fear of getting spanked for it... but once the meeting was over, it was over... Issues had to be settled during the Family Meeting...

This is the idea behind this series... There are things in our families and in our lives that we have NOT settled yet... open conversations, unmet expectation, unhealthy comparisons... the list goes on...

So today, I want to invite you in to a Family Meeting and talk about a topic that's pretty important to me.

Why wife Cynthia doesn't have a middle name.

I don't know why... She just doesn't... I told her to add one... In fact when we fight I take the liberty to add one for her.

While dating she informed me that she intended on hyphenating her name once married... To which I informed her I no longer intended on marrying her.

It became quite a thing. Today is not a debate as to whether or not it's right or not right... I'm just saying this was one of those BIG issues going into marriage...

It was a conviction of mine.... We didn't see eye to eye on the matter...

Family is difficult at times.... Planning a family even harder... Getting the right formula for success for you can take a long time...

As I was writing this series on family I thought about this fight we had for months over a name... over a name change... over me wanting her to take my name and my name alone.

And I began to think about the name changes in the Bible...
Abram to Abraham, Saria to Sarah, Jacob to Israel, Simon to Peter...

When God changes a name, it indicates that something new has happened or will happen to that person—a new relationship, a new character quality, or a new phase of life.

We see this today when a wife takes the name of her husband. It represents a change in her life, both in the eyes of God and of society.

My favorite name change in the Bible is Peter.

His original name, Simon, is a Greek nickname that means: "snub-nosed."

Actually, Simon is a derivative of the Hebrew name, Simeon, which means: "God has heard."

Jesus changed Simon's name the moment they met. Jesus looked at him, and said: You are Simon the son of John; you shall be called Cephas (which is translated Peter). —John 1:42

40 One of the two who heard John *speak*, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. 41 He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated, the Christ). 42 And he brought him to Jesus.

Now when Jesus looked at him, He said, "You are Simon the son of Jonah. You shall be called Cephass" (which is translated, A Stone).

Could you imagine...

You are Mike, Joe's son.... Well, I'll call you Fred.

But Jesus needed him to have a new identity, and a new destiny....

Peter means: "Rock." Jesus later revealed how Peter would be a rock:

- Peter's great confession at Caesarea Philippi that Jesus is "the Christ, the Son of the Living God," represented the bedrock upon which Jesus promised to build his church (Matthew 16:16-18).
- Peter's repentance after his failure would enable him, in the words of Jesus, "when once you have turned again, strengthen your brothers" (Luke 22:32).

The Lord saw past Simon's imperfections to what he could be and what would be. It's the same with us.

There is more in your life than you have settled for...

GOD WILL GIVE YOU A NEW NAME

Like Peter, **Jesus sees in you what you can be—regardless of what you are.**

God knows what we are and loves us just the same, but He loves us enough to not leave us that way (Philippians 1:6).

'being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. '

Whoever trusts in Jesus, the One who is the "Name above all names," receives a new name—"Child of God"—and also a new life, a new purpose, and a new destiny.

Look at what Jesus promised to all who believe in Him:

I will give him . . . a new name written on the stone which no one knows but he who receives it. . . .

I will write on him the name of My God, and the name of the city of My God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God, and My new name. (Revelation 2:17; 3:12)

Just look at those names Jesus will bestow on you!

- A new name known only to you.
- The name of God.
- The name of Jerusalem.
- Jesus' new name.

Your new name is either the name of Jesus Himself, or perhaps, like Peter, Jesus will give you a brand new name that represents the change He has brought about in you.

Peter's Name was Simon bar Jonah...

Simon Son of John....

His new name Peter son of God....

Here is where I find the issue... We as children of God try to hold onto our old name.

Our old identity. Old labels...

Instead of accepting His name. I like my name... I like what I've accomplished for myself...

Movie stars that have a stage name, people who have their professional name which symbolizes their accomplishment and success.

I can't change MY name... look what I've built... and so we feel the same towards God and we hold the reins to our lives. Instead of taking His name.

Here's what I love about this story... The second Jesus meets Simon... He calls Peter out of Him...

He calls Peter's greatness out... He calls him by a name that He has not yet earned but does reside within him...

What greatness is in you still dormant?

Later after some time of ministry and spending time with Jesus... Jesus asks his closest friends a question...

In Matt 16:15

He ask them... *Who do you say that I am?*

16 Simon Peter answered and said,

"You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

17 Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. 18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build

My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. 19 And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”

Jesus calls him his old name to show him why he gave him his new name...

Simon Bar Jonah could NOT have answered this way...

Peter son of God Know this.... Upon the message... Upon this revelation...

Upon what you are called to do.... I will build my church and the gates of Hell will not prevail against it...

Will you accept your name change so God can do what he needs to do in your life today?

Pray