

## CHANGING OUR NAMES TO *HERALD*

### I. [1 Peter 3:8-18](#) [Colossians 4:2-6](#) [Isaiah 40:9](#)

A. God's famous for changing people's names or giving them more than one. Abram was changed to Abraham and his wife Sarai to Sarah; Jacob became Israel; Jesus nicknamed James & John *Boanerges-Sons of Thunder*; Thomas was also Didymus; Levi was also Matthew; Nathanael was also Bartholomew; Saul became Paul, Joseph became Barnabas; and Simon became Peter, a.k.a. Cephas.

B. Have you all heard about the little boy in Sunday School who was asked about the names of angels recorded in the Bible? When asked, he confidently told the teacher that there are three angels named: Michael, Gabriel, and Harold. The teacher affirmed the first two mentioned but asked the little boy where he got the name, *Harold*. He promptly said, "*The Christmas angel, you know from the song, Hark the Harold angel sing, glory to the newborn King!*"

C. In a manner of speaking God has changed all our names to *Herald*. The Greek word for *Herald* is: "Kérux" (Kay'-roox) "*A herald, preacher, or proclaimer.*" We have been called to be *Heralds* of Good News--declaring first and foremost that God is! And then to subsequently proclaim that God is the Maker and Creator of all things seen and unseen, including us; that He, despite our rebellion against Him, has made a way for us to be reconciled through His Son's death and resurrection; that through the cross, our sin became His and His righteousness became ours; that He not only declares us emancipated and forgiven but has adopted us as His very own children; that we've been chosen to dwell with Him and worship Him forever! Therefore we've become *Heralds* of this Great News!

D. [1 Peter 3:8-18](#) (ESV) tells us how *Heralds* should act and converse...

1) **V8-9** "*Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind. Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing.*" (Vengeance is never as sweet as it's billed! Did you know that you were called to bless others--even those who least deserve it?! (Jesus at the Sermon on the Mount: "But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven." **Take an index card, write the names of those who irk you the most, and start praying for them...**)

2) **V10-12** Peter quotes Psalm 34:12-16: "*For "Whoever desires to love life and see good days, let him keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit; let him turn away from evil and do good; let him seek peace and pursue it. For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and His ears are open to their prayer. But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil."* (Psalm 34 is a sermon all by itself!)

3) **V13-14** "*Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled...*" (How to get blessed: bless those who do evil against you, who slander your name, and then suffer for doing what's right in the eyes of the Lord! Simple? Nope! "Well, God must not know my Ex, or my boss, or my neighbor, or my landlord, or that Jezebel of a woman I work with!")

4) **V15-17** "...but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil." (NIV: "**always prepared to give an answer;**" GWV: "**always ready when anyone asks you to explain it;**" Phillips: "**always ready at any time to give a quiet and reverent answer;**")

5) **V18** Peter reiterates the Gospel: "*For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit...*" (In a nutshell: **Christ Jesus suffered to bring us to God!**)

E. Who first shared the Gospel with you? Did you see Hope in someone and inquire? Did someone befriend you and eventually share Christ with you? Did you hear someone preach? Did someone write to you? How did God draw you to Himself? How did He open your heart to hear and believe? Did you become thirsty because of words or actions? Did you respond to God with both feet dragging? Who were the *Heralds* that shared Jesus with you?

F. [Colossians 4:2-6](#) (ESV) is also for *Heralds*: "*Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison—that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak. (Paul wants to be a good Herald in prison!) Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.*"

**G. I want this for us! A people known for persistent prayer; a people with thankful hearts; a people who look for every opportunity to tell others about Jesus. A people who live in such a way that their Hope shines forth and people can't help but ask.**

**H. If the Good News is worth living for and dying for then it's worth proclaiming. Are you telling anyone on Facebook? Twitter? Instagram? When was the last time you wrote someone an old fashioned letter? May we proclaim this Awesome News with whispers and shouts, with words written and spoken, with vibrant songs and quiet gestures of love, and all this with humility, prayer, thanksgiving, and great joy!**

**I. Isaiah 40:9 (ESV) is the Word of the Lord for us going forth: "Go on up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!""**

\* Close with Prayer...

### Scriptures, Videos, & Bonus Stuff

#### 1 Peter 3:8-18 (ESV)

**8** Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind. **9** Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing. **10** For "Whoever desires to love life and see good days, let him keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit; **11** let him turn away from evil and do good; let him seek peace and pursue it. **12** For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and His ears are open to their prayer. But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil." **13** Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? **14** But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, **15** but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, **16** having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. **17** For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil. **18** For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit...

#### Colossians 4:2-6 (ESV)

**2** Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. **3** At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison— **4** that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak. **5** Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. **6** Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.

#### Isaiah 40:9 (ESV)

**9** Go on up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!"

### Film Clips & Other Links

**A Hope of Heaven - Scott Swain, Randy Alcorn, & John Piper**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=in9PgXqYbeA>

**Don't Fear the Future - Tim Keller, Russell More, & Collin Hansen**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LyyFqd0AKBQ>

**"Simplicity" - Rend Collective**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xrusZ-MkTn4>

**"The Broken Beautiful" - Ellie Holcomb**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LsnWVALJdoY>

### Bonus Stuff

#### Matthew 5:43-48 (NIV) (From the Sermon of the Mount)

**43** You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' **44** But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, **45** that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. **46** If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? **47** And if you greet only your own people, what

are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? **48** Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

#### **Psalm 34:12-16 (ESV)**

**12** What man is there who desires life and loves many days, that he may see good? **13** Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking deceit. **14** Turn away from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it. **15** The eyes of the Lord are toward the righteous and His ears toward their cry. **16** The face of the Lord is against those who do evil, to cut off the memory of them from the earth.

#### **Isaiah 8:11-13 (ESV)**

**11** For the Lord spoke thus to me with His strong hand upon me, and warned me not to walk in the way of this people, saying: **12** "Do not call conspiracy all that this people calls conspiracy, and do not fear what they fear, nor be in dread. **13** But the Lord of hosts, Him you shall honor as holy. Let Him be your fear, and let Him be your dread.

#### **Romans 12:9-21 (ESV)**

**9** Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. **10** Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. **11** Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. **12** Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. **13** Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality. **14** Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. **15** Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. **16** Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. **17** Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. **18** If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. **19** Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay, says the Lord." **20** To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head." **21** Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

#### **1 Peter 4:8-10 (Amplified)**

**8** Above all things have intense and unending love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins [forgives and disregards the offenses of others]. **9** Practice hospitality to one another (those of the household of faith). [Be hospitable, be a lover of strangers, with brotherly affection for the unknown guests, the foreigners, the poor, and all others who come your way who are of Christ's body.] And [in each instance] do it ungrudgingly (cordially and graciously, without complaining but as representing Him). **10** As each of you has received a gift (a particular spiritual talent, a gracious divine endowment), employ it for one another as [befits] good trustees of God's many-sided grace [faithful stewards of the extremely diverse powers and gifts granted to Christians by unmerited favor].

#### **Quote by John Calvin**

"For where love is wanting, the beauty of all virtue is mere tinsel, is empty sound, is not worth a straw, nay more, is offensive and disgusting."

#### **"Love Gives"**

By John Oxenham

Love ever gives.  
Forgives, outlives,  
And ever stands  
With open hands.  
And while it lives,  
It gives,  
For this is love's prerogative—  
To give, and give, and give.

- William Arthur Dunkerley, English journalist, novelist, and poet authored his poetry under the name, John Oxenham

#### **Quote by C.S. Lewis**

"To love at all is to be vulnerable. Love anything, and your heart will certainly be wrung and possibly be broken. If you want to make sure of keeping it intact, you must give your heart to no one, not even to an animal. Wrap it carefully round with hobbies and little luxuries; avoid all entanglements; lock it up safe in the casket or coffin or your selfishness. But in that casket—safe, dark, motionless, airless—it will change. It will not be broken; it will become unbreakable, impenetrable, irredeemable...The only place outside Heaven where you can be perfectly safe from all the dangers...of love is Hell."

- C.S. Lewis, *The Four Loves*, Fontana Books: London, 1960, p.p. 111-112.

### **Herald - Strong's Concordance**

kérux: a herald

Original Word: κήρυξ, υκος, ὁ

Part of Speech: Noun, Masculine

Transliteration: kérux

Phonetic Spelling: (kay'-roox)

Short Definition: a herald, preacher

Definition: a herald, preacher, proclaimer.

### **To Herald - Strong's Concordance**

kérussó: to be a herald, proclaim

Original Word: κηρύσσω

Part of Speech: Verb

Transliteration: kérussó

Phonetic Spelling: (kay-roos'-so)

Short Definition: I proclaim, herald, preach

Definition: I proclaim, herald, preach.

### **Why You Need Your Church Every Day**

By Daniel Darling

<http://www.crosswalk.com/blogs/daniel-darling/why-you-need-your-church-every-day.html>

We live in an age when, increasingly, people are asking the question, *"Do we need to gather on Sunday mornings for worship anymore?"* It's a valid question. After all, isn't there a plethora of good sermon content online? Aren't there churches that actually offer online services? And isn't it possible to read your Bible, pray, and perhaps listen/watch/read a sermon at home?

The truth is that you can experience some of what you get at church at home. You'll likely find a better message by listening to one of the popular preachers. You might be able to carve out more time to pray by staying at home. And you can even roll up your sleeves and get involved in works of service in your local community rather than going to church. You can even worship and sing in your shower.

Yes, to all of those. And yet, this kind of attitude really misses the point when it comes to church. At church we do hear a message preached from a pastor. And we do pray and sing and serve. But that's not all church is about. There is more than simply what we "get out" of a Sunday morning.

I call it body life. Some call it community. Regardless, you cannot replace that at home. You cannot get that at a conference. You cannot get that online. The truth is that God has wired us, created us, for community. And when God ordained the Church, calling out a special people for His name, you will notice that God didn't call a "person", but called a "people." Our American Western individualism causes us to skip right over the plural aspect of the Christian faith.

In the Old Testament, God called out a people. In the New Testament, God called out a people. Read the Psalms, notice how often worship is spoken of us in a corporate context. Notice how often you find third person plural pronouns. It's the same in the New Testament. The commands, the calls to worship, the theology. It was delivered to a people, not to a person.

Why is this? Because we grow best in community. When God's people are gathered from every nation, tribe and tongue, when people of diverse social standing and race and financial status are put together by the Holy Spirit, something wonderful and powerful happens. We change. We learn from each other. We become family.

This is why it is so important to not simply be a token participant in your local church, but a full-on, all-in member. That means you attend as often as you physically can. That means you go to most of the events. Even the potlucks and the seemingly non-essential things. Why? Because you're part of a local body, part of a family. We are all sacrificing time, energy, passion, and the best of our lives for Christ. And, here's the big one, when God's people gather corporately every week to bow their heads and lift up their hands in worship, it says something. It's a powerful statement about who God is and who we are. It sends a loud message to our part of the world. Yes there is a God and yes we consider Him transcendent and holy and worthy of our deepest adoration.

We miss something when we check in on Sunday and then check out right after the service. We miss when we stay home and watch it online. We miss something when do a lot of Christian, churchy type stuff, but don't actually attend church on Sunday. We miss the life of the body of Christ.

Church isn't simply for self-improvement (e.g. *I got nothing out of the message last week. I wish the music wasn't so loud. Did you see that kid in the third row who was making all that noise?*). Church isn't just so I can change and be better at my job and my marriage and my golf game. It's body life. And if you're not all in, my friend, you're missing out.

- Daniel Darling is the Vice President for Communications for the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention (ERLC).