

God's Witness Protection Program

Week One: Your Name Has it been changed? What is your identity in Christ?

Review: When you are 1st being put into the witness protection program their change your identity

background scripture: 16 So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. 17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: [a] the old has gone, the new is here! 18 All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: 19 that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. 20 We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. 21 God made him who had no sin to be sin[b] for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Have you ever explored the meaning of the name? Share your thoughts if you're willing to dive in!

If you were to assign a nickname, why? Would it be based on your personality?

In the Bible, we frequently observe God changing names, such as Jacob to Israel and Saul to Paul. These name changes hold great significance. Have you ever wondered why?

If God were to give you a new name today, what name would you think it would be and why? Would it be based on Relationship you have with his son Jesus?

Why do you believe names were crucial to God, to the extent that names were changed? How did these alterations in names impact on an individual's identity? For instance, the transformation from Abram to Abraham.

Let's Read into the Abraham history Read Genesis 17: 1- 5

17 When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to him and said, "I am God Almighty[a]; walk before me faithfully and be blameless. 2 Then I will make my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers."

3 Abram fell facedown, and God said to him, 4 "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You will be the father of many nations. 5 **No longer will you be called Abram[b]; your name will be Abraham, [c] for I have made you a father of many nations.**

6 I will make you very fruitful; I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you.

7 I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you

8 The whole land of Canaan, where you now reside as a foreigner, I will give as an everlasting possession to you and your descendants after you; and I will be their God.”

Why did God change Abram name?

In the Bible, God changed Abram's name to Abraham to signify:

1. a new covenant and a profound transformation in his life. Abram, which means "exalted father," was changed to Abraham, meaning "father of many nations."
2. This change symbolized God's promise to Abraham that he would be the ancestor of a multitude of nations and that his descendants would be as numerous as the stars in the sky.
3. It was a powerful testament to God's plan and blessing for Abraham and his future generations, reflecting a deeper, divine purpose and destiny.

He knows our names! How does it make you feel knowing that he recognizes you by name?

3 ways to walk into the new covenant in Christ are through faith, grace, and love.

Firstly, faith is the foundation of our relationship with Christ. By believing in His teachings, death, and resurrection, we accept His invitation to a new covenant. **Faith calls us to trust in God's promises and to live according to His will, even when we cannot see the full picture. It is through faith that we receive salvation and become heirs to God's kingdom.**

Secondly, grace unmelt favor that God extends to us. It is not something we can earn through our actions, but a gift freely given. **Walking in grace means acknowledging that we are forgiven and redeemed through Christ's sacrifice.** It allows us to let go of guilt and shame and to live in the freedom that comes from being fully accepted and loved by God. Grace also empowers us to extend this same mercy and compassion to others.

Lastly, love is the greatest commandment and the essence of the new covenant. **Jesus taught that loving God with all our heart, soul, and mind, and loving our neighbors as ourselves,** fulfills the law and the prophets. **Walking in love means embodying Christ's love in our daily interactions, showing kindness, patience, and forgiveness. It calls us to serve others selflessly and to build a community that reflects the inclusive and unconditional love of God.**

By embracing in these 3 things faith, grace, and love, **we can walk confidently into the new covenant in Christ, experiencing a transformed life and sharing this transformative power with the world around us.**

