

Lessons from Liberia #3

A New Name



Emanuel Evangelical Congregational Church

Revelation 2:12-17

To the Church in Pergamum

"To the angel of the church in Pergamum write:

These are the words of him who has the sharp, double-edged sword. I know where you live—where Satan has his throne. Yet you remain true to my name. You did not renounce your faith in me, not even in the days of Antipas, my faithful witness, who was put to death in your city—where Satan lives...

READ BY: Cindy Wesner

Revelation 2:12-17

Nevertheless, I have a few things against you:

There are some among you who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to entice the Israelites to sin so that they ate food sacrificed to idols and committed sexual immorality. Likewise, you also have those who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans. Repent therefore! Otherwise, I will soon come to you and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.

READ BY: Cindy Wesner

Revelation 2:12-17

Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

To the one who is victorious, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give that person a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to the one who receives it.

READ BY: Cindy Wesner

Group Activity -

What is your given, first name?

Richard

Do you know what your name means?

Richard = "Brave, powerful, hardy, strong, leader, ruler"

Did you have nickname as a child?

Ricky

As you matured, did you choose an alternate name?

Rick

Are there other names you are called by?

Richard, Mana, Sergi

By what titles are (were) you called?

Husband, dad, pop-pop, pastor, "sarge"...

49th ECCOL Annual Conference (2018)

Giving of an African Name: "Mana" (Blessing)

Joan is given a Liberian name
"Naa" (Mother)



Phil is also given a Liberian name
"Cheydehgar" (Book man) "Chil-ee-ga"



In giving us
Liberian names...



Our brothers & sisters of the
ECCOL were fully embracing us...

... adopting us as their own and
giving us an identity within their
culture and context!



What's in a name? That which we
call a rose by any other name
would smell as sweet.

- William Shakespeare



A ROSE BY ANY OTHER NAME WILL
SMELL AS SWEET. BUT IT DOES NOT
FOLLOW THAT WHATEVER WE
CHOOSE TO CALL A ROSE WILL
POSSESS THE ROSE'S FRAGRANCE.

— B.B. Warfield —

AZ QUOTES




A rose by any other name would
smell as sweet, but would not cost
half as much during the winter
months.

— George Ade —


AZ QUOTES





I read in a book once that a rose by any other name would smell as sweet, but I've never been able to believe it. I don't believe a rose WOULD be as nice if it was called a thistle or a skunk cabbage.

— *Lucy Maud Montgomery* —



Consider for a moment how familiarity and closeness affect the names by which you are called...

Nicknames can be a great indicator of your relationship status!



Consider also the circumstances under which someone may undergo a name change...

E.g. – Marriage (or divorce)

Adoption

“Branding” (stage name)

To identify with or disassociate from a culture (avoid discrimination)

“Names” in the Bible...

Especially the “giving” of one...

Were extremely important!

E.g. – Abram -> Abraham

Sarai -> Sarah

Jacob -> Israel

Simon -> Peter

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Genesis 17:5 –

“No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; For I have made you the father of a multitude of nations.”

E.g. – Sarai -> Sarah

Jacob -> Israel

Simon -> Peter

Genesis 17:15 –

“Then God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name.”

E.g. – Jacob -> Israel

Simon -> Peter

Genesis 32:24-28 (35:10-11) –

So Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him till daybreak... Then the man said, "Let me go, for it is daybreak." But Jacob replied, "I will not let you go unless you bless me."

The man asked him, "What is your name?" "Jacob," he answered. Then the man said, "Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel, because you have struggled with God and with humans and have overcome."

E.g. – Simon -> Peter

Matthew 16:16-18 –

Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God" And Jesus said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it."

Name changes in the Bible...

established a new identity!

It could be people changing their own names...

Ruth 1:19-20 –

So the two women went on until they came to Bethlehem. When they arrived in Bethlehem, the whole town was stirred because of them, and the women exclaimed, "Can this be Naomi?" "Don't call me Naomi," she told them. "Call me Mara, because the Almighty has made my life very bitter."

Or, someone in authority exerting their power over the person being named...

E.g. - Recall that Nebuchadnezzar's chief official gave Daniel and his friends Babylonian names...

Daniel 1:6-7 -

"Among those who were chosen were some from Judah: Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. The chief official gave them new names: to Daniel, the name Belteshazzar; to Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishael, Meshach; and to Azariah, Abednego."



Or, someone in authority exerting their power over the person being named...

Also, Pharaoh renamed Joseph to Zaphenath-paneah

Genesis 41:45 -

"Then Pharaoh gave Joseph an Egyptian name, Zaphenath-Paneah (God Speaks and He Lives). He also gave him an Egyptian wife, Asenath, the daughter of Potiphara, the priest of On (Heliopolis). And Joseph took up his duties over the land of Egypt."

Name changes in the Bible...
... especially those given by God...
establish a new identity and purpose He wants its user to convey.

God reveals to us a number of things when he changes names in the Bible...

- 1) You are precious to God!
- 2) **He** is the LOVING authority over our lives!
- 3) Our security is established in Him!
- 4) Our identity is found IN and our purpose is determined BY Him!
- 5) We can have more than one purpose in life, even at a late age!

Revelation 2:17 -
"To the one who overcomes, I will give some of the hidden manna..."

Exodus 16:4, 35
 The manna that fed Israel was spread on the ground for all to see and gather

Hidden manna...
 ...that which is concealed from the rest of the world; is special insight from God that feeds the soul and sustains spiritual life.

I will give him a white stone...
 and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it.

Revelation 2:17

Forerunner Commentary...
<https://www.bibletools.org/index.cfm/fuseaction/Topical.show/RTD/cgg/ID/7107/White-Stone.htm>

Revelation 2:17 -
"To the one who overcomes, I will give some of the hidden manna..."

Psalm 25:14 -
The LORD confides in those who fear him; he makes his covenant known to them. (NIV)
The LORD is a friend to those who fear him. He teaches them his covenant. (NLT)
The friendship of the LORD is for those who fear him, and he makes known to them his covenant. (ESV)
The secret of the LORD is with them that fear him; and he will shew them his covenant.

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Revelation 2:17

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"To the one who overcomes, I will give some of the hidden manna..."

I will give him a white stone...

In the ancient world, a white stone was given to one under judgment as absolution from guilt, and a black stone to the condemned. A white stone signifies innocence through forgiveness.

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Revelation 2:17 -
"To the one who overcomes, I will give some of the hidden manna..."

A new identity!
A new hope!

No one else fully understands!

Forerunner Commentary...
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Revelation 2:17

**You are precious to God!
Your identity comes from Him!
You are forgiven and accepted!
He is in control of your destiny!**