

NAME CALLING IN THE N.T.



Often times when we open air preachers, have been known to call out sin and at times this can get very personal. As in calling someone a name when we preach. Now I understand in modern day Christianity, that one must only preach love and forgiveness and he who has the biggest smile, surely has more Holy Ghost. But I wonder if we can test that method from scripture?

Now is that Biblical, can we call sinners names?

The answer is YES



Because it makes it very personal, rather than a whosoever.

John the Baptist, would most likely not be allowed in most Baptist Churches, just by dress alone **“his raiment of camel's hair, and a leathern girdle about his loins” but he would have been given the right foot of fellowship by what and how he preached.**



**“In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand”
(Mt 3:1-2).**

Repentance is a message consistent from the Old to the New Testament, which removes the argument that God wants you just as you are. God does not want you just as you are, which is why He demands ‘repentance’ and this was John’s message. A word not found spoken by today’s Church as the word ‘repent’ has been replaced with the word ‘love’ and ‘forgiveness’

“The voice of one crying in the wilderness” (Mt.3:3)

Here we get a 20/20 of how John preached, he was a voice crying or yelling, being raised. Not to be misunderstood with weeping. Jonah walked into Nineveh crying out, as this was the method God uses to get a message across. Even today, outdoor, out loud preaching is the way God wants it done.

To be baptized with John, one must get into the river publicly and confess your sins publicly. Unlike today, where one gets baptized inside the four walls on a certain day. With John after you were baptized you walked around wet as a visual that you had been baptized to everyone. What a sight to see, someone going into the water confessing their sins in public; “I am a fornicator, I lied, I stolen, I cheated”

In Matthew 3:7-10 we find the Baptist rebuking the religious of his day and keep in mind this was the same religious sect his father was involved in, as he said **“O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?”**

NAME CALLING, he used the word ‘vipers’ and spoke on the wrath of God. How negative, at least compared to the preachers of today.

He continued; **“Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance”** John demand evidence before he will baptize these people. That would be as if a Pastor gave an alter-call after his sermon and before sorry sinners walked up to the alter to pray, someone in the spirit of John jump up and said **“So me how serious you are about God or don’t waste our time.”** THAT is what John was saying.



He continued standing in the water; **“And think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to *our* father: for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham”**

Here our beloved John answered a question regarding how Hebrews always feel they are special because they were God’s chosen people. John says they are no better than a rock. The Baptist, just gave these Jews a major cheap-shop about who they are.

There’s more; **“And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire”**

Not much of God’s love mentioned but John did say the ‘axe is laid’ which means it is not swinging but has now made contact. That tree

is not only getting cut down but the chopping has started by the roots and any tree what does not bear good fruit is removed for firewood. This was John's message and how different is it from today's Baptist?

He also warned of getting burned up with **unquenchable fire**. Remember this is the same name who called the king an adulterer and for that he was jailed.



JOHN CALLED SINNERS NAMES

How about our Lord, surely He never called anyone a name as most Christians believe all He did was walk around all day quoting John 3:16 to everyone.



In Matthew 7:6 we read; **“Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you”**

Did Jesus just say some people can be **‘dogs’** or **‘swine’**...yes....that is what He said.

In Luke 11:13 we find our Lord saying; “If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?”

Did you get that, our Lord just said ‘If ye then, being evil’ he called His disciples ‘evil.’ That was whom He was speaking too.

JESUS IS A NAME CALLER AND He must have missed that class on how to witness, because everyone knows you will turn people off if you say they are of the devil. .

In Matthew 10:5-6 one can read where Jesus called the Jews “the lost sheep of the house of Israel”

Now how is that being a soul winner?

**In Matthew 15, Jesus called the Canaanite Woman a ‘dog’
“But he answered and said, It is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast *it* to dogs” (Mt.15:26**

Now, certain words have changed their meanings over centuries and calling someone a ‘dog’ is not a flattering name.



**In Matthew 23 we find a whole chapter of name calling from Jesus;
“Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! ye shall receive the greater damnation”**

“Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!”

“Woe unto you, ye blind guides”

“Ye fools and blind”

“Ye blind guides”

“which appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness”

“ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity”

“Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell?”

Now many people will argue, well that was to religious people, not sinners, to which I say today everyone is religious.



Luke records that Jesus even called king Herod a name; “And he said unto them, Go ye, and tell that fox, Behold, I cast out devils, and I do cures to day and to morrow”

Now that word ‘fox’ does not mean a foxy looking babe, but a sneaky, shifty, corrupt human.

In John 8:44 we find these words in Red Letters; “Ye are of your father the devil.” These words will not get converts, as Jesus is saying that we are not all children of God nor do we all have the same father, some people are of the devil

Matthew records that Jesus not only called people names but called His entire generation names, as found in Matthew 12:34 “O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh”

...again in..

:39 “But he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign”

...and again...

:45 “Even so shall it be also unto this wicked generation”

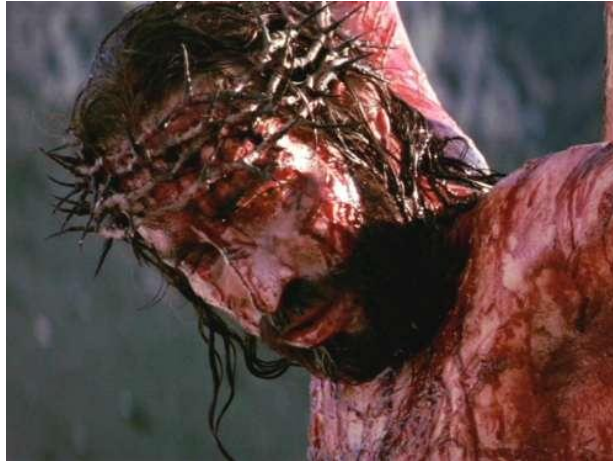
Matthew 17 we find this; “Then Jesus answered and said, O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you?”

**Is calling someone ‘faithless and stubborn’ showing the love of God?
No wonder they put Him on the cross, where is the love?**

“The world cannot hate you; but me it hateth, because I testify of it, that the works thereof are evil”

John 7:7

Jesus was hated because he preached against the world and called sin out by name, I IF the world does not hate your preaching, you have become a friend of the world.



Let us continue into the book of Acts and see how many times the Apostles preached John 3:16 or proclaimed ‘Jesus loves you’



We find the word repent used as in Acts 2:37 the Apostles were asked “Men and brethren, what shall we do?” and Peter replied unto them “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ

for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost”

In the third chapter we find Peter again preaching; “Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out”

In Acts chapter 8 we find Peter rebuking Simon the sorcerer who bewitched the people of Samaria, as he said; “Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee. For I perceive that thou art in the gall of bitterness, and *in* the bond of iniquity”
(Acts 8:22-23)

In Acts 26 we find Paul Before Agrippa saying; “Whereupon, O king Agrippa, I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision: But shewed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judaea, and *then* to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance”

The word ‘Repent’ or ‘Repentance’ again is found in the book of Acts numerous times and IF those words are not in your message, YOU NEED TO REPENT. The order of appearance is ‘Repent and believe’ not believe and repent later.

Now do we find name calling in the book of Acts?

Yes, see Acts 6 we read about a man named Stephen who was “full of faith and of the Holy Ghost” and his job was to feed certain people within the Church. But Stephen was out preaching and ‘disputing’ which had him arrested. And in Acts 7 we find Stephen before the Sanhedrin as he gave a wonderful history lesson of Israel....then....he says “Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers *did*, so *do* ye. Which of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted? and they have slain them which shewed before of the coming of the Just One; of whom ye have been now the betrayers and murderers”

(Acts 7:51-53)....and with that, he was killed.

“When they heard these things, they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with *their teeth*”



Maybe IF he would have just preached John 3:16....maybe if he would have had more gospel in his preaching, he would have not been killed and maybe he should have never called people names like **‘stiffnecked’ and been more positive, this would not have happened?**

Maybe Stephen had a martyr complex?

I say, this type of preaching, complete with name calling is a result of a man of God, filled with faith and full of the Holy Ghost.....but just not compared with today’s minister.

In Acts 13 we find the Apostle Paul reprovng **‘certain sorcerer, a false prophet, a Jew, whose name was Barjesus’ and he did not tell him about the love of God, instead he said; **“O full of all deceit and all mischief, thou child of the devil, thou enemy of all righteousness, wilt thou not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord?”****

Paul is a name caller. **‘O full of all deceit...thou child of the devil...thou enemy of all righteousness’ this is not going to get someone saved.**

AND remember this was said from the same person who wrote Titus 3:2; **“To speak evil of no man, to be no brawlers, *but* gentle, shewing all meekness unto all men”**



What is interesting is that in this same Letter to Titus, we find Paul warning of false men, where he writes; “Whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole houses, teaching things which they ought not, for filthy lucre's sake. One of themselves, *even* a prophet of their own, said, The Cretians *are* always liars, evil beasts, slow bellies.”

(Titus 1:11-12)

These people are always “liars, evil beasts, slow bellies” and IF this is not gentle, you have the wrong definition for that word.

In Acts 23 we find Paul Before the Sanhedrin, as these men of God were also standing before courts and rulers, as this time the high priest Ananias commanded that Paul get slapped on the mouth. And verse three reads; “Then said Paul unto him, God shall smite thee, *thou* whited wall: for sittest thou to judge me after the law, and commandest me to be smitten contrary to the law?”

Paul rebukes the high priest saying that God would smack them too.

He later reneged saying he did not recognize the priest, which I question because how can one not know what the priest looks like. Paul knew the much about the courts as he spend much time arguing his case, even using his Roman citizenship to defend his preaching.

In Romans chapter One, Paul writes regarding homosexuals and this is what he says; “to dishonour their own bodies between themselves... ..Who changed the truth of God into a lie.....God gave them over to a reprobate mind....being filled with all unrighteousness.....wickedness

**.....full of envy.....murder.....deceit....haters of God.....despiteful.....
proud....inventors of evil things.....without natural affection....
unmerciful...they which commit such things are worthy of death”**

**Think we preach hard against homosexuals, Paul does not hold back
as to why he calls them a **reprobate** and **worthy of death**.**

In Philippians chapter 3 we read where Paul warns; “Beware of dogs,
beware of evil workers”****

Again this is the same guy that wrote; “Let no corrupt communication
proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of
edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers”****

Ephesians 4:29

**So be advised, calling someone a name is NOT CORRUPT
COMMUNICATION BUT EDIFICATION**

Both Peter and Paul call people ‘dogs**’ in their Epistles; “**The dog is
turned to his own vomit again”****

2 Peter 2:22

“Beware of the dogs, beware of the evil workers, beware of the false
circumcision”****

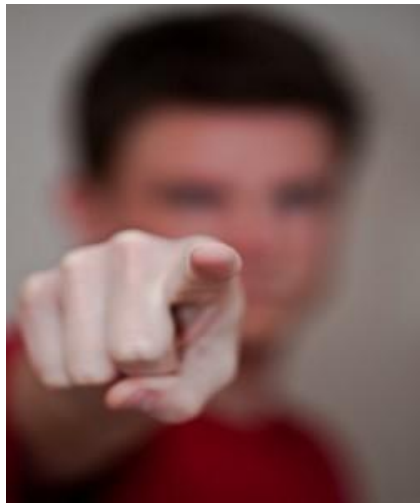
Philippians 3:2



**In the book of Galatians chapter 3 we read where Paul uses the word
‘fool’ is speaking to others; “**O foolish Galatians”** and “**Are ye so
foolish?”****

I guess Paul missed the teaching that we are not to call people fools as per Matthew 5:22; “But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire”

One can discern that perhaps Paul was not writing to brethren within the Galatian CHURCH, therefore he can use the word fool or foolish when he addressed them, AND HE HAD A CAUSE.



We even find name calling in the last book of the Bible, as Jesus said in the Third chapter; “thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked” and one can read that humans are called ‘dogs’ who will not be allowed in the holy city; “Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city. For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie”

(Revelation 22:14-15)

To find more verses where men of God, filled with the Holy Ghost called sinners, religious people and a whole generation names, SEE BIBLE FOR MORE DETAILS.

