

BECOMING WHO GOD SAYS YOU ARE: ALTAR EGO

Wednesday, March 13, 2019

“Overcoming the Labels that Bind You”

ISAIAH 62:2b-4

The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God. You shall no more be termed Forsaken, and your land shall no more be termed Desolate; but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her, and your land Married; for the LORD delights in you, and your land shall be married.

2 CORINTHIANS 5:16-19

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us.

JOHN 1:35-42

The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!" The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?" He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Anointed). He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter).

HYMN

How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds

ELW 620



1 How sweet the name of Je - sus sounds in
 2 It makes the wound - ed spir - it whole and
 3 Dear name! The rock on which I build, my
 4 By thee my prayers ac - cep - tance gain al -



a be - liev - er's ear! It soothes our sor - rows,
 calms the heart's un - rest; 'tis man - na to the
 shield and hid - ing place; my nev - er - fail - ing
 though with sin de - filed. The dev - il charg - es



heals our wounds, and drives a - way all fear.
 hun - gry soul and to the wea - ry, to rest.
 trea - sury, filled with bound - less stores of grace.
 me in vain, and I am owned a child.

Study Guide:

In the Bible, an *altar* is a place where people encounter God—primarily through sacrifice and worship. An *ego* is an identity—the unique collection of thoughts, feelings, traits, and behaviors that make you *you*.

An *altar ego*, therefore, is a God-centered identity grounded in a relationship with Christ. It is your true self—no labels, no lies.

In this week's session, "*Overcoming the Labels that Bind You*," we will consider:

1. Negative labels: You are not who others say you are.
2. God's truth is bigger than other people's opinions about you.
3. An ALTAR ego is who God says you are.

To establish a God-centered view:

- God can give you a new name.
- God will give you a new purpose.

It's time to become who God says you are.