

## AND YOUR NAME IS....

My 5-year-old son informed me that my nickname is Captain Cook because I do all the cooking. He has declared himself Captain Underpants because when he is home, his attire of choice is underwear only. His little sister he has named Princess Poopypants, for obvious reasons. And he has decided his dad should be called Captain Cool, although I'm pretty confident my husband exercised undue influence in the choosing of his own nickname! Grandma has become Captain Toast because she is notorious for burning any and all kinds of bread. Grandpa is now known as Captain Ointment because of his penchant for squeezing half a tube of ointment on every scratch, nick or abrasion his grandchildren have ever received.

And although my son's personality is apparent in his interesting choice of names, there are certainly labels we have all carried at some time that are not so funny. How about four eyes, idiot, bully, fatso, nerd, retarded, ugly, stuck-up, dog face, crater face, stupid? Having flashbacks of grade school yet?

For those of us who love and believe in the Lord Jesus, there are a few names we need to become familiar with. Jesus says we are precious, free, chosen, redeemed, blessed, brought near, forgiven, alive in Christ, a new creation, eternally purposed, loved, rich, reconciled, protected, fully known, significant, gifted, holy, called, accepted, heirs, saved, worshipers, secure, image bearers, righteous, heaven-bound, strengthened, justified, encouraged, comforted, delivered, sealed, victorious, commissioned, and spirit-filled.

Jesus says we are His temple, His friends, His messengers, His workers, His witnesses, His people, His servants, His light, His sons and daughters, His ambassadors, His workmanship, salt of the earth, receivers of grace, children of promise, saints, entrusted with secret things, transformed into His likeness, rooted and established in love, reflectors of His glory, compelled by His love, named in His Book of Life, sharers of His promises, enterers to His Throne Room, the apple of His eye, and worth dying for.

The world will say we are a lot of things, but our identity should be found in Christ alone. May we all understand who we are in Him and that His opinion is the only one that matters.

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