



Why does Jesus have so many names?

This question came from a Confirmation student, but chance are good that you've wondered the same thing.

He actually has only one given name, and that's "Jesus." It's the name the angel instructed Joseph to give to the child Mary would give birth to. It's a perfect name for Him, because it means: "Yahweh Saves."

His name tells who He is: Yahweh (God the Father's name). Jesus truly is God who came to Earth in human form.

AND it tells what He came to Earth to do: Save (us from our sin)!

But it's true that Jesus is referred to by many other "names." One of these is actually a "title." For example, my name is "David," but my title is "Pastor." Some people refer to me by my title alone: "Pastor." Others call me simply David (or Dave). And still others combine my name and my title: Pastor David.

In the same way, the Son of God is often referred to simply by His name: "Jesus." Many other times He's called "Christ," which is His title (meaning Anointed One). And still other times His title and name are combined: Jesus Christ or Christ Jesus.

It's quite likely that you have a nickname or two. Nicknames are names other people call you that tell something about you, but they aren't your given name. For example, if you really like cookies, somebody might give you the nickname "Cookie Monster." When Jesus is referred to as something other than Jesus or Christ, it's usually a "nickname." A name that describes some aspect of His character, who He is or what He does

Here are some of the nicknames:

- **The Word** (Words communicate, and Jesus perfectly communicates who God is and what God is like.
- **The Lamb** This refers to how Jesus would save us: He was sacrificed for our sin, like lambs were sacrificed in the Old Testament.
- **Lord** This is more a title than a nickname. It shows He's the one with the ultimate authority, similar to CEO or boss
- **Immanuel** We hear this "nickname" a lot around Christmas. It means: "God is with Us." Again, showing who Jesus is (God) and highlighting the fact that He actually wants to hang out with us.
- **Son of Man** This is the "nickname" Jesus actually used to describe Himself. It's an indication that He is the One referred to as "like a son of man" in Daniel chapter 7.

· **Bread of Life** This is simply an indication that we need Jesus on a daily basis just like we need bread.

There are lots of other “nicknames” for Jesus, but you get the idea. They all describe some aspect of His character or what He came to do.

Thanks for asking,  
Pastor David

Send your questions to [pastor@livingwordlutheran.net](mailto:pastor@livingwordlutheran.net)