



Why does Jesus have so many other names, like Immanuel and Christ and Lord.”

And those three are just the beginning! God’s Son really only has one actual name, the rest are titles and “nicknames.” His name is the one the angel instructed Joseph to give Him:

“Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”
Matthew 1:20-21

“Jesus” is actually the Greek form of the Hebrew name “Joshua.” Both mean the same thing: “Yahweh saves”

(Yahweh being God’s personal name - the name He revealed to Moses when Moses asked “What should I say when they ask ‘What is the name of the God who sent you?’” God’s reply: “You must say this to the Israelites, ‘Yahweh—the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob—has sent me to you. This is my name forever...’)

Every time someone spoke or heard the name “Jesus” it would remind them:

- 1) who He is (Yahweh - God in the flesh) and
- 2) what He came to do (save).

As I mentioned, some of the names Jesus is referred to are actually titles that show what position He holds, like Christ (the Greek form of Messiah) which means “Anointed one.” Jesus is the One God had chosen to send to save His people. “Lord” is another title, one of honor. You could consider it comparable to how we would address a judge as “your honor.”

“Immanuel” (Old Testament spelling) or Emmanuel (New Testament spelling) is more of a “nickname.” Nicknames usually tell something important about a person. Immanuel literally means “God is with us,” and reminds us that in the person of Jesus, God has come to be with us - as one of us!

There are lots of other “nicknames” for Jesus that tell something about who He is or what He came to do. “Prince of Peace,” “Lamb of God,” “the Word,” “King of Kings,” and many more. The month we celebrate the birth of Jesus is an appropriate time to focus more on the meanings behind His name, titles and nicknames, so I’ll be doing that in our daily devotions during December.

Thanks for asking,
Pastor David

Send your questions to pastor@livingwordlutheran.net