

From the very beginning of the church at Pentecost, the church has stood out from the religious crowd.

Through out history we have been called many things by those around us. Let's look at a couple.

We were first called the people of the WAY.

1. Acts 9:2 Saul wen to the high priest "and asked letters ~~for~~^{fo} him to the synagogues of Damascus, so that if he found any who were of the Way, whether men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem"
2. Acts 19:1-9 Paul came to Ephesus and finding some disciples that had not been filled with the Spirit; laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied. V. 8 "And he went into the synagogue and spoke boldly for three months, reasoning and persuading concerning the things of the kingdom of God." V. 9 But when some were hardened and did not believe, but spoke evil of the Way before the multitude, he departed ~~for~~^{fo} them and withdrew the disciples, reasoning daily in the school of Tyrannus."
3. Acts 19:23 In Ephesus "there arose a great commotion about the Way."
4. Acts 22:4 Paul "persecuted this Way to the death, binding and delivering into prisons both men and women,"
5. Acts 24:22 "but when Felix heard these things, having more accurate knowledge of the Way,"

Note: why do you suppose they were called that? Probably because it was after the teachings of Christ.

1. Matthew 3:3 "prepare the way of the LORD."
2. Matthew 7:13-14 Broad way versus narrow way.
3. Matthew 11:10
4. Matthew 21:32 The way of righteousness.
5. John 14:6 "Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.'

We were called Christians

1. Acts 11:26 "...And the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch."
2. Acts 26:28 "Then Agrippa said to Paul, 'You almost persuade me to become a Christian.'
3. 1 Peter 4:16 "Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter."

The Manifested Sons of God

1. 1 Peter 1:20
2. 1 John 3:1 "We should be called the sons of God" v. 2 "Now are we the sons of God."

The Latter rain movement. Pentecost – early rain. Last days when it all happens again the latter rain. James 5:7

Last Words: what do people call us?