

# THE MAGIC OF A NAME

Dennis L. Peterson

“What’s in a name?” William Shakespeare asked in his play *Romeo and Juliet*.

Apparently, there’s a lot in a name. Just notice the lengths to which people will go to protect a good name or cover a bad name. Many Hollywood actors and actresses even change their names from something they consider boring to names that are more exciting and memorable. For example, who would have gone to see a film starring Marion Robert Morrison? But millions crammed into theaters to see John Wayne!

Job titles are also important. A job title can make a big difference in the respect a person receives. For example, who do you think would get the most respect, a garbage collector or an urban sanitation engineer? A senior editor or a senior technical publications analyst?

Here are a few interesting names for various occupations and hobbies. Can you guess what the person holding each title does?

**Farrier.** This person shoes horses.

**Aviculturist.** This person raises and cares for birds, especially wild birds in captivity.

**Lepidopterist.** This person is an expert on butterflies, moths, and other insects in the order *Lepidoptera*.

**Arborist.** This is someone who is an expert on the care and maintenance of trees.

**Speleologist.** This person spends a lot of time underground as an expert in the study of caves.

**Spelunker.** This person also explores caves but as a hobby, whereas the speleologist does it for a living.

**Ethnomusicologist.** This person studies the music of a specific world culture.

**Aesthetician.** This person studies beauty, particularly as it relates to art.

**Numismatist.** This person studies or collects coins, tokens, medals, or paper money. (No, you are not a numismatist just because you have a savings account!)

**Philatelist.** This person is akin to the numismatist, but rather than collecting coins, he collects postage stamps.

**Deltiologist.** Since we're thinking about collectors, we should mention this person, who collects postcards.

**Ephemerist.** This person must enjoy history because he collects documents of everyday life that are not intended to have lasting value, such as newspapers, greeting cards, posters, tickets, and catalogs.

Shakespeare said that “a rose by any other name would smell as sweet.” However, everyone likes to feel important, and a fancy job title certainly adds prestige to a person’s job or hobby. But one must live up to his title to be taken seriously.

Some parents tell their children before they go out for an activity, “Remember who you are!” That’s good advice for everyone.

This requirement is especially true when one claims the name *Christian*.

A recent popular trend was to wear bracelets with WWJD written on them. One saw bumper stickers, key chains, T-shirts, and other merchandise bearing the same letters. They all asked the readers a very important question: *What would Jesus do?*

The wearers or bearers of that slogan, however, had to realize that their behavior could actually negate its message if the behavior didn’t match what Jesus would do in a particular situation. Actions do speak louder than words—or bracelets.

Have you ever been driving and had a car bearing a WWJD bumper sticker rudely and dangerously cut you off on the highway? Have you ever heard a person

wearing a WWJD bracelet curse or use the Lord's name in vain? It happens far too often, and it is a poor reflection on the name *Christian*.

What's the magic of a name? There is no magic. But a name can be very powerful—either for good or for bad. If you claim to be a Christian, wherever you are and wherever you go, remember who you are. Act, talk, and think in such a way as to bring honor to your “family name”—Christian.

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