



Sermon Discussion Guide

IN NAME ONLY

Revelation 3:1-6 (Sardis)

Pastor Kevin, 10/9/22

Big Idea: It is possible for a church to look very much alive on the outside, while being spiritually dead in Jesus' eyes.

1. When was the last time you were fooled into thinking something that was different than what you thought?
2. Kevin mentioned a couple ways that churches can get a reputation for being alive when inside they are dead: formalism and traditionalism. How can we guard our church and households from *formalism*?
3. Kevin said that “Tradition is a wonderful servant but a terrible master.” When has a certain tradition become more of a master than a servant in your life?
4. David Wells writes, “The point of spirituality today is the *experience* of the journey, not in the purpose of reaching the *destination*.” What are a few ways that the idea of “experience” is emphasized over the “destination” in our world today? What’s so attractive about that?
5. In past sermons Kevin has said, “The greatest privilege in all the world is to be in a church and hearing the preaching of the Gospel [paraphrase].” This Sunday he said, “One of the most dangerous things in the whole world is to be spiritually dead in the Church.” Why is attending a Bible-believing church both a privilege and danger?
6. Kevin said that “name” is the central idea woven throughout the letter to Sardis.¹ How does Jesus being unashamed to call your name at the end of the age encourage you this week?

¹ “Name” is mentioned 4 times (v. 1 “*reputation*” same Greek word, v. 4 “*names* in Sardis”, v. 5 “not remove his *name*...confess his *name*.”).