

1 Corinthians 1:14-17 Baptism - More than an Outward Sign

1Co 1:10-17 ESV I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment. 11 For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarreling among you, my brothers. What I mean is that each one of you says, "**I follow Paul,**" or "**I follow Apollos,**" or "**I follow Cephas,**" or "**I follow Christ.**" 13 Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? **Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?** 14 I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, 15 **so that no one may say that you were baptized in my name.** 16 (I did baptize also the household of Stephanas. Beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) 17 **For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel,** and not with words of eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

"For Christ did not send me to baptize"(vs 17)

This comment is not about the value of baptism...He was addressing the issue of division - and the fact that he had not baptized many was a good thing in that there was less of a reason for those factions to use his example to bring further division...

In Matt 28 Jesus says that baptizing people is included in the mission of the church - and the fact is many were baptized in Corinth probably by Silas and Timothy and others

- Act 18:7-8 ESV And he left there and went to the house of a man named Titius Justus, a worshiper of God. His house was next door to the synagogue. 8 Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, believed in the Lord, together with his entire household. And **many of the Corinthians hearing Paul believed and were baptized.**

A few things Paul links to baptism - it is more than just an outward sign

1) The idea of FOLLOWING - In essence he is saying, **"Why do you say "I follow Paul?" were you baptized into the name of Paul?"**

- (vs 12) "I follow Paul," or "I follow Apollos," or "I follow Cephas," or "I follow Christ."

2) The relationship to a name (Whose name do you bear?)

- (vs 13) Or were you baptized in the **name of Paul?** ...(vs 15) so that no one may say that you were **baptized in my name**

3) Relationship between the cross and baptism --- Baptism without the cross has no meaning

- (vs 17) Lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power

In baptism we identify with a teacher --- "Following"

Mat 28:19-20 ESV Go therefore and **make disciples** of all nations, **baptizing them in the name** of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 **teaching them to observe** all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

When you get saved, you are signing up for school...The LORD's plan to reach the world was to make disciples - learner's / students - in other words the church is made up of people who want to learn

And more than LEARNING - OBSERVING (to hold fast, keep, preserve)

John & the Pharisees had disciples (students - who followed their teachings and practices)

- Luk 11:1 ESV Now Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, **as John taught his disciples.**"
- Mar 2:18 ESV Now John's disciples and the Pharisees were fasting. And people came and said to him, "Why do **John's disciples** and the **disciples of the Pharisees** fast, but **your disciples** do not fast?"
- Luk 5:33 ESV And they said to him, "The **disciples of John** fast often and offer prayers, and so do **the disciples of the Pharisees**, but yours eat and drink."

Ultimately a disciple is becoming LIKE his teacher (who are you following?)

- Luk 6:40 ESV **A disciple is not above his teacher**, but everyone when he is **fully trained will be like his teacher.**

In Baptism - we Identify with a person power and presence of a name - not just a theology

A man in the Army of Alexander the Great was accused of cowardly actions. He was brought before Alexander, who asked what his name was. He replied softly, "Alexander." --- "I can't hear you," the ruler stated. --- The man again said, a little louder, "Alexander." --- The process was repeated one more time, after which Alexander the Great commented, "**Either change your name or change your conduct.**"

You weren't baptized in Paul's name, you were baptized in the name of Jesus

- Mat 28:19 ESV Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

In every instance in the book of ACTS the apostles baptized in some combination of the name of the LORD Jesus Christ.

- Acts 2:38-39 The name of Jesus Christ
- Acts 8:14-16 The name of the Lord Jesus
- Acts 10:48 (NIV) The name of Jesus Christ
- Acts 10:48 Lamsa version - the name of our Lord Jesus Christ
- Acts 19:5 The name of the Lord Jesus

In Jesus name is not just something you tack onto the end of a prayer, it is his person, presence and power

- Act 3:6 ESV But Peter said, "I have no silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, **rise up and walk!**"
- Act 15:26 ESV **men who have risked their lives** for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- Act 16:18 ESV And this she kept doing for many days. Paul, having become greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "**I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.**" And it came out that very hour.
- Act 21:13 ESV Then Paul answered, "What are you doing, weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be imprisoned but even **to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.**"
- Act 26:9 ESV "I myself was convinced that I ought to do many things in **opposing the name of Jesus of Nazareth.**

Do all in the name of the LORD Jesus

Col 3:16-17 ESV 16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. **17 And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.**

When we baptize we say "in the name of the Father, the son and the Holy Spirit", even in the name of the LORD Jesus Christ. (we fulfill both what Jesus commanded as well as what we see revealed in the book of Acts)

Gal 3:27 ESV For as many of you as **were baptized into Christ** have put on Christ.

In baptism we identify with the work of Christ accomplished on the cross

Paul emphasized the preaching of the cross - apart from which baptism has no meaning

- Rom 6:1-23 ESV What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? 2 By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? 3 Do you not know that **all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?** 4 We were **buried therefore with him by baptism** into death, in order that, just as **Christ was raised** from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might **walk in newness of life.** 5 For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. 6 We know that **our old self was crucified** with him in order that the **body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin.** 7 For one who has died has been set free from sin. 8 Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. 9 We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. 10 For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. 11 **So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.** 12 **Let not sin therefore reign** in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. 13 **Do not present your members to sin** as instruments for unrighteousness, but **present yourselves to God** as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness.

RESPONSE

If you have been baptized - maybe rethink the commitment you made to Christ on that day
Are you following Him? - Learning to obey His teachings? Counting yourself dead to sin?

If you have never been baptized - I challenge you to do so - either schedule it, or if you are not saved pray to receive Jesus first, then follow through with baptism.

Peter’s answer to the question, “What must we do?” Repent and be baptized

- Act 2:37-38 ESV Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" 38 And Peter said to them, "**Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ** for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Baptism is the continued response of an obedient heart - It began with repentance, now is the first opportunity to be obedient to him

- Act 2:41 KJV Then **they that gladly received his word were baptized**: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

