

Are You "Of Christ"?

"Now I say this, that each of you says, 'I am of Paul,' or 'I am of Apollos,' or 'I am of Cephas,' or 'I am of Christ.' Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaus, lest anyone should say that I had baptized in my own name" (I Cor. 1:12-15).

- To be *"of Christ. . .Paul. . .Apollos. . .Cephas"* means to belong to them.
- Will opponent tell us what it takes to be *of Christ, of Paul, of Apollos, of Cephas?*

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To belong to Christ, Paul, etc., two things must be true:

- They must have been crucified for you.
- You must be baptized in their name.

(I Cor. 2:2; 15:1-4; Matt. 28:19; Acts 2:38; 10:48; 19:5)

“...Jesus Christ. . .there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved” (Acts 4:10, 12).

“For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel. . .” (I Cor. 1:17).

- **Literally**, Paul is conveying, “For Christ sent me not (only) to baptize, but (also) to preach the gospel (cf. John 6:27).
- **Contextually**, Paul admitted to baptizing others (vv. 14, 16), yet rebukes them for wearing the names of men (vv. 10, 12, 13).

PURE
DENOMINATIONALISM IN
INFANCY!!

“For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel. . .” (I Cor. 1:17).

If Paul did not come to baptize, but only to preach:

- 1) Then he did not come to Corinth to make any BAPTISTS seeing that you have to be baptized to be a member of the Baptist church!!**
- 2) Likewise, he thanked God that he didn't make any Baptists (v. 14)!!**

"For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel. . ." (I Cor. 1:17).

To say that Paul thought baptism was not essential from this verse:

- ***Is to make him contradict himself*** (Acts 9:18; 22:16; Rom. 6:3-6; Col. 2:12, 13; Gal. 3:26-27)
- ***Is to make him contradict the other apostles*** (Acts 2:38; I Peter 3:21)
- ***Is to make him contradict Jesus*** (Matt. 28:19; Mk. 16:15-16)

Such a thought places discord and contradiction among inspired Brethren and the Lord!

"The entirety of Your word is truth, and every one of Your righteous judgments endures forever" (Ps. 119:160).

A Baptist Scholar on I Corinthians 1:17

“It may be affirmed with confidence that the man who formulated the baptismal theology reflected in Rom. 6:1 ff, Gal. 3:26 f, Col. 2:11 f did not think lightly of baptism and would not have wished to give the impression that he did. . .It is ordained by the Lord that faith’s response is made in baptism. . .Baptism is secondary to the proclamation, in that it depends upon it and embodies it; but as it is the God-ordained mode of faith’s appropriation of the gospel and of God’s appropriation of . . .

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*. . . the believer, it can never be said to be of second rate importance. . . Paul goes on to show how God by the gospel had brought to nought this world's wisdom, but he does not remotely suggest that the gospel makes baptism foolish. **On the contrary, baptism is the complement of the gospel. The former is empty only where the later is despised**"*

*(Beasley-Murray, G. R. **Baptism in the New Testament**. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Pub. Co.,© 1962, pp. 178-180, emp. mine).*