

1 Corinthians 1:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Is Christ divided? was Paul crucified for you? or were ye baptized in the name of Paul?

Analysis

Is Christ divided? (memeristai ho Christos, μεμέρισται ὁ Χριστός)—Paul's rhetorical question is devastating: the factions treat Christ as if He were parceled out, each group possessing a different piece. The verb merizo (μερίζω, "to divide, partition") implies tearing Christ into fragments—an absurdity that exposes the insanity of their divisions. Christ is one, His body is one, therefore His church must be one.

Was Paul crucified for you? Or were ye baptized in the name of Paul? (me Paulos estaurōthe hyper hymon, μὴ Παῦλος ἐσταυρώθη ὑπὲρ ὑμῶν)—Two more rhetorical questions drive home the point. Only Christ was crucified for them (hyper hymon, ὑπὲρ ὑμῶν, "on your behalf"), therefore only Christ deserves ultimate loyalty. Baptism **in the name of** (eis to onoma, εἰς τὸ ὄνομα) signifies ownership and allegiance—baptism into Christ's name means belonging to Him, not to Paul or any other human leader. Paul's horror at the thought of baptizing into his own name shows his Christ-centeredness.

Historical Context

In the ancient world, disciples were baptized into allegiance to their teacher or philosophical school. Paul categorically rejects this model for Christianity. Baptism is into Christ alone, not into the apostle who performed the ritual. This corrects a dangerous tendency to elevate the minister over the Master.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How do we functionally "divide Christ" by sectarianism, denominational pride, or loyalty to Christian celebrities?
2. Why is the question "Was Paul crucified for you?" such a powerful rebuke to personality-driven Christianity?
3. How does baptism "in the name of Christ" establish that our ultimate allegiance belongs to Him alone?

Interlinear Text

μεμέρισται ὁ Χριστός μὴ Παύλου ἐσταυρώθη ὑπὲρ

Is G3588 Christ G3361 Paul G3972 crucified G4717 for G5228

ὑμῶν ἦ εἰς τὸ ὄνομα Παύλου ἐβαπτίσθητε

you or in G3588 the name G3686 Paul G3972 were ye baptized G907

Additional Cross-References

Ephesians 4:5 (Baptism): One Lord, one faith, one baptism,

2 Corinthians 11:4 (Parallel theme): For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him.

Acts 2:38 (Baptism): Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Acts 10:48 (Baptism): And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days.

Acts 19:5 (Baptism): When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

1 Corinthians 10:2 (Baptism): And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea;

Matthew 28:19 (Parallel theme): Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

Galatians 1:7 (References Christ): Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ.

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