

# 1 Corinthians 1:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And I baptized also the household of Stephanas: besides, I know not whether I baptized any other.

## Analysis

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**And I baptized also the household of Stephanas: besides, I know not whether I baptized any other** (ebaptisa de kai ton Stephanou oikon, ἐβάπτισα δὲ καὶ τὸν Στεφανᾶ οἶκον)—Paul suddenly recalls one more household he baptized: **Stephanas** and his household. This appears to be an afterthought, almost comedic in tone, as if Paul is racking his memory: "Oh yes, and Stephanas—but other than that, I don't think anyone else." The household (oikos, οἶκος) likely included family members, slaves, and dependents—a common pattern in NT household conversions (Acts 16:15, 31-34).

Paul's vagueness—**I know not whether I baptized any other**—underscores his point: he genuinely did not keep score or build a baptismal resume. He was not accumulating disciples or building a faction. Later (16:15-16), Paul commends Stephanas's household as the "firstfruits of Achaia" and urges submission to them—they are servants, not factional leaders.

## Historical Context

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Stephanas's household is mentioned again in 16:15-17 as having devoted themselves to the service of the saints and visited Paul in Ephesus. They appear to be mature, faithful Christians—exactly the kind of leadership the fractured Corinthian church needs. Paul's mention of them here is not to boast but to ensure complete honesty: "Yes, I baptized Stephanas too, now that I think of it."

## Related Passages

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**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

## Study Questions

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1. What does Paul's inability (or unwillingness) to remember everyone he baptized teach us about ministry motivations?
2. How does the pattern of household baptisms in Acts and here inform our understanding of covenant community and family discipleship?
3. Why is it significant that Paul does not keep a tally of his ministry achievements?

## Interlinear Text

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ἐβάπτισα	δὲ	καὶ	τὸν	Στεφανᾶ	οἶκον	λοιπὸν	οὐκ
I baptized	And	also	G3588	of Stephanas	the household	besides	not
G907	G1161	G2532		G4734	G3624	G3063	G3756
οἶδα	εἴ	τινα	ἄλλον	ἐβάπτισα			
I know	G1487	G5100	other	I baptized			
G1492			G243	G907			

## Additional Cross-References

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**1 Corinthians 16:15** (Parallel theme): I beseech you, brethren, (ye know the house of Stephanas, that it is the firstfruits of Achaia, and that they have addicted themselves to the ministry of the saints,)

**1 Corinthians 16:17** (Parallel theme): I am glad of the coming of Stephanas and Fortunatus and Achaicus: for that which was lacking on your part they have supplied.

**Acts 16:15** (Baptism): And when she was baptized, and her household, she besought us, saying, If ye have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house, and abide there. And she constrained us.

**Acts 16:33** (Baptism): And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes; and was baptized, he and all his, straightway.

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