

## “DOCTRINES OF MEN”

(I Cor. 1:10-13)

*“10 Now I beseech you, brethren, through the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfected together in the same mind and in the same judgment. 11 For it hath been signified unto me concerning you, my brethren, by them that are of the household of Chloe, that there are contentions among you. 12 Now this I mean, that each one of you saith, I am of Paul; and I am of Apollos; and I am of Cephas; and I of Christ. 13 Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were ye baptized into the name of Paul?”* I Cor. 1:10-13. Such is the text of our study.

The first thought is, there was a message being circulated and Paul believed it because it was reliable, it was the truth, and Paul believed it. I have heard certain folks say, “If something is being circulated, I do not believe it; because, it is gossip! Well, Paul believed the message because it came from a reliable source. You will observe Paul **acted** upon this information and called the name of the man from whence it came - the household of Chloe. **Just because something is circulated does not mean it is idle gossip!**

These brethren had divided up and were calling themselves by the names of different preachers: Paul, Apollos, Cephas and Christ. There are four names given; but, only one is to be practiced. **We are to call ourselves after the name of Christ.**

There is a certain **test** presented, that should be considered. If there are those who call themselves after Paul, we need to ask the question, **“Was Paul crucified for you?”** The answer is no. Another question to be asked is, **“Were you baptized in the name of Paul?”** The answer, my friend is no! This being so, why call yourselves after the name of Paul? The same questions should be asked concerning Apollos, and Peter. Then end result is: **Do not call yourselves after the names of men**

Now, please apply these questions to Christ! **Was Jesus Christ crucified for you?** The answer would be yes. **Were you baptized into the name of Jesus?** The answer is yes. So, from this we are to call ourselves after Jesus Christ. This is not a hard test; but, one we need to be honest about.. These questions will help us to determine what person we need to follow, in life.

There are those who follow, Henry VIII, John Calvin, John Smyth, John Wesley, William Miller, Joseph Smith, Mary Baker Eddy, Charles T. Russell – this is to name only a few men who started religious groups that the questions proposed by Paul should be asked. **This would eliminate all ideas of calling yourselves after the names of men.**

Paul purposed the idea in I Cor. 1: **“Is Christ divided?”** v. 13. Look at the denominational world and yourself, **“Is Christ divided?”** In the realm of religion there is no greater division than the division of denominationalism. Each religion has its own founder and each religion has its own creed and the founder and creed differs from all others – this is **THE GREAT DIVIDE!** Jesus described this well when he stated in Matt. 15:7-9: *“7 Ye hypocrites, well did Isaiah prophesy of you, saying, 8 This people honoreth me with their lips: but their heart is far from me. 9 But in vain do they worship me, teaching as their doctrines the precepts of men .”*

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