

SERIES: 'NEVER HEARD THAT'- -8/11/24 (#3) PASTOR ROB

1 Cor 1: 10-17- - 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 Cloe's people that there is quarreling among you, my brothers. (12) What I mean is that each one of you says , "I will follow Paul," or "I will 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 can 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.

- Pastor Rob: "My daughter got married last week....fantastic....memorable...."....a lifelong event involving much prep and thought....emotional. Weddings are a celebration of love but also represent such a serious moment of commitment.
- Analogous to mysterious illustration of the presence of Christ (Bridegroom) in the Church (eg. Ephesians 5:21-33).
- Baptisms today!....have so much in common with marriage. They are memorable...a celebration... a time of COMMITMENT and vows. "IN BOTH BAPTISM AND MARRIAGE, THEY ARE EXPRESSIONS OF YOUR INWARD HEART".
- Jesus gave us Baptisms as a practical opportunity to express our committed faith....in fact, it was one of His commands to us.....if you believe in Jesus, you are to be baptized.
- Remember the classic wedding vows: '.... To have and to hold from this day forward....for better or worse....for richer or poorer...in sickness and in health....forsaking all others...to love and to cherish...until death do us part...'
- No: you don't need a wedding ring to be married.....and you don't need baptism to be saved. **YOU DON'T NEED TO BE BAPTIZED TO BE SAVED, BUT SAVED PEOPLE GET BAPTIZED!**
- Other baptism/marriage analogies: 1. When you marry, you enter a new family...when you get baptized, you enter 'the Christian family'. 2. In each there is a commitment; 3. There is a celebration of love.....in Baptism, that centers on celebrating Jesus' love.

- In V-10, Paul is saying.....hey, we are a family (followers of Christ)...let's be united! This is reflective of "the Law of Unity" which the whole Bible embraces. God holds great value in us being united as a Church. (Ex: in the Garden of Gethsemane....Christ's final prayer was that we be united.....our Christian unity is reflective of Jesus' relationship with the Father and the Spirit in the eternal Holy Trinity.
- Paul emphasizes, in V-11) he illustrates how fragile unity is.....here he humbly/delicately/ sensitively recognizes other Christian leaders while maintaining the singular focus (of all of them) on Christ.....its not about anyone else (or, in modern times..on any denomination)... Paul: "I FOLLOW CHRIST".

- For those being baptized and entering the 'Body of Christ'....a warning: it's not going to be easy....and don't let 'other Christians' mess it up. Recognize that we are all sinners....all fragile and pursuing, with more or less Spirit at a given point....Christ.
- Using the marriage analogy....of course....post honeymoon, there will be challenges, reasons for disunity/disagreement, etc.....similarly, every baptized Christian will face 'ups and downs'.
- Baptism, like marriage, represents a profound commitment of unity.....and the initiation into the global 'Body of Christ'.
- While unity is, indeed, fragile, it is also very powerful.

1 Cor 12: 12-13- -For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. (13) For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body- -Jews or Greeks, slaves or free- -and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

- Whats our version of Jew and Greeks today...or slaves and free? What must we put aside in coming together a the singular body of Christ? How do we withstand the forces that want to divide us?
- There are forces that want to divide us!.....so let's take our baptismal commitment to Christ seriously.
- Back to Ch 1, V-14....sounds counter intuitive for Paul to be thanking God that he didn't baptize any of them.....he knew that even baptism could divide. (There are Christian sects that, doctrinally, believe that baptism is a requirement toward salvation.) In stating this, he was reinforcing the notion that you don't need Baptism to be saved (or he wouldn't hesitate to be the baptizer).
- On the issue of babies getting baptized: some churches do it, likening it to circumcision and also pointing to all of Stephanas' household being baptized; BUT.....we have NO examples of babies getting baptized in Scripture. Note: infant ('paedo') baptism didn't emerge in Church history until the 3rd Century and was stimulated by a plague whose death toll included babies...this phenomena was fueled much further by the Black Plague of the 14th Century. - -so, was motivated by absolute fear.
- We do not baptise babies.....its purpose is to be AN OUTWARD CONFESSION OF AN INWARD HEART....so it requires some level of maturity (and age) to make this genuine profession of faith.
- Reiterate: one does not need to be baptized to be saved....note the 'Man On The Cross'. Do not encourage baptism out of fear...faith in Jesus saves us; not baptism.
- .. Crispus (a synagogue ruler), Gaius (a community leader) and Stephan's.....all disciples who gave up other primary life roles in life to emerge and commit to Christ as their new life focus
- Question: Is there anything in your own life that you're holding back from Jesus?....something that hinders your commitment to Him?

- Pastor Rob cites Romans 6: 1-4... 'baptized in Christ....into His death...just as He resurrected...we experience newness of life....united with Him. Committed!

BE BAPTIZED- - - -AFFIRM YOUR COMMITMENT

