



## **QA: If I Am Baptised Already, Why Change?** by [John T Polk II](#)

*All Scriptures and comments are based on the **New King James Version**, unless otherwise noted.*

**QUESTION: If I am already a church member and have been baptized, why should I change?**

**ANSWER: Ask yourself, Into what church were you baptized?**

1. **The word "church" simply means "assembly."** In Scripture, it was used of the assembly of silversmiths "who made silver shrines of...the great goddess Diana" (**Acts 19:24, 27, 32, 41**). Jesus Christ promised to build His "church" (**Matthew 16:18**), and after His resurrection, daily added the saved to it beginning on the day of Pentecost (**Acts 2:38, 40-41, 47**). He, later, named the disciples in His church "Christians" (**Acts 11:26**). It is not important to be "a member of a church," but crucial to be in His church. Every "assembly," or "church" is not related to Jesus Christ, but the "churches of Christ" (**Romans 16:16**) are! Since "Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body" (**Ephesians 5:23**), then the church of Christ is only made of souls who have been saved by His Gospel! Naming everything or everybody "Christian" profanes that name, for God used it only of those in the church of Christ. Are you in "a church," or the "church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven" (**Hebrews 12:23**)?
2. **The first time the Gospel of Christ was preached in its entirety was the day of Pentecost after Jesus' resurrection and ascension back into Heaven.** Then people were told to,

"Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."  
(**Acts 2:38**)

When Philip joined the eunuch's chariot and "preached Jesus to him" (**Acts 8:35**), the eunuch said, "See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?" (**Acts 8:36**) The Holy Spirit taught the meaning of baptism through the Apostle Paul:

Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.  
(**Romans 6:3-4**)

That's why, when Paul "came to Ephesus" and found "some disciples" who had been taught "only the baptism of John" [the Baptist, (**Acts 18:25**) jtpII], his question was, "Into what then were you baptized?" (**Acts 19:3**) Only the baptism "in the

name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins" puts one into Christ, where "redemption through His blood" (**Ephesians 1:7**) can be administered. Someone who claims salvation before being baptized, or is baptized for any other reason than to be saved, or has not been buried in the act of baptism, is still in need of salvation through Jesus Christ. When Paul corrected those Ephesians who had been baptized with misunderstanding, "they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus" (**Acts 19:5**). And so should all today who have mistakenly been baptized! Into what were you baptized?

— *jtp11, February 11, 2024*