

One Baptism into One Body

The apostle Paul makes an important statement about the significance of baptism in 1 Cor. 12:13: "For in one Spirit were we all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks." This scripture speaks about the church and its unity.

Christ promised that the Holy Spirit would work through the apostles and prophets and the word he spoke and wrote: "When he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he shall guide you into all the truth: for he shall not speak from himself; but what things soever he shall hear, *these* shall he speak: and he shall declare unto you the things that are to come (John 16:13)." The Holy Spirit acts through the word of God, which Paul calls the sword of the Spirit (Eph. 6:17). The word of God instructs the lost to be baptized in water for the remission of sins (1 Pet. 3:21; Acts 22:16; Acts 2:38). It is according to the Spirit's word that we are baptized into one body.

The 1 Cor 12:13, the preposition *in* (translated *by* in the KJV) expresses agency and instrumentality: "*en* a primary preposition denoting position (in place, time or state), and (by implication) instrumentality (Strong)." It is by the evidence and teaching, provided by the Holy Spirit, through the apostles and prophets, that people are to believe (Mk. 16:15), repent (Lk. 13:3), confess faith in Christ (Rom. 10:10), and be baptized for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38).

Baptized, in 1 Cor.12:13, does not refer to Holy Spirit baptism. For according to Paul in Eph. 4:5, there is only one baptism. Paul was practicing and teaching baptism in water when he wrote both Ephesians and 1 Corinthians. Holy Spirit baptism, recorded only in Acts 2 and Acts 10, went to the apostles on the Day of Pentecost and to the house of Cornelius. Holy Spirit baptism had ceased when he wrote that there is one baptism.

The baptism of 1 Cor. 12:13 applies to everyone. Paul said, "Were we all baptized. . . "He did not say that some by one spirit are baptized into one body; he said that we all were. Those of today, who claim Holy Spirit baptism, do not believe everyone receives it. The baptism, by water, in the one spirit, of 1 Cor. 12:13, puts one into the one body, the church. It also puts one into Christ (Gal. 3:27) and the death of Christ (Rom. 6:3:6), where the blood of Christ cleanses all sin.

Fellow traveler to eternity, have you obeyed the teaching of the Holy Spirit which instructs all to be baptized unto the remission of sins and into the one body, the true church of the Lord?