



QA: Aren't All Believers Christians? by [John T Polk II](#)

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

QUESTION: Why do you feel people who believe in Jesus, and have already been saved, are not Christians?

ANSWER: What I *feel* has nothing whatever to do with what I preach and teach. And no one has been saved by their own understanding, but without doing what Jesus commands!

A. ***Feelings do not establish doctrine.*** Jesus said:

"In vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men." (**Mark 7:7**)

Later, Paul taught:

For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus' sake. (**2 Corinthians 4:5**)

So the commandment is:

Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. (**2 Timothy 4:2-4**)

There is a clear distinction drawn between "the word" of God and what people desire to hear taught to them. What we *feel* we would like to hear is changeable, selfish, and ungodly. Without *sound doctrine*, we would be "tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting" (**Ephesians 4:14**). No one in the churches of Christ determines "the word" to be preached.

B. Paul told the Ephesian Elders:

"Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all men. For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God." (**Acts 20:26-27**)

The “whole counsel of God” included Paul baptizing men who had already been baptized! The Ephesian church began with 12 men who had been baptized in John’s baptism, which no longer had any merit whatsoever. As Paul explained,

“John indeed baptized with a baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe on Him who would come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.” When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. (**Acts 19:4-5**)

Paul wrote to that church:

There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all. (**Ephesians 4:4-6**)

Any “baptism” does not save, but only the one Jesus has authorized.

C. People believed in Jesus before He died, but they were not “Christians:”

Now when He was in Jerusalem at the Passover, during the feast, many believed in His name when they saw the signs which He did. But Jesus did not commit Himself to them. (**John 2:23-24**)

After His resurrection, the Gospel Jesus sent to “every creature” says:

“He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.” (**Mark 16:16**)

These are disciples God “first called Christians in Antioch” (**Acts 11:26**).

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