



QA: Why Aren't Churches of Christ More Distinct? by [John T Polk II](#)

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

QUESTION: Why aren't churches of Christ more distinct?

ANSWER: Because some have "watered-down" their faith. Water seeks the lowest level, hence,

All the rivers run into the sea, Yet the sea is not full; To the place from which the rivers come, There they return again. (**Ecclesiastes 1:7**)

Water runs down to the lowest level it can find. **People are the same**, "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (**Romans 3:23**). Always, before the Flood (**Genesis 6:5**), Israelites in the Wilderness (**Hebrews 3:16**), and after centuries in their Promised Land (**2 Chronicles 36:16**), people's morals deteriorate without God. The trend and tendency is always down from the truth. The Galatian church of Christ demonstrated this bad trait. Hence, **Paul warned of critical points of faith to be aware of:**

1. **The Gospel - Galatians 1:6-9.** Paul was surprised at the speed ("so soon") with which some wanted to leave the Gospel of Christ to a "different gospel," a perverted one that saves no one! Jesus said: "He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned" (**Mark 16:16**). No perversion of this statement has ever, or can ever, save anyone:
 - a. "He is saved without believing;"
 - b. "He is saved by faith without being baptized;"
 - c. "He is saved by baptism only."NO MESSENGER OF CHANGE IS FROM GOD!
2. **The Bible - Galatians 3:1-5.** Having been given a clear portrayal of Jesus Christ and His crucifixion (and resurrection!), only those who had become "foolish," "bewitched," and would "not obey the truth" would abandon the New Testament teaching for the "works of the law" (of Moses)! The clear choice is were they saved from their sins by Moses or Jesus Christ? Didn't the miraculous works of the Holy Spirit prove God's endorsement of the New Testament Gospel and now inactive Law of Moses? No teacher of Moses did miracles in the First Century!
3. **Holy Days - Galatians 4:8-11.** There is a difference between "Holy Days" and "holidays." "Holidays" do not always have religious significance. Civic holidays (Memorial, Independence, Labor, etc.) or Personal holidays (Birthday, Anniversary, Graduation, etc.) are not held sacred nor endorsed with Scripture. According to Scriptures, there are no longer the "Holy Days" as in the Old Testament ("days, months, seasons, and years"), but there are authorized sacred acts established for the First Day of the Week (Lord's Supper, **Acts 20:7**; Giving,

1 Corinthians 16:1-2); and anytime Christians can gather for prayer (**1 Timothy 2:8**), singing (**Ephesians 5:18-21**), and preaching (**Acts 5:42**). New Testament Christians do not keep a religious calendar, such as Christmas, Lent, Easter, etc.

4. **Hindrances - Galatians 5:7-10**. God's Providence never stopped obedience to His Word (**2 Corinthians 9:8**; **James 1:13-16**). God will condemn whomever says or does anything that hinders a Christian's obedience.
5. **Harvest Is Coming - Galatians 6:6-10**. Judgment will be on the basis of what we have sown, and what we have sown is entirely based upon what we have believed and had the opportunity to do.

THAT'S WHY WE MUST ALWAYS RETURN TO OUR BASELINE OF BELIEF IN JESUS CHRIST:

But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.
(**Galatians 6:14**)

No one outgrows or receives a revelation from God that will "not abide in the doctrine of Christ" (**2 John 9**). If we are bored, go back to the Cross and reconsider God's Love for us and our love for Him. Maybe we have forgotten the purpose of the Lord's Supper: once a week, as we remember His death, we should:

Let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. (**1 Corinthians 11:28**)

This is areminder of how much we should please Him, not ourselves!

— jtpll, February 20, 2022