

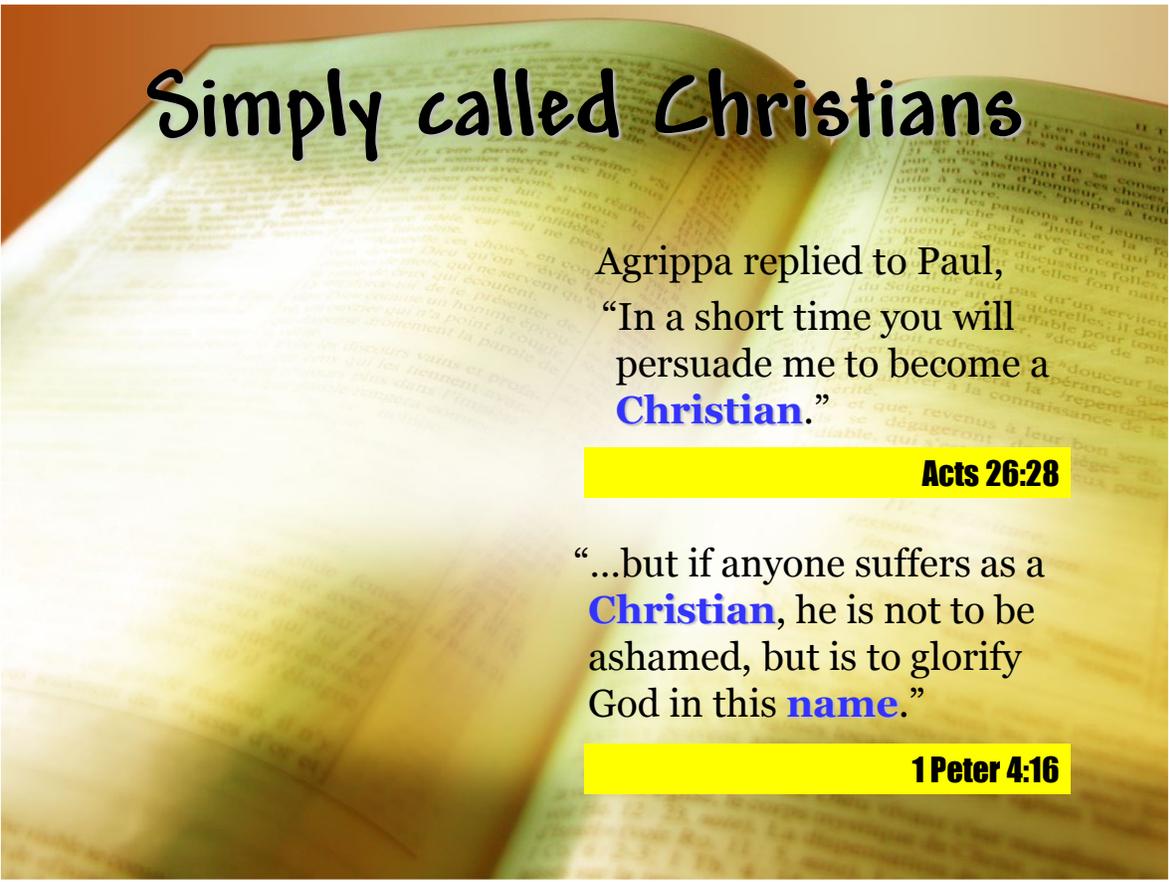
“And for an entire year
they met with the church and
taught considerable numbers;
and the disciples were
first called **Christians**
in Antioch.”

Acts 11:26

Christians only.

What name did Christians use?

- The '**congregation**' of those who believed (Acts 4:32)
- 'the **church**' (Acts 5:11)
- '**Believers**' in the Lord (Acts 5:14)
- The '**disciples**' were increasing in number (Acts 6:1, 7)
- '**Brethren**' (Acts 6:3)
- 'Disciples of the **Lord**' (Acts 9:1)
- 'belonging to the **Way**' (Acts 9:2)
- 'Thy **saints**' (Acts 9:13)



Simply called Christians

Agrippa replied to Paul,
“In a short time you will
persuade me to become a
Christian.”

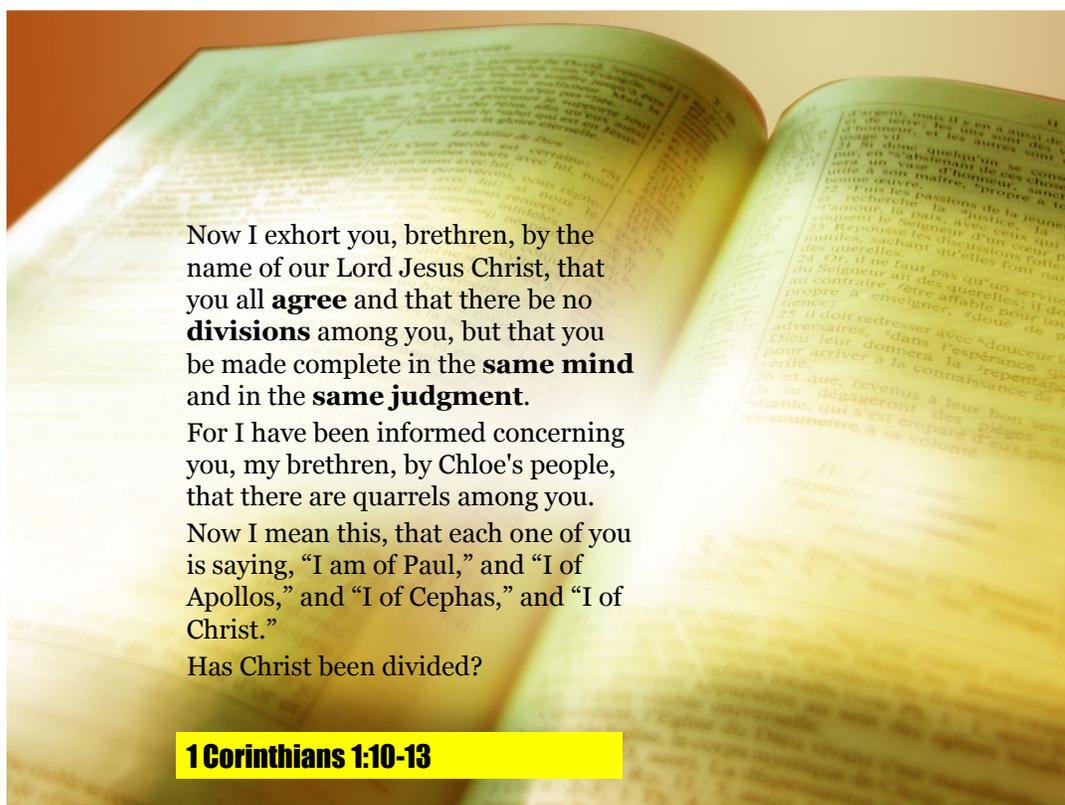
Acts 26:28

“...but if anyone suffers as a
Christian, he is not to be
ashamed, but is to glorify
God in this **name.**”

1 Peter 4:16

Wearing His Name Only

<u>Designation</u>	<u>Frequency</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Church	53
<input type="checkbox"/> Churches	23
<input type="checkbox"/> Church of God	8
<input type="checkbox"/> Churches of God	3
<input type="checkbox"/> Church of the Living God	1
<input type="checkbox"/> Church of Christ	0
<input type="checkbox"/> Churches of Christ	1
<input type="checkbox"/> Church of the firstborn	1
<input type="checkbox"/> Church of _____ (location)	10
<input type="checkbox"/> Churches of _____ (location)	5





“I ask that men make no reference to my name, and **call themselves not Lutherans, but Christians.** What is Luther? My doctrine, I am sure, is not mine, nor have I been crucified for any one. St. Paul, in I Cor. iii, would not allow Christians to call themselves Pauline or Petrine, but Christian. How then should I, poor, foul carcass that I am, come to have men give to the children of Christ a name derived from my worthless name? No, no, my dear friends; let us abolish all party names, and call ourselves Christians after Him Whose doctrine we have.”

(Hugh Thomson Kerr, *A Compend of Luther's Theology* [Philadelphia: The Westminster Press, 1943], p. 135. Also cited by Lewis W. Spitz, Ph. D., *Our Church and Others*, [Saint Louis, MO: Concordia Publishing House, 1969], pp. 23-24.)

Martin Luther



“Would to God that all **party names**, and unscriptural phrases and forms which have divided the **Christian** world, were forgot and that the very name [Methodist] might never be mentioned more, but be buried in eternal oblivion.

John Wesley, *Universal Knowledge, A Dictionary and Encyclopedia of Arts, Science, History, Biography, Law, Literature, Religions, Nations, Races, Customs, and Institutions, Vol. 9*, Edward A. Pace, Editor [New York: Universal Knowledge Foundation, 1927], p. 540.

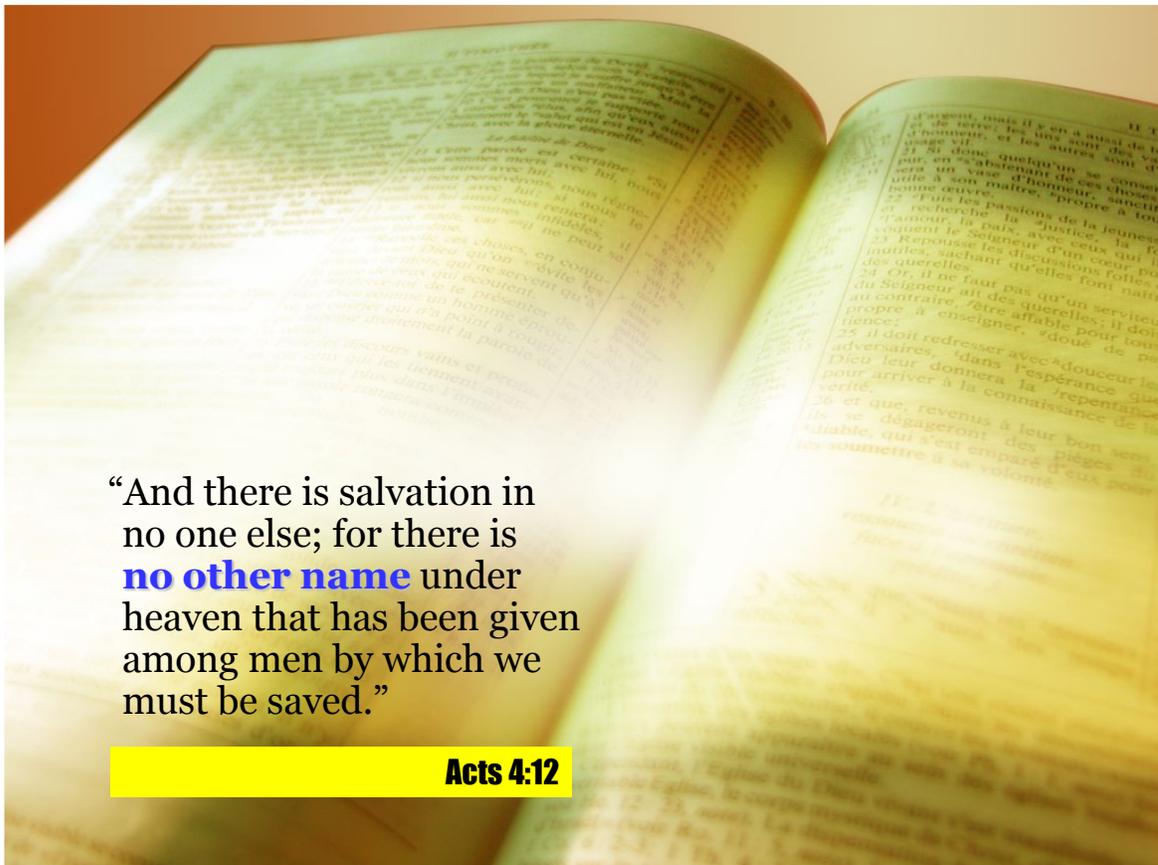
John Wesley



“I look forward with pleasure to the day when there will not be a **Baptist** living! I hope that the **Baptist** name will soon perish, but let **Christ's name** last forever.”

(*Spurgeon Memorial Library, Vol. I, n.d., p. 168.*)

Charles Spurgeon



“And there is salvation in no one else; for there is **no other name** under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved.”

Acts 4:12

The Beginning of denominations

de·nom·i·na·tion

n.

1: a group of religious congregations having its own organization and a distinctive faith

2: identifying word or words by which someone or something is called and classified or distinguished from others

Denomination	Year Established
Lutheran (Martin Luther)	1517
Episcopal (King Henry VIII)	1534
Presbyterian (Calvin)	1560
Baptist (John Smythe)	1609
Methodist (John Wesley)	1744
Mormon (Joseph Smith)	1830
7 th Day Adventist	1840' s
Christian Scientist	1879
Jehovah's Witness	1884
Pentecostal	1900
Assembly of God	1914
Non-Denominational	Recently - Ask the Preacher

Figures Today

- With an estimated number of adherents that ranges between 1.5 billion and 2.1 billion, Christianity has split into around **34,000 separate denominations**.

Simply Christians

There is **one** body
and **one** Spirit,
just as also you were called in **one**
hope of your calling;
one Lord,
one faith,
one baptism,
one God and Father of all who is over
all and through all and in all.

Ephesians 4:4-6

Christ's Prayer for Unity

“I do not ask on behalf of these alone,
but for those also who believe in Me
through their word; **21** that they may
all **be one**; even as You, Father, are in
Me and I in You, that they also may be
in Us, so that the world may **believe**
that You sent Me.

22 "The glory which You have given Me
I have given to them, that they may **be**
one, just as We are one; **23** I in them
and You in Me, that they may be
perfected in unity, so that the world
may know that You sent Me, and loved
them, even as You have loved Me.”

John 17:20-23

