

The Chiasm of 1 Corinthians 1:10-17

A chiasm is a literary structure where vocabulary of the first section of a passage is repeated in reverse order in the second. The center of the chiasm is typically the climax of the passage. In 1 Corinthians 1:10-17 the center and climax is "I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, so that no one would say you were baptized in my name" (1 Cor 1:14-15).

A **Now** (Greek: de) I exhort you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus **Christ**, that you all **agree** (Greek: legō to auto) and that there be no divisions **among** (Greek: en) you, but that you be made complete **in** (Greek: en) the same mind and **in** (Greek: en) the same judgment. For I have been informed concerning you, my brethren, by Chloe's people, that there are quarrels **among** (Greek: en) you. **Now** (Greek: de) I mean this, that each one of you **is saying** (Greek: legō), "I am of Paul," **and** (Greek: de) "I of Apollos," **and** (Greek: de) "I of Cephas," **and** (Greek: de) "I of **Christ**." Has **Christ** been divided? Paul was not crucified for you, was he? Or **were you baptized** in the name of Paul? (1:10-13)

B I thank God that **I baptized** none of you except Crispus and Gaius, (1:14)

B' so that no one would say **you were baptized** in my name. (1:15)

A' **Now** (Greek: de) **I did baptize** also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether **I baptized** any other. For **Christ** did not send me **to baptize**, but to preach the gospel, not **in** (Greek: en) cleverness **of speech** (Greek: logos), **so that** the cross **of Christ** would not be made void. (1:16-17)