

**Sermon Series Begins: *Why Do We Do That?***

6/9/24 "Baptize," Romans 6:1-14, NLT

**INTRODUCTION:** Does believing something affect how we live?

**EX:** believe someone borrowed something but then you find it

**John's; Jesus'** example for us to follow; Matthew 28:19 (*Great Commission*)

**Mark 16:16, NLT:** Anyone who believes and is baptized will be saved. But anyone who refuses to believe will be condemned.

1<sup>st</sup> century: Salvation/water baptism closely linked...saved/baptized

Act of obedience that is a public statement of faith in Christ; outward act reflecting an inner change

Why is water baptism so important?

**MAIN IDEA: Water baptism helps us have victory over sin.** How so? Here are three things that water baptism does for us.

**I. First, baptism joins us in Christ's death (3-4a, 6-7)**

- A. in baptism, we die & are buried with Him (4a)
  - 1. we are united with Him in His death (5a)
  - 2. we "experience" what He did for us
- B. our sinful nature was crucified with Christ (6a-7)
  - 1. we are set free from power of sin (7)
  - 2. we are no longer slaves to sin
    - slaves are freed from their masters at death
    - shackles no longer hold the dead

**ILLUSTRATION:** credit card # stolen, card canceled (bank does the work; we don't); why do I believe it has happened? See docs

**II. Second, baptism joins us in Christ's resurrection (4b-5b, 8)**

- A. we are raised from the dead with Him (4b)
  - 1. by God's glorious power
  - 2. so we may live new lives free of sin (4b, 6)
- B. we *will be* raised to life as He was (our resurrection, 5)
  - 1. now with spirits alive to God, but still having flesh
  - 2. future: new bodies, without sin nature

**ILLUSTRATION:** from chained to sin nature, to a wall between us

**III. Third, baptism makes our faith more concrete (9-14)**

**NOTE:** God commands, "consider yourselves to be dead to the power of sin and alive to God through Christ Jesus" (11), so that we can obey the next commands (12-13): "do not let sin control the way you live; do not give in to sinful desires."

**Consider:** to reckon; *imputation*, which has 3 steps: 1. Collecting of all charges & payments [**took our sin upon Himself**], 2. Totaling of all these debits and credits [**God calculates the debt is paid**] 3. Placing the balance or credit on one's own account [**God calls us free; we must believe it & live in that freedom**]

- A. That we are dead to sin, set free from sin
  - 1. God says we are
  - 2. we believe Him & live by that belief
    - Not allowing sin to control us (12a)
    - Not giving in to sinful desires (12b)
    - Not allowing any part of our body to sin (13a)

**EX:** healed of lung cancer...would I continue to smoke? Drunkard no longer drinks. Liar no longer lies.

- B. That we have new life in Christ...alive to God, able to  
*know* Him, serve Him, live for Him

**ILLUSTRATION:** eat for comfort, liver... continue to behave

**CONCLUSION:** Water baptism makes real for us our salvation & freedom from sin. By believing, we are saved, receive the Holy Spirit (at salvation), receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit, live for God. **I believe, so I don't give in to feelings of envy, anger, irritation**

**ALTAR:** Salvation? Repent of sin now? Be water baptized?

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