

Rom. 6:3-11 (LD 26) "Baptism into Death"

For the Children: You can buy certain clay figures that have space inside them in which to plant seeds. When the seeds sprout, they poke through the clay figure and look like green hair on a man's head, or green fur on an animal's body. The shape of the grass depends on the shape of the thing it is growing in or on. When we believe in the Lord Jesus, we are joined to Him. Baptism teaches us that we are one with Him. We start to grow in the shape He wants us. We are affected by what He has done for us – His death and burial and resurrection.

Questions: What effect does Jesus' death have on our sin? How does Jesus' burial help us fight sin? What effects does Jesus' resurrection have on us?

Introduction:

First Point: Baptized into Death

- 1) United with Him in Death: "Baptism into Christ" means "into union with Him." We are connected to His Person and works. This includes us being "baptized into His death" (v. 3); "united with Him in the likeness of His death" (v. 5); and "crucified with Him..." (v. 6). The word "united" literally refers to two things growing together, like intertwined trees. Our "death" is a "likeness" to His; it is not identical.
- 2) The Analogy between His Death and Ours: The Lord Jesus paid the price for our sin, then finished with it. Because He did that, we are legally finished with sin in God's sight. We have died to it – if we are spiritually joined to Christ. This is why the believer cannot keep on sinning in the same old way.

Second Point: Baptized into Burial

- 1) United with Him in burial: Jesus' burial reinforced, confirmed, finalized and intensified the fact of His death. This is another step further in being cut off from the land of the living. Death had to go all the way to the bitter end of its consequences before Christ could be raised. In this way there could be no doubt that He had fully paid every bit of the curse due to our sin.
- 2) How Dead We Are: When we are spiritually baptized into union with Christ, this is how dead we are to sin, in Him – utterly, finally, once-and-for-all. That must be the case before we are raised to new life in Him (v. 4) – first, to walk in newness of life, then to follow Him in resurrection. The finality of the end of sin helps us to realize that we can, with God's help, make a start in resisting sin and living for the Lord.

Third Point: Baptized into Life

- 1) United with Him in Life: We are not simply dead to sin; we are also "alive to God in Christ Jesus" (v. 11). When we are baptized into union with Him, we are united with the One who was raised from the dead, never to die again (v. 9). Death is no longer master over Him. His resurrection life and power has had the final say. Those united with Him are joined to that resurrection life and power. We will be raised from the dead, never to die again.
- 2) Living to God: The resurrected Christ also lives to God (v. 10). Those joined to Him are therefore also alive to God. New, spiritual life comes from the regenerating work of His Spirit, on the ground of Christ's resurrection. In this life we are still hampered by sin, but that will end when we leave this life. But we can begin to resist sin and live for the Lord.

Conclusion: