

## The Book of Romans

### The Gospel of God

Does the gospel of salvation by grace *alone* through faith *alone* undermine morality?

#### Question:

*"What shall we say then? Should we continue in sin that grace might increase?"* (Romans 6:1)

#### Answer:

*"May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it?"* (Romans 6:2)

<sup>3</sup> Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death?

<sup>4</sup> Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

<sup>5</sup> For if we have become united with *Him* in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be *in the likeness* of His resurrection,

<sup>6</sup> knowing this, that our old man was crucified with *Him*, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin;

<sup>7</sup> for he who has died is justified from sin.

(Romans 6:3-7)

Christian, do you know who you are?

Paul's most fundamental designation of Christians is the phrase *"in Christ"*

## Union with Christ

### 1. Baptized into His Death

- every Christian has died to sin because (by definition) every Christian has been united to Christ in His death

## Union with Christ

### ➤ *Why does he use baptism?*

1. Synonym for conversion
  - baptism is always the decisive, outward way of responding to the gospel
  - baptism stands for the whole “conversion-initiation” experience, presupposing faith and the gift of the Spirit

## Union with Christ

### ➤ *Why does he use baptism?*

2. Symbol of union
  - immersion in water in the name of Christ is an apt symbol of union with Christ in His death

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*Our baptism instructs us about our true identity*

## Union with Christ

### 2. Buried with Christ

- we participate with Christ in His own burial and death through baptism-conversion
- burial signifies that our death with Christ to the old age is final and decisive

## Union with Christ

### 3. Walk in Newness of Life

- we died to sin so that we might now live a life characterized and empowered by the realities of the new age (cf. 2 Cor. 5:17)
- walking in newness of life is grounded in the spiritual power of Christ's resurrection

Christian, do you know who you are?