

Turn to John 6 again**1. When we look around at this world, we obviously aren't looking at what God intended for his creation.**

- A. We see a world that is fallen. An environment in rebellion to God under the control of Satan.
 - 1). 2 Cor 4:4 Satan is called the god of this world
- B. Eventually this will be corrected.
 - 1). God is going to bring an end to Satan's government and man's sin
 - 2). Every rebel will be cast into hell and all things brought under the headship of Christ

Thought 1: But until that happens the believer is caught in a sense in-between two worlds

- A. We are to walk in godliness while living in an environment designed by the devil to promote worldliness
- B. We are to live as ambassadors of a heavenly king in a foreign land that is hostile to that king

Thought 2: This would be impossible to do IF God had not done something

- A. God has not sent us to be ambassadors without the backing of heaven
 - 1). We are promised all the resources necessary to fulfill his purposes
2 Cor 9:8 (NIV) And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.
- B. God does not expect us to live out Christlikeness on our own (**our study last week**)
 - 1). He has changed us radically
2 Co 5:17 (ESV) Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.
 - 2). That change includes putting our old man that loved sin and hated God on the cross with Christ
Ro 6:6 (ESV) We know that *our old self was crucified with him* in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, *so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin.*
 - a). That old sin nature was crucified and replaced with a new nature

2 Pet 1:3-4 (NIV) His divine power has given us *everything we need for life and godliness* through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. (4) Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may *participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.*

Point: You are not who you were before salvation

- A. Before you were in Christ you were dominated by a sinful nature
 - 1). That old nature has been put to death and was replaced with a new godly nature
- B. Our nature is what controls everything about us - our will, thinking, desires
 - 1). Our old nature was sin oriented – making us a slave to sin
The new nature is God oriented – it delights in holiness – pleasing God
- C. We must see who we are - when God delivered us out of dominion of darkness by drawing us into salvation
 - 1). He didn't do that by reforming the old us – making us more religious, educated, cultured
 - 2). He didn't set out to improve that old you – why? Because the old you was beyond reclamation
Jn 3:6 (ESV) That which is born of the flesh is flesh...
 - a). You can clean up the flesh – but it will still love sin and be hostile to the things of God
 - 3). Like the illustration – you can bring a pig into the house – clean off the mud – treat it like a dog
 - a). As soon as it gets outside it will roll around in the mud – Why? It has a pig nature
It will still want to roll around in the mud – that's its nature
 - 4). In same way you can clean up old self – but it will still roll around in the muck of this world
Jn 3:6 (ESV) That which is born of the flesh is flesh...
 - a). God's solution – put that nature to death and start again – reboot that life

- b). Make them a child of God “Born again” with a new nature that longs to be holy

What Romans Ro 6:4 says: We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, *in order that, (Here’s the reason)* just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, *we too might walk in newness of life.*

- C. Do you know what this means? The stranglehold of sin is broken – We no longer have to sin

- 1). Now when we sin it is always because we choose to sin

- 2). To sin - we must deny the truth of what God has done in our life

- a). We must choose to walk back into the dark when we’ve been brought into the light

Eph 5:8 (ESV) For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light

- 3). To sin – we must deny who we are now in Christ

- a). To deny God’s word that says we have died to sin

Let’s add another verse: Ro 6:6–7 (ESV) We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁽⁷⁾ *For one who has died has been set free from sin.*

2. Goal of this study – to continue what we started last week – work on our mindset

- A. To drive deep into our thinking the truth that we have truly died to sin

- 1). So that the thought of sinning would seem foolish – like Paul said

Ro 6:1–2 (ESV) What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? ⁽²⁾ By no means! *How can we who died to sin still live in it?*

- B. We will try to establish that mindset by looking at powerful truths of Baptism

- 1). Why were we baptized? What were we declaring to be true of us?

- a). Baptism is a four-fold declaration of powerful truth

We died with Christ – buried with him – risen with him to live a new life

- C. These are foundational truths we must grip to give us the mindset we need to live correctly

- 1). If I can think correctly I will live correctly – think incorrectly my life will reflect that

Ro 12:2 (ESV) Do not be conformed to this world, but *be transformed by the renewal of your mind*, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

- a). Quit thinking like the world! How? Renew your mind with truth – wash out the worldly lies

- b). Understanding truth will lead to a transformed life – lived in victory

Thought: That is what these studies on *who we are in Christ* are meant to do.

- A. To show you what has happened to you – who you are now

- 1). If these things become a part of your thinking - your mind will become an ally in this fight.

- a). But feed your mind the wrong things – or just continue to think in the old ways

Your mind becomes an enemy to right living – it feeds you lies rather than truth

“You’re too weak to stand against sin – to ordinary to live in victory over sin”

- 2). But renew your mind with the truth of who you are in Christ

Your mind becomes an ally assisting you in correct living

Transition: Let’s look at baptism to drive the truth of who we are in Christ deeper into our thinking

I. BURIED WITH CHRIST BY BAPTISM INTO DEATH

1. Last week we saw the truth that we died with Christ on the cross.

Ga 2:20 (ESV) I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

- A. In verse 3-4 Paul uses baptism to teach that same truth

Ro 6:3-4 (ESV) Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were *baptized into his death?* ⁽⁴⁾ We were *buried* therefore with him by *baptism into death*, in order that, just as Christ was *raised* from the dead by the glory of the Father, *we too might walk in newness of life.*

- 1). Four important truths: Buried. Baptism into death. Raised. Walk in newness of life.

Transition: Let's dig in to this and see the truth found in this passage

2. Baptism in Scripture is associated with salvation

Mk 16:16 (ESV) Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved...

Peter's first sermon: Acts 2:38 (NIV) Peter replied, "*Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins...*"

- A. We must be careful here – this is not teaching "Baptismal regeneration"

- 1). The teaching that people are made right with God by baptism
 - a). Even an infant who has no idea of what they are doing will be made right with the Lord
Max Lucado: "Tragically, some people believe they are going to heaven when they die just because a few drops of water were sprinkled over their heads a few weeks after their birth. They have no personal faith, have never made a personal decision, and are banking on a hollow ceremony to save them. How absurd."

- B. We don't believe at GSBC that baptism is necessary for salvation

- 1). There are many instances where believer's might not have an opportunity to be baptized
 - a). Those who come to Christ in prison – death bed conversions – thief on the cross

- C. With that said – we do believe baptism is very important – it was commanded by our Lord

Mat 28:18-19 (NIV) Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. (19) Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, *baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,*

- 1). Plus in Matt. 3 Jesus was baptized – leaving us an example

Summary: While Baptism is not necessary for salvation – we are saved by faith in Christ alone

- A. We understand the faith that saves us is also a faith that follows Christ

- 1). Therefore if you can be baptized you should be baptized as an act of obedience
J. C. Ryle: "We ought to regard the sacrament of baptism with reverence. An ordinance of which the Lord Jesus Himself partook, is not to be lightly esteemed. An ordinance to which the great Head of the Church submitted, ought to be ever honorable in the eyes of professing Christians."

- B. Plus baptism is an important declaration to those who observe it – it testifies of God's saving grace

- 1). As we'll see it is a statement that what Paul said was true of him is also true of us

Ga 6:14 (ESV) ... the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

Transition: Let's look at the declaration you make when you are baptized

3. Peter uses baptism in an interesting way (going to have to think here)

TURN: 1 Pe 3:20-21 (ESV) ...in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought *safely through water.* ⁽²¹⁾ *Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you,* not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, *through the resurrection of Jesus Christ...*

1 Pet 3:21 (NIV) and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also--not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a good conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

- A. Speaking of the time of the flood when Noah and his family were saved

They were "brought safely through water that symbolizes baptism." How?

- 1). They got into the ark and were brought safely out of that corrupt world that was being judged

- B. ESV "The baptism which corresponds to this now saves you"

NIV "This water symbolizes baptism that now saves you"

- 1). Again. It is not the baptism that saves you – not "baptismal regeneration"
 - a). The water didn't save them – it was the means of judgment

- 2). It was the ark that saved them – that was a symbol of Christ
 - a). As they were "In the ark" they were safe = protected from the flood waters of judgment
 - b). As the ark was the shelter from the storm – Christ is our shelter from God's wrath
 - 1a). God's wrath will be poured out on this sinful world
But for those "In Christ" it hits him instead of us

Question: But how does this water symbolize baptism? There are many opinions on this

After much study – here is what I believe. *It is a picture of the statement baptism makes*

- A. When we are baptized we are declaring that we have come out of the corruption of the world
 - 1). Just like Noah and his family did through that water in the ark
- B. It is also a statement that "In Christ" we have risen to a new kind of life
 - 1). Just as Noah and his family died to their previous world when they entered the ark
And experienced a resurrection of sorts when they exited the ark to a new post-flood world
 - 2). The Christian has died to the old when they enter "into Christ" and his death
They rise out of that water to a newness of life - declaring they are raised with him

1 Pe 3:21 (ESV) Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, *through the resurrection of Jesus Christ...*

- C. "The pledge of a good conscience"
 - 1). Again: speaking of who we are "In Christ" = our conscience has been cleansed
 - a). Because he has paid for our sins – the record is blotted out – God has nothing against us

Point: So this water that carried Noah and his family away from judgment is likened to baptism

- A. The power of baptism is not the water – It is the truth baptism is linked to
 - 1). In that water - we are telling the watching world that has happened to us in Christ
 - a). We have been rescued from judgment – we have died to the old – risen to live the new

Transition: Let's look at the symbolism of baptism and the work of Christ a bit deeper – want to drive it down

- A. Is baptism just a fun little ritual – chance to go to the beach
 - 1). Or is it a powerful declaration of who we are because of what Christ has done
 - 2). I'm afraid to many of us were never told these truths when we were baptized – I wasn't

II. THE SYMBOLISM OF BAPTISM

Intro: We've hinted at this – but let's look at the picture baptism portrays in a more detailed way

1. What are we declaring when we go down into the water?

- A. It is a statement saying to all watching that our old self has died with Christ – united to his death
 - 1). Therefore because we have died with Christ we are burying that old life
 - a). We are leaving it behind – never to be resurrected again

2. What are we declaring when we come back out of the water

- A. That is a picture of being united to Christ's resurrection
 - 1). You are declaring to all – not only have you left that old life behind
You are determined now to live your life for God – to live that new risen life

Point: So baptism is much more than a person getting wet – much more than a religious ritual

- A. It is an *external* ceremony declaring to those witnessing that something *internal* has taken place
 - 1). There has been a death and a resurrection in your life
 - a). You have died with Christ to that old life – you have risen with Christ to a new life

Transition: A couple misc. thoughts about baptism before we move on

3. This is why baptism is taken so seriously in pagan countries

- A. You can confess an interest in Christ and maybe get away with it – maybe just a fad etc.
 - 1). But be baptized and families will ostracize you – hold a funeral – you are dead to them
 - 2). Why? Because baptism is a powerful declaration you are finished with that old life
 - a). You are no longer a Muslim, a Buddhist, following Judaism – You are a follower of Christ
 - b). It is a renouncing of the old – and a commitment to the new – for life! With finality

4. There is a communal aspect to baptism

- A. The individual being baptized is making a public statement to witnesses – to the family
“I am declaring to all of you, my allegiance to Christ. I am going under the water to symbolize leaving the old life behind. I am coming up out of the water to indicate that I will now live my life for God.”
- B. As a family we are all brought into this – all witnesses of that declaration
 - 1). Therefore we are all deputized in a sense to help that person live that commitment out
 - 2). If we see them starting to stray, we are to go and help – get involved
 - 3). That commitment is a family issue – not just an individual trying to make it on their own

Transition: Let’s continue on – looking deeper at what baptism declares about who we are in Christ

- A. Just driving that Biblical mindset deeper

Baptism and burial

Ro 6:3–4 (ESV) Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁽⁴⁾ *We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death...*

1. When did that that death take place – must be careful here

- A. Must be accurate in our interpretations. Get this wrong, we turn baptism into something it isn’t
 - 1). We will think baptism is the means of death. Is that true? No!
 - a). We were crucified with Christ on the cross at the point of salvation

Ro 6:6–7 (ESV) We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁽⁷⁾ For one who has died has been set free from sin.

Point: This was God’s solution to the problem of the old me – not education but eradication

- A. He put that old self that loved sin on the cross and put it to death
- B. Therefore when we are baptized were not asking God to do anything to that old us
 - 1). We are simply asking that he preside over the burial of our old self

Transition: That brings up a good question – forcing us to think about who we are

2. Who can qualify for a burial? Only the dead!

- A. So have you been baptized? Why? Because that old man died and was fit only for the grave
 - 1). You are not burying the old man to kill it – you are not trying to kill it through drowning
- B. Your Baptism was a statement of faith that you believed in a fact. What fact?
 - 1). That God had done a crucifying work in your life – that you died with Christ
 - 2). Therefore you were declaring that you were making a conscious break with those old ways

Transition: Let’s look a little deeper at that declaration - what you were really saying

3. Buried into a death like his

Ro 6:3–5 (ESV) Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁽⁴⁾ We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. ⁽⁵⁾ For if we have been united with him in a *death like his...*

- A. What was his death like? Paul tells us a few verses later

Ro 6:10 (ESV) For the death he died *he died to sin, once for all*, but the life he lives he lives to God.

- 1). He died to sin once and for all. What does that mean?

- a). He died to sin's claims, to sin's wages, sins demands and penalty
 - b). He finished the work so perfectly it never had to happen again.
- B. But what does this mean to us? Look at what Paul says in v. 11
Ro 6:11 (ESV) So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.
Better: Rom 6:11 (NIV) *In the same way*, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.
- Question:** How does this work itself out in the context of baptism? It's all in Romans 6
- A. Because you have died to sin (v. 2). There was a burial You put that old man under the water. (v. 4).
 - B. Now make sure that was done with a determination not to pull him back up again. (v. 11)
 - 1). Die in the same way Christ died to sin - once and for all. (v. 10)
 - 2). In other words, live like who you are and who you proclaimed to be in your baptism.
 - a). Don't keep pulling that corpse up from the water
Trying to find satisfaction in doing those old things again.
 - b). That old man has died. There is no lasting satisfaction there. Think!
- Point:** In your baptism you made a declaration – you had died the old ways and are now committed to Christ
Max Lucado: "Indeed, baptism is a vow, a sacred vow of the believer to follow Christ. Just as a wedding celebrates the fusion of two hearts, baptism celebrates the union of sinner with Savior."
- A. A funeral took place. A burial happened – that put an end to the old life
 - 1). We've all been to burials – one thing we don't expect is to see that person doing the old things
 - a). There is a finality about a burial - an end to that old life – a beginning of the new
- Transition:** So we have died but that is only one part of our union with Christ
- A. God didn't leave a void when it comes to life- he replaced it with something new

III. RESURRECTED WITH CHRIST TO A NEW LIFE

Ro 6:5 (ESV) For if we have been united with him in a death like his, *we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.*

1. If I am united with him in his death I will be united with him in his resurrection.

- A. How do I know I've been united with him in his death?
 - 1). I see the evidence. I'm not who I used to be. My goals, my desires have changed.
 - 2). What delights me has changed. I cringe at those things that entertained me before.
 - a). Why? The old man that loved that stuff is dead.
- B. Who am I now? I'm in Christ, united to his resurrection! Therefore I delight in new things

Question: How do I enjoy that new life? Two things – Positional and practical

2. Positional: I must see myself as who I am in Christ I am united to him therefore I have risen with him – this is a fact

Eph 2:6 (NIV) And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus,

- A. I am grafted into Christ – fused to him – where he goes I go
 - 1). If I put a dollar bill into my wallet – wherever that wallet goes – that bill goes
God has put me into Christ – wherever he goes I go = I have risen with him
- B. Therefore - I must not see myself as that old me! Weak and victimized by sin
 - 1). I've risen with Christ to a newness of life – and I have all I need to live that life
 - 2). Therefore I stop dragging the old man up from the grave – that life has died!

Transition: I see who I am? And determine to live accordingly – I have risen with Christ

- A. Then there is the practical in receiving that risen life to live it out – receiving the power

3. Practical: How I enjoy the new life - I must stay connected to the vine

Jesus said: Jn 15:5 (ESV) I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

- A. The believer is grafted into the vine and we receive from Christ everything necessary to live the risen life
 - 1). Here is the power to live out the truth of who I am
 - 2). The natural result of connection is fruit or living the risen life = the Christlike life

Ga 5:22–23 (ESV) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ⁽²³⁾ gentleness, self-control...

- B. That is the character of Christ growing in us. That is living out that risen life
 - 1). This is what we called the exchanged life at the beginning of this series
 - a). Our anger is exchanged for his love, our sorrow for his joy, our anxiety for his peace, our impatience for his patience
 - 2). This is simply the by-product of a healthy spiritual life lived closely to him
 - c). What John calls abiding = surrendered and dependent upon the Spirit’s enabling power

Thought: This is why that declaration at baptism that we’ve died to that old life of sin is so important

- A. Because sin breaks that fellowship with Christ - the flow of those life-giving nutrients stop
 - 1). We start to wither – even though we’ve risen with Christ – we aren’t living that out
 - 2). We lose our joy and peace – we experience the works of the flesh instead
- B. The remedy is to think – to return to living according to the truth – acting like who we are
 - 1). Confessing the sin – repenting of it – and returning to the truth
 - 2). Living like who you declared you were when you were baptized – dead and risen - Mindset

CONCLUSION

1. Who are you in Christ – somebody who has been made radically new

- A. Dead to sin and alive to Him – buried and risen
- B. That is what you declared to be when you were baptized
 - 1). Now through the power of God begin to live that out