



# EKKLESIA

*Swartz FBC Leader Discussion Guide*



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**SCRIPTURE:** Romans 6:1-4

**SERIES:** Ekklesia

**TITLE:** The Church and Baptism

**BIG IDEA:** Paul shows that believers in Christ are physically and spiritually emerged into the death of Christ and resurrected to life with Christ. Baptism is an invisible reality becoming visible.

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## **SUMMARY**

Baptism is something we are familiar with, but do we think about it as more than a symbol? Baptism is like a wedding ceremony. A wedding is a celebration and a moment, but the ceremony is only representative of the people's marriage and love for one another. It is a visible celebration of an invisible reality. A resume for a job cannot contain all the experience and nuance about an employee. It is a visible representation of an invisible reality. Baptism is truly about what is underneath the water as it were. Believers are emerged into Christ. In other words, they are united with Christ so much that they are removed from their old life and reborn to their new life in Him. We are dead to sin and alive in Christ. The sin is buried. The old life is buried. The new life in Christ is where we make our home.

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## **TEXT**

What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? <sup>2</sup>By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? <sup>3</sup>Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? <sup>4</sup>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.

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## **Head / Heart / Hands**

- What does this text teach me?
  
- What does it tell me to feel?
  
- What does it tell me to do?

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## **1. BAPTISM IS NOT COSMETIC, IT IS CRUCIFORM.**

### **Cruciform: In the shape of the cross**

- What comes to mind when you think of baptism?
  - o How does this text give more dimension to our understanding of baptism?
  
- What does it mean to live a “cruciform lifestyle?”
  - o What are some practical ways this would manifest in a person’s life?
  
- What are some things we can be totally immersed in other than a cruciform lifestyle?
  - o Give some examples.
  
- How do we go about evaluating what we are doing and making our lifestyle obedient to Christ?

*Application Question: What are you immersed in?*

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## **2. BAPTISM MEANS THE PAST IS BURIED.**

- Why is it easy to become hindered by past mistakes?
- How does our past affect our present?
- What does it mean that we were buried with Christ in baptism?
- What does it mean that our past is buried with our old self?
- Why is this such good news?
- How does this help us live a cruciform lifestyle?

*Application Question: Are you living like your past is buried?*

<sup>4</sup>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.

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### **3. BAPTISM IS DEATH AND LIFE.**

- The Gospel completely turns death upside down. Christ's death means we can live. How does burial with Christ in baptism lead to us walking in newness of life?
- Why does burial of the old self precede the new life?
- What does it look like in practical terms for us to die to the old self and live with reference to the new life in Christ? (Be careful not to lean into moralism/legalism here.)
- What is the significance of this text being written in first person plural? (We, us, etc.)

*Application Question: How has the death of Christ given you new life?*