

# TALKING POINTS PRIORITIES - BAPTISM

## LEANING IN

To understand the true meaning of Baptism (or even the Christian life), you must understand Romans chapter 6.

In the book of Romans, Paul declares two life changing truths - one, what our relationship as believers is to sin and two, what our relationship is to Christ.

Regarding our relationship to sin, Romans 6 says as believers in Jesus, we have "died" to sin - but what does it mean to say this? It *doesn't* mean we can't commit acts of sin (we do every day). It *does* mean our *relationship* with sin has fundamentally changed - we've died to the *guilt* of sin. We're no longer prisoners of sin with no hope - that relationship *ended* when we put our trust in Jesus. Sin is the intruder now, not the master in our lives.

Regarding our relationship to Christ, we are inseparably united to Him. There are three critical truths we must accept and understand in this relationship - we are accepted by God, we are secure in our relationship with Him, and we are significant to Jesus.

Because of Jesus, we now have the power *NOT* to sin! Jesus has won the victory over sin *for* us, and our new identity is no longer based on *our* behavior, it's based on the behavior of *Jesus*. Sin becomes painful for us because of the new nature we've received from Christ. Our "old" self is *crucified* to sin and its power in our lives is destroyed.

Read Romans 6:1-10

If we have the power *not* to sin through Jesus, why do we still *do* it?

## LIVING IT OUT

The victory Jesus has provided for us is one which makes us new from the inside out. The changes God makes in us are permanent. With that said, here are three things we need to do:

**Consider** - we need to consider ourselves dead to the power of sin and alive to God through Jesus. This is how we can take hold of the freedom from sin Jesus purchased for us by His sacrifice on the cross.

Read Romans 6:11, 1 Peter 2:24, Galatians 2:20

Why does freedom from sin *begin* with us *considering* ourselves "dead" to it?

**Yield** - we need to give ourselves completely to God, declaring our faith and giving thanks to Him for what He has done. Baptism is a picture of our identification with Christ and our public confession of Him. The bible teaches when we are baptized, it is symbolic of our death, burial and resurrection *with* Christ. Baptism doesn't *cause* our salvation, it lets us *declare* our salvation before God and man.

Read Romans 6:13, 12:1

Why is yielding to God so hard to do, and how can we get better at it?

**Act** - if you're trusting in Jesus and have not been baptized, it's a step you should take. In fact, Jesus tells us to do it! As an action we can do, it's a significant way we can honor God, show obedience, declare our faith to others and connect with His body - the Church. It's also a celebration, both here with the family of believers as well as in heaven.

Read Matthew 3:13-17, Acts 2:41, 22:15-16

Whether it's baptism, sharing your faith, or even taking the step of faith in Jesus, what stands in the way of you taking action?