

• *No longer in Adam and under the reign of sin*

• *God's grace delivers us from sin*

1. The Christian has died to sin

• *A fact – not something that we try to make happen!*

2. We are united to the Lord Jesus Christ

• *We became partakers of everything that had happened to Jesus*

• *Baptized here is not 'water baptism'*

We must keep in mind that Paul is explaining to us what follows from our justification by our faith in Jesus. There are some immediate blessings, he says^{□1}. But even more important there is a new position in the Lord Jesus Christ. We are now in Christ and under a reign of grace. We are no longer in Adam, no longer under the reign of sin^{□2}. But then there is something else that inevitably follows. God's grace is not the kind of grace that leaves us in sin. It is the kind of grace that delivers us from sin! Paul raises the subject as a question. ¹*What shall we say, therefore? Are we to continue in sin, in order that grace may abound?* He gives his answer directly. ²*May it never be!* Then he goes on to explain why the rule of sin cannot continue in our lives once we have been justified by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

1. The Christian has died to sin. Paul says: *Such people as us, we who died to sin, how shall we still live in it?* It is not that we are trying to die to sin. Or that we are dying 'more and more' to sin. Paul is not telling us of something we have to do. He is telling us of something that has happened to us. We have 'died to sin' – what does it mean? We can understand it if we have followed what he said in Romans 5:12–21. We have been removed from being 'in Adam'. We have died to that old position we were in. It is not something we are trying to make happen. It has happened already. In the very second when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ we died! We left our old situation in Adam and under death, under law and under the dominion of Satan. We died to all of that because we were taken out of Adam and placed in Christ. It is a sheer fact! We must not translate it 'we are dead to sin'. It is not referring to a state or condition. It is referring to an event. There was a day when we died! It took effect on the day Jesus became our Saviour.

2. We are united to the Lord Jesus Christ. How did this death to sin take place? Paul tells us. ³*Or do you not know that such people as us, as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus, it was into his death that we were baptized?* The Holy Spirit placed us 'in Christ'. When the Holy Spirit placed us in Christ we became partakers of everything that had happened to Jesus. His death became our death. His life became our life. His burial became our burial. His resurrection became our resurrection. Even when he comes again we shall come with him. We shall share his second coming.

We were united to the Lord Jesus Christ. We were 'baptized into Christ'. I do not think we should think about water-baptism at this point. This is too strong a statement to be referring to water. It is simply not true that 'as many as' (everyone!) are water-baptized are placed into Christ. Think of Simon Magus for a start^{□1}! The word 'baptize' is used in several different ways in the New Testament. It is not always a technical term for water-baptism. It can refer to suffering^{□2}. It can refer to the outpouring

□1 5:1-11

□2 5:12-21

□1 Acts 8:13, 22, 23

□2 Mark 10:38

• Here it refers to the work of the Holy Spirit putting us in Christ

• By being united to the Lord Jesus Christ the rule of sin in our lives comes to an end

• The old 'me' has gone forever

3. We are united to the resurrection power of Jesus

• I am a new person in the Lord Jesus Christ

baptism. It can refer to suffering^{□2}. It can refer to the outpouring of the Holy Spirit^{□3}. It can refer to the work of the Holy Spirit putting us in Christ^{□4}. This is surely what is referred to here. The Holy Spirit 'baptizes' us – places us, puts us – in the Lord Jesus Christ. It is not water that breaks the power of sin! It is our union with the Lord Jesus Christ, and this is brought about in the believer even before he or she is water-baptized.

By being united to the Lord Jesus Christ we are united with his death and burial. He finished his work of sin-bearing. His relation to sin came to an end. He was dead and buried. When we are united to Jesus by the Holy Spirit the same thing happens to us. The rule of sin in our lives comes to an end. By our being united to the Lord Jesus Christ our relationship to sin came to an end. He was dead and buried. When we are united to Jesus by the Holy Spirit the same thing happens to us. We are dead and buried also. The old 'me' has gone for ever. It is not something I want to happen. It is something that has happened!

3. We are united to the resurrection-power of Jesus. ⁴ *We have been buried therefore with him through this being placed into this death of his, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so also we might walk in newness of life.* Just as I share Jesus' death and burial, I share his resurrection. He is alive. I am alive. He is risen. I am risen. He has a new position in heaven. I am also seated in the heavenly place with the Lord Jesus Christ. Again it is a fact! ⁵ *For if we have become united with the likeness of his death, it is certain we shall also [immediately; it has already happened!] be united with the likeness of his resurrection.* Can I go on in sin? No! I am a new person in the Lord Jesus Christ.

□3 John 1:33
□4 1 Corinthians 12:13



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