

Baptism Weekend: Romans 6:1-11

1. In this passage, Paul begins by establishing how the grace of God does not provide us with an excuse for sin.

a. While it may sound ridiculous to take advantage of God's grace this way, its also very natural. In what ways have you dealt with this and how have you learned not fall into this trap?

2. Paul addresses this tendency by pointing out that God's grace has put you in a new category: from a life under (or in) sin to a life under God.

a. When and were did you get baptized and how did that event impact your faith and your life?

b. What is this passage teaching us about the meaning of baptism? What does our baptism represent?

3. In light of the meaning of baptism, do you believe that we usually give baptism the appropriate amount of importance in the way most churches practice it?

4. A recent phenomenon in certain parts of the Evangelical Protestant Church has been the emergence of a large number of unbaptized Christians, i.e., people who are claiming to follow Jesus but not been baptized.

a. Why do you think that is?

b. Do you think it is biblical to profess to follow Jesus but not be baptized? Why or why not?

In the NT there is no such thing as an unbaptized Christian. The consistent pattern and teaching of Jesus and the church is that once one becomes a believer they get baptized.

Separating conversion and baptism was a later historical development for a variety of reasons.

c. How can we do we a better job of preventing delayed baptism? Is it ever appropriate to have someone delay their baptism?

5. In this passage Paul goes to great pains to point out that in Christ our old life is dead and we now walk in newness of life.

a. What do you believe Paul means when he says that your old life is dead and you are now walking in newness of life?

b. What does it look like to walk in this newness of life (e.g. new patterns of living, attitudes, desires, perspective, etc.)? In your Christian experience, how have you learned to do this?