

Newness of Life

Pastor Anthony J. Shetley

Sunday, May 26, 2024

The church's one year anniversary in its new building and the baptism of 8 members.

Our Spiritual Baptism: **Romans 6:1–11**

Here in the bible, we have conveyed to us the spiritual baptism of every follower of Christ. We are pointed to the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Every person is born under the power of sin and the wages of sin is death. This is the condemnation upon every man.

Who can save us? Nobody but Jesus! He has made the way for us to escape the condemnation of death in that He has died for us all. By grace we are saved through faith. The greater the sin, the greater the grace.

A question is asked of us, "SHALL WE CONTINUE IN SIN SO THAT GRACE CAN INCREASE?" This could never be because we have died to sin.

We have been baptized (immersed) into His death. We have believed in the atoning power of His death as the payment for our sins. The spiritual reality is that the "sinner us" has been crucified and buried with Jesus. That person doesn't live anymore! "Old things have passed away!"

Praise God, we did not die "in sin" but we have died "to sin". Sin no longer lives and reigns in and over us. We have passed from death to life. Just as Jesus died and was buried then three days later, walked out of the grave alive, we too, walk in newness of life. This is our spiritual baptism in Christ.

Today, we are baptizing in water as a public testimony to what has taken place in the lives of those who have committed themselves to following Christ. I baptize with water, but Jesus is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.

Acts 2:38 Peter *said* to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Water baptism is a public testimony declaring our identification as a follower of Christ. It says to the church and to the world,

"I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me;

and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God,

who loved me and gave Himself up for me." - Galatians 2:20
