

# In Christ

**Intro:**

You can not undertake the Christian life until you understand the Christian identity.

**Problem:**

Matt 28:19-20 (called to make disciple not decisions)

A recent and exhaustive survey done by Lifeway tells us of a terrible statistic

In the last 20 years Southern Baptist churches have baptized 7.1 million people...and decreased in attendance

Roby Galaty (the guy who brought the report) said it this way: We have been treating baptism as a finish line when it is meant to be the starting line

Here is the problem:

We need to know who we are to live the Christian life. But we don't.

Why?

Baptism has lost its meaning. Baptism does not wash away sin. It does not make you Holy.

Baptism is a picture of imputation. It is a picture of identity, a picture of you you are IN Christ at the moment of your salvation and it is a picture of you we no longer are. It is a picture that forms the basis of your entire Christian life...

**Main Idea:**

The Gospel not only saves you, it defines you

IN Christ...you died

IN Christ...you were buried

IN Christ...you are raised

IN Christ...sin has no power over you

IN Christ...death has no dominion over you

Claim your identity

Proclaim your baptism

**Implication:**

Baptism is the starting line not the finish line

**Application:****Outro:****Articles for further study:**

<https://www.gotquestions.org/two-natures.html>

<https://www.gotquestions.org/slave-to-sin.html>

<http://www.barabbas.com/messages/through-water/>

[https://www.barabbas.com/wp-content/notes/through\\_water\\_1\\_peter\\_3\\_18\\_22.pdf](https://www.barabbas.com/wp-content/notes/through_water_1_peter_3_18_22.pdf)

<https://www.gty.org/library/sermons-library/80-190>

# In Christ

Text:

## The Gospel not only saves you, it defines you

Rom. 6:1 ¶ What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? (right question)

Rom. 6:2 By no means! How can **we who died (past) to sin** still live (present) in it?

*Rom 1:16-17 (the gospel is about imputation)*

*Rom 5:18-19 (it is the story of two men representing all men)*

*Rom 5:18-21 (imputation is not impersonal. Imputation is about identity. Imputation is about you.*

*You could not out-work sin because you were IN Adam.*

*Now you cannot out-sin grace because you are IN Christ)*

## IN Christ...you died

Rom. 6:3 Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus **were baptized into his death?**

Gal 3:27 (water baptism pictures imputation through immersion)

1 Cor 15:1-3 (imputation means you personally died)

## IN Christ...you were buried

Rom. 6:4a **We were buried** therefore with him by baptism into death,

1 Cor 15:4 (imputation means you were personally buried)

## IN Christ...you were raised

Rom 6:4b 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.**

Rom. 6:5 ¶ For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

1 Cor 15:20-23 (imputation means you will be personally raised)

Col 1:13 (imputation means being positionally united to a new reality)

## IN Christ...sin has no power over you

Rom. 6:6 **We know** that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would **no longer be enslaved to sin.**

Rom. 6:7 For one who has died (perfect) has been **set free (justified) from sin.**

Gal 2:19-20 (i was crucified with Christ)

Gal 5:16-24 (I have been given new desires)

Eph 4:17-24 (my old nature is still here but my old identity is dead)

## IN Christ...death has no dominion over you

Rom. 6:8 Now if we have died with Christ, **we believe** that we will also live with him.

Rom. 6:9 **We know** that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; **death no longer has dominion** over him.

Rom. 6:10 For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God.

Col 3:1-11 (resurrected people do not deal with death)

2 Tim 2:11 (imputation is important)

1 Cor 15:50-55 (death is a defeated foe IN Christ)

## Claim your identity

Rom. 6:11 So you also must **consider (impute) yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.**

*Rom 4:3-6, 8-11, 22-24 (counted - logizomai - consider - imputed...)*

*2 Cor 5:16-21 (imputation is a two way street - remember your identity*

*(declared and treated as such not about feeling - it is about declaring and acting)*

## Proclaim your baptism

Col 2:8-23 (this is the first imperative in Romans - all others begin here - not action but identity)

1 Pet 3:18-4:2 (be still and remember your baptism)

Acts 2:41; 8:12, 34-38; 9:17-18; 16:14-15, 30-33; 18:8 (baptism is the starting line not the finish line)