

Dying and Rising with Christ

Romans 6:3—11

Introduction

Every Sunday is a “mini-Easter,” where we remember, rehearse, and celebrate the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. However, during the season of Lent, our focus is on the cross. Lent is a season of mourning, as we mourn the fact that it was our sins that held Christ to the cross. Through penitence, prayer, fasting, and almsgiving we have been preparing ourselves to walk with Christ through His passion to His death on the cross. The more we get into the mourning of Lent, the more real Easter is to us. The greater the sorrow of the Lenten season, the greater the joy of the Easter season, beginning with this Paschal Vigil. Tonight, we want to look at what this all means to us.

Baptized into Christ

Paul says that when we were baptized, *we were baptized into Christ (Romans 6:3)*. When the Word, “I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” is added to the water, God does something amazing to us. He unites us with His Son. He takes our sins away and clothes us with Christ’s righteousness as the Holy Spirit works faith in us, so that we believe in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. This is what salvation is all about and is only possible because of the death and resurrection of our Lord, which we celebrate tonight and every Sunday.

Dead to Sin

We have been united with Him in a death like His (v. 5). Christ died on the cross to pay the price for our sins. In our Baptism, we have died to sin. Paul says: *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 (v. 6)*. That doesn’t mean we will never be tempted to sin, or that we won’t be able to sin. Sin no longer has power over us. With the help of the Holy Spirit, we can say, “No” to sin.

Buried with Christ

Paul says this means that we were *buried with Him by baptism into death (v. 4)*. Just as Christ was covered by the earth in the tomb, we have been covered by the water of baptism. Historically, there are three modes of baptism: immersion, pouring, and sprinkling. Each mode is valid, and each mode illustrates something baptism does. Immersion, used by the earliest Christians, shows being buried and raised with Christ. Sprinkling harkens

back to the priest sanctifying the people by sprinkling blood from the sacrifice on them. Baptism sanctifies us. Pouring shows that the Holy Spirit has been poured into our lives.

Christ Arose!

But the important thing here is that Christ didn't stay in the tomb. Without the resurrection, our Lord would still be dead (Read **1 Corinthians 15:17—19**). Paul goes on to say that *all in Christ will be made alive and be raised on the Last Day* (**1 Corinthians 15:22—23**).

Alive in Christ

But life in Christ doesn't have to wait for the end of time. Our resurrection has already begun. We have been raised with Christ from the death of sin. Paul says that we were dead in our trespasses and sins, but God ... (read **Ephesians 2:4—7**).

Forever

And this new life we are raised to is eternal. (Read **John 11:25—26**). We are dead in our sins. When we believe in Christ and die with Him, He raises us from that spiritual death, so that we will live forever with Him. Alleluia! Christ is risen!

*And the peace of God,
Which surpasses all understanding,
Will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.*
