

## E-Series

### Drowned to Life



*What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? **2** By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? **3** Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? **4** We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. **5** If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection. **6** For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no*

*longer be slaves to sin-- **7** because anyone who has died has been freed from sin. **8** Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. **9** For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. **10** The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. **11** In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.*

**—Romans 6:1-11**

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Drowned to life. That's what Paul seems to be saying about what happens to us in baptism. We die. Our old sinful nature, our old habits, our old lives are put to death...or at least they begin to be. As I said Sunday, the thing is our sinful nature and old habits are notoriously hard to drown. They don't go down without a valiant fight. But, through God's grace, they can be put to rest, and we can be raised to new life.

Around 350 A.D. St. Cyril of Jerusalem said, "at the same moment [in baptism] you died and were born; and that Water of salvation was at once your grave and your mother...and your birth went hand in hand with your death." In the Middle Ages, baptisteries were even designed to look like mausoleums. The baptismal font is a tomb and a womb where the old is buried and the new is raised to life.

Have you ever thought of baptism this way?

Sunday's sermon was more "teachy" than normal, but from time to time we need to step back examine what we believe. I think that even the words we use in the baptismal service need to be examined. I hope that yesterday the allusions to Noah and the Ark along with Moses and the Israelites crossing the Red Sea stuck out to you in a new way.

Do you have any questions about baptism? I'd love to hear (or read) them.

Hoping to Die so I Can Live,  
*Pastor Michael*