



## LETTERS TO THE CHURCH [EASTER IN ROMANS]

At the heart of the gospel is not just a set of beliefs about Jesus, but an invitation into a completely new reality. Jesus did not simply come to teach or inspire—He came announcing that God’s kingdom had arrived. In His life, we see what it looks like to live fully alive under God’s rule: free, grounded, and full of love and truth. In His death, we see a King who willingly enters into the brokenness of the world, absorbing sin and suffering through self-giving love. And in His resurrection, we see the declaration that sin and death do not have the final word. A new creation has begun—and we are invited into it.

Romans 6 helps us understand how personal this invitation really is. To be “baptized into Jesus’ death” is not merely about participating in a ritual, but about being united to Him. By faith, His story becomes our story. His death becomes our death—meaning our old identity, shaped by sin, guilt, and brokenness, has been put to death with Him. Baptism is the visible expression of this reality: going under the water symbolizes burial, a decisive end to the old life. This means that sin no longer defines us or holds ultimate authority over us, even if we still feel its pull.

But baptism into Jesus’ death is only part of the story. Just as He was raised, we are raised into a new kind of life. This “newness of life” is both immediate and ongoing. We are truly new, yet still being transformed. We experience tension—we still struggle, still fail—but something fundamental has changed. Sin is no longer our master, and we are no longer alone. Instead of perfection, this new life is marked by a new direction: returning to Jesus again and again, growing in grace, and being shaped over time by His life within us.

This new life plays out in the real world—in our personal struggles, in the beauty and messiness of church community, and in a broken world that still feels heavy. Following Jesus doesn’t remove hardship, but it gives us a deeper reality beneath it: we are alive to God in Christ. That means we live with hope, persistence, and love—not because life is easy, but because Jesus is alive in us. Baptism, then, is both a declaration and an invitation: to leave the old life behind and step fully into the life of Jesus—dead to sin, and alive to God.

### Discussion Questions

1. When you hear that being “baptized into Jesus’ death” means your old life has truly been put to death, what resonates with you—and what feels difficult to believe or live out?
2. In what ways do you still feel defined by your past, sin, or struggles? How does the truth that “His death counts as your death” challenge or reshape that?
3. What does it practically look like in your daily life to “walk in newness of life”? Where do you see signs of new life already happening in you?

4. New life is both immediate and unfolding. Where are you currently experiencing that tension—between who you were and who you are becoming?
5. How is God inviting you to respond right now—whether that's taking a step toward baptism, renewing your understanding of it, or more fully living as someone who is “dead to sin and alive to God”?