

SERMON SUMMARY

Romans 6 takes us deep into the meaning of baptism as far more than a symbolic ritual. We discover that baptism represents our total immersion into the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. When we enter the waters of baptism, we are declaring that our old self has died with Christ and we have been raised to new life. This is not merely ceremonial but a spiritual reality where our identity becomes hidden in Christ. When God looks at us, He no longer sees our sin but sees Jesus covering us. The message challenges us to understand that we cannot live the Christian life through our own willpower or religious activity alone. Just as decaf coffee looks like coffee but lacks the power to energize, a faith without the Holy Spirit may have the appearance of godliness but lacks transformative power. We need the same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead to empower our daily lives. This means daily surrender, saying not my will but Your will, and allowing the Spirit to lead us. The enemy wants to steal our families, destroy our marriages, and tear down our lives, but when we are baptized into Christ and filled with His Spirit, we are marked as belonging to the kingdom of light. Death itself no longer has power over us because we are united with the One who conquered the grave.

Key Takeaways from the Sermon

- 1. Baptism is more than a symbol - It's an outward sign of a spiritual reality where our lives become fully immersed in Christ.**
- 2. We are dead to sin - Through baptism, we declare that sin no longer has dominion over us because we've been united with Christ in His death and resurrection.**
- 3. Grace cannot be earned - Salvation is a gift we receive, not something we negotiate for or earn through religious acts.**
- 4. The Spirit empowers the Christian life - We cannot live like Christ without the Spirit of Christ. Religion without the Spirit is "decaf Christianity."**
- 5. Death has lost its sting - For believers, death is no longer the end but a doorway to eternal life with Christ.**

INTO THE SERMON

- **What moment from the baptism service or sermon stood out to you the most, and why?**
- **Pastor Sam talked about baptism being more than symbolic—what have you previously believed about baptism?**
- **Have you ever had a moment where you felt like your past disqualified you from God? What did that feel like?**

INTO THE TEXT

Read: Romans 6:1–14

Verse 2 says, “How can we who died to sin still live in it?”

→ What do you think it means to be “dead to sin” in real life?

Verses 3–4 describe being “baptized into His death” and raised to new life.

→ How does baptism connect to Jesus’ death and resurrection?

Verse 6 says our “old self was crucified.”

→ What does your “old self” look like? What needs to stay buried?

Verse 11 says to “consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God.”

→ Why do you think Paul says consider (or reckon) instead of feel?

Verse 13 talks about offering our bodies as “instruments for righteousness.”

→ What are some practical ways we can do that daily?

TAKE AWAY / NOW WHAT

- 1. What would it look like this week to actually pray, “Holy Spirit, lead me” before decisions or reactions?**
- 2. Is there an area of sin or struggle where you’ve been living like you’re still a slave instead of free?**
- 3. Baptism was described as a “line in the sand.” What is one clear line you need to draw in your life right now?**
- 4. What is one practical step you can take this week to live like someone who is alive to God?**

