

New Life in Christ

July 16, 2017 – Romans 6:1-4

“What shall we say then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? Or don’t you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? 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.” (We Walk in the Newness of Life.)

“The Walking Wounded!” This is a phrase that has been used to describe someone who has experienced suffering and hardship, emotional hardship and trauma in the past. Someone might be a “Walking Wounded” person as a result of past bad experiences and they are living daily with an aching heart, a broken heart and with a fear or a lack of trust. How many people do you know who appear as though everything looks OK on the outside, but inside there is that continual gnawing feeling. Such an individual may FEEL dead inside.

But what if I told you that despite that dead feeling, You have LIFE! You have Life to the fullest!

Vs. 3 – Or don’t you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?

Vs. 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.

We have New Life In Christ! How does this Life in Christ become ours? In Baptism!
How do we know this? God tells us through the Apostle Paul as we have just heard in verses 3-4.

As a Confessional Lutheran Pastor there are many things that I believe, preach and teach that many people in America would deny and reject, even laugh at and make fun of. - Creation 6 x 24 hrs. + and the 7th day God rested, The Trinity – The Dual Nature of Christ – The Flood – That Adam and Eve really did live – That Noah was a real person – That when we die we either spend eternity in hell or eternity in heaven, not half way in between.

Two other teachings of the Bible that some people reject are the teaching of the Real Presence in the Lord’s Supper, and the power of Baptism. Baptism is not just a symbolic act or some outward show, but it is a Sacrament in which God connects us to Christ’s death and His resurrection. In Baptism God the Holy Spirit enters our heart. In Baptism we have the forgiveness of sins and where there is the forgiveness of sins, there is LIFE and Salvation. We know this because God tells us in Scripture, The Holy Bible, God’s Holy – Infallible, Inerrant, Inspired, Holy Word.

We learn this in Passages such as:

Acts 2:38-39 – Peter replied: Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the Name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off – for all whom the Lord our God will call.”

As Baptized Children of God, the Apostle Paul also tells us to avoid sin with the words:

Vs. 1 – What shall we say then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase?

Vs. 2 – By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer?

As Christians we now have the Holy Spirit living in us and we are enabled by the Holy Spirit to run away from sin. When doubt of God’s love or lust for someone or something or anger over whatever issue arises, or resentment of the Word of God begins to swell up in our heart. Run away! – Resist the Devil and those sinful desires.

How are we enabled to resist the devil and those sinful desires?

Vs. 3 – Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?

In Baptism we are connected to Christ Jesus. Christ Who died for the sin of the World.

And in Baptism we are also connected to Christ's resurrection.

Vs. 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.

And thus in Christ Jesus You have New Life here and now, and forever in heaven. Amen!