

# BAPTISM: THE NEW IDENTITY

## Romans 6:1–6 • Brian Brodersen

**Introduction:** In what we commonly call the Great Commission, found in Matthew’s Gospel 28:19, Jesus commands his disciples to “go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit ...”

As we follow the mission of those sent out into the world in the Book of Acts, we see that is exactly what they did. Several baptisms are recorded in Acts, beginning with the baptism of 3,000 on the Day of Pentecost, to the baptism of the Samaritans and the Ethiopian official by Phillip, to Saul of Tarsus in being baptized in Damascus by Ananias, to Cornelius, the Roman centurion, and his household baptized by Peter, and lastly, the Roman jailer in Philippi is baptized by Paul and Silas.

Baptism is a symbolic act whereby a person publicly identifies with Jesus Christ in his death, burial, and resurrection.

*“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.”*

Romans 6:4

Baptize (immerse) used of the procedure of dying cloth. The cloth having been immersed in the dye takes on a new identity.

We, being immersed into Christ, are taking on a new identity.

*“If anyone is in Christ, they are a new creation. Old things have passed away, all has become new.”*

2 Corinthians 5:17

Whatever you were, however you identified yourself or were identified by others—racially, sexually, socially, etc., your primary identity now is Christ.

Paul the apostle uses the phrase “In Christ” to describe who we now are:

1. Justified (declared righteous, holy, and blameless in his sight).
2. Regenerated (children of God—partakers of the divine nature).
3. Adopted to sonship (privileged heirs).
4. Redeemed (purchased back from slavery).
5. Forgiven (handwriting of ordinances against us taken away, nailed to the cross).
6. Reconciled (brought back to God and his intended purpose for my life).
7. Sealed with the Holy Spirit (secured unto the day of the redemption of the purchased possession).

Baptism was also publicly identifying with a new community.

*“Christ’s purpose was to create in himself one new humanity ... Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God’s people and also members of his household.”*

Ephesians 2:19

*This is your family. We are your people. All this is your new and everlasting reality.*

### **Close**

Baptism—not the washing away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience before God through the resurrection of Jesus Christ (1 Peter 3:21).