

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon Road Map
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Romans 6:1b-11
July 12, 2020

Plunge into your baptism for the new life.

- *Paul, let me make sure I have this straight. Since Jesus died to **fully** pay for **all** my sins, **no matter how much** I sin, it's **already taken care of**. In fact the more I sin, the more amazing God's grace is. Is that right? Yes. Wow! What a deal. I get to keep on enjoying sin and grace keeps on increasing. Let's go sin!*
- Along with Paul we say, ***No! You don't understand. That's horrible! God's grace is not an excuse or license to sin. God never promotes sin!***
- Yet, let's be honest. What sins do I wink at and live with, *since none of us is perfect and God forgives me?*
 - ◆ Sins I don't address, don't know how to address, or relabel as *bad habits*:
 - Stretching the truth.
 - Sanctioning behaviors because *everyone does it*.
 - Reacting to life's annoyances with frustration, taking it out on those I love.
 - Dealing with a sense of emptiness by trying to fill it with self-satisfaction - what I feed my face or my eyeballs.
 - ◆ *Shall we keep on sinning so that grace may increase? Absolutely not!*
 - ◆ It's time to rediscover God's goal for his grace.
- Where? Paul leads you and me to the water's edge of our baptisms.

Plunge into your baptism for the new life.

❖ Behold the wonder God worked in your baptism

- Baptism seems so simple. Without God's word the wonder is hidden.
- Key: baptism is not what we do. **It's what God does** with this water.
 - ◆ *Be baptized, born from above, by the Holy Spirit - all passives*, i.e. done to you
- ³ ***Or do you not know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ We were therefore buried with him by this baptism into his death, so that just as he was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too would also walk in a new life.***
- ⁵ *...we have been united with him in the likeness of his death,...*
- ⁶ *We know that our old self was crucified with him,...*
- Baptism so completely united you to Jesus' death - you died with him.
- Your sinful nature was put to death. The new you rose to new life
 - ◆ This new life, new self is God's gift of faith. The new self trusts God.
- This is not figurative language. It **personally happened to you** in baptism!
- Before baptism, sin was in charge of you. Baptism broke its stranglehold
- God broke the reign of your sinful nature & gave you new life with him.
- This is an important event in your life. Plunge in with wonder & awe.

Why did God do this? What's his purpose and goal for you?

❖ **Discover God's purpose for your baptism**

- *..buried with him..., so that just as he was raised from the dead ...we too would also walk in a new life.*
- *crucified with him, to make our sinful body powerless, so that we would not continue to serve sin.*
- God's goal for everyone:
 - ◆ to free us from being controlled by a sin-loving body, slaves of sin
 - serving sin is self-destructive - promises life, but gives us pain & death
 - serving sin destroys relationships, tears down self, separates from God
 - sin deceives and blinds, then springs the trap when the damage is done
 - ◆ that *we too would also walk in a new life.*
 - Baptism gives us *new life*. What do you do with life? **You live it!**
 - New life is real life - living in fellowship with God, the Source of Life
 - We walk in harmony, united to Jesus, discovering the *right stuff*.
 - Living faith in Jesus listens to his word to turn & embrace new life.
 - Those who look forward to eternal life with God want to live it here.
 - *The fake life of sin* does not exist with God. Only real life.
 - Those who try to use grace as a license to sin are still dead in sin. Jesus' forgiveness has not freed them from sin. They are still dead!
 - Plunge into Baptism to wash away the sins you wink at. Replace your limping through life with an improved richer walk with Jesus.

❖ **Live considering yourself dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.**

- *But Pastor, I do sin. I just confessed it. Do I need to be baptized again?*
- Not at all! You were already united to Jesus' death & resurrection.
 - ◆ Next Sunday Paul addresses this internal battle of the baptized.
- Here's the question. *Do you take God at his word, that he did this to you? Yes I do! God's word is clear.* Then...
 - ◆ *consider yourselves dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.*
 - ◆ Claim the identity and reality baptism worked: *I am dead to sin, but alive to God.* That's who I am, what I am, what I want to be, and will be.
 - ◆ The very word of God that reveals this reality works to transform you.
 - ◆ **Baptism gives us the power** to consider sin something I no longer want, not who I am, something I repudiate. **Jesus' resurrection fuels** me with new life to live with God through Jesus' work in me.
- By considering or viewing myself this way, I affirm that God's purpose for my life is my purpose for my life. And I discover that God's work begun in baptism is still working this wonder.
- Plunge into the water of your baptism to find the power to *live dead to sin and alive to God in Christ.*

Plunge into your baptism for the new life.