

# Dead – Buried - Raised

Water baptism is not a check off on the to-do list of Christianity. Water baptism is a supernatural event of transformation through identification.

## The Power of Identification

- My Passport identifies:
  - My locality --- My identity reveals where I was born.
    - With my passport the **border agent** is able locate when and where I was born... They want to know where I am from.
    - A locality is defined as an area or region, especially as regarded as a **place occupied by certain people** or as the **scene of particular activities**.

This is why the Border Agents want to locate me. As an American I am from a place that is occupied by a certain group of people with particular activities that may or may not be accepted in their nation among their people.
  - My community --- My identity reveals my community.
    - On the long flight I was bored so I counted all the countries I have visited to do ministry work in... 30 countries (Europe; Asia; Central and South America; Africa)
    - I have crossed a lot of borders. Some more than once.
      - When the border agent looks at your ID he automatically links you with a people!
      - If He has had good experiences with American's you can tell. If they have had bad experiences, you can tell that too. No matter how cold and or rude they might be, it is a good idea for you to be pleasant and humble.

Especially if you want your stuff to cross the borders with you.
    - I have lugged a lot of stuff across borders. I have left stuff behind a lot of borders.
      - I am forgetful, worsens the older I have gotten.
      - On this trip we were leaving for the flight from Dakar to Casamance. We are loading up the car, when suddenly I hear Aisha yelling from the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor balcony, *Pastor, Pastor! You left your shirts!* I had hung up my shirts and forgot them in the closet.

Yes, I have left a lot of stuff behind but one thing I have never lost is my Passport.

**You cannot go anywhere or do anything significant in a foreign without your Identification!!**

Your passport shows where you are from and what NATIONS you have visited but the most important thing it shows is your Nationality.

- Nationality --- My identity shows who has authority over me.
  - My ID reveals my citizenship.
    - As a US citizen there are powers and laws that govern my travel and there are powers and authorities that bring protection to me as a citizen.
  - America has real problems right now, but I still consider America to be the greatest nation on the planet.

I have been talking about your personal Identification.

But what about Identifying with someone else?

You have an Identity that is static, but you also have the ability to Identify with others (3 examples)

1) We Identify with our family.

You can really see this with the family tribes in Africa.

- a) In Senegal I met Christians from many different tribes (Wolof; Creole; Mankind from Ghana; Fulani from Niger)
  - i) Wolof people love horses, the Fulani love cattle!
  - ii) Younoussa Djao is Fulani and he says when he gets old, he wants to live in his village on his Fulani land with his own cows. Some of you can identify with that. Right now he has to keep making disciples.

2) We also Identify with people who have a common interest. (bass fishing, college football fans, house plants)

How about little league travel ball parents? Or cheer competition parents?

3) Identify with people who have shared experiences.

- a) If they have gone through something you have experienced there is a connection... whether it is good or bad, positive or negative.
  - i) In the military I have learned about foxhole friends... battle buddies.
  - ii) In the church, I have watched people who have dealt with cancer, when they meet someone who is going through that they connect.
  - iii) Widows and widowers are marked by this experience. They can identify with others.

(1) Story of Karissa's cat dying one year after I lost my wife. Some things we can identify with others not so much.

**When I identify with these people and these experiences, does that change the way I live? Yes, because you are not part of the tribe!**

Have you ever thought about our need to Identify with Jesus?

- 1) **Hard to do because he lived in a very different time.** No electricity, no automobiles, no internet, no amazon, no doordash.
- 2) **Also, Jesus lived a sinless life!** But he did experience the same test and temptations
  - a) **Hebrews 4:15 NLT (Jesus) This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same testings we do, yet he did not sin.**

### **We can Identify with Jesus through Water Baptism**

**We don't identify with Christ simply because we know what it is like to go under water. It is much deeper than just going for a dip!**

Bible Study of Roman's 5 & 6 (think about Identifying with Adam and our new Identification with Christ)

Romans 5:12-21NLT When Adam sinned, sin entered the world. Adam's sin brought death, so death spread to everyone, for everyone sinned.

**13** Yes, people sinned even before the law was given. But it was not counted as sin because there was not yet any law to break.

**14** Still, everyone died—from the time of Adam to the time of Moses—even those who did not disobey an explicit commandment of God, as Adam did. Now Adam is a symbol, a representation of Christ, who was yet to come.

**15** But there is a great difference between Adam's sin and God's gracious gift. For the sin of this one man, Adam, brought death to many. But **even greater** is God's **wonderful grace** and **his gift of forgiveness** to many through this other man, Jesus Christ.

**16** And the result of God's gracious gift is very different from the result of that one man's sin. For Adam's sin led to condemnation, but God's free gift leads to our being made right with God, even though we are guilty of many sins.

**17** For the sin of this one man, Adam, caused death to rule over many. But even greater is God's wonderful grace and his gift of righteousness, for all who receive it will live in triumph over sin and death through this one man, Jesus Christ.

**18** Yes, Adam's one sin brings condemnation for everyone, but Christ's one act of righteousness brings a right relationship with God and new life for everyone.

**19** Because one person disobeyed God, many became sinners. But because one other person obeyed God, many will be made righteous.

**20** God's law was given so that all people could see how sinful they were. But as people sinned more and more, God's wonderful grace became more abundant.

**21** So just as sin ruled over all people and brought them to death, **now God's wonderful grace rules instead**, giving us right standing with God and resulting in eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Our first identity is with Adam and his Sin.** This is the **Old Man** or our Old Self.

**Our New Identity is now with Christ and His Wonderful Grace.** This the **New Man** or our New Self!

*Note: chapters change but context remains the same:*

Romans 6:1-3 NLT Well then, should we keep on sinning so that God can show us more and more of his wonderful grace?

**2** Of course not! Since we have died to sin, how can we continue to live in it?

**3** Or **have you forgotten** that when we were **joined with Christ** Jesus **in baptism**, we joined him in his death?

**Water baptism is not a check off on the to-do list of Christianity. Water baptism is a supernatural event of transformation through identification.**

Water Baptism is all about my New Identification!

**It shows the world - what, where and when I was Born Again!** (not about being from Louisiana or America)

- **my new locality cannot be found with geography**, my **new ID this is from another world.**

**Water Baptism shows the world that I belong to a new community!**

- I have been born into a new tribe. I now belong to the family of God. The Jesus tribe.
- A certain people with particular activities that glorify God

**Water Baptism shows the world that I have come fully under a new authority.**

I have a New Birth; A New People and A New King

1) **We identify with Him by dying with Him.**

**4** For **we died** and (we) **were buried** with Christ **by baptism**. And just as Christ was **raised** from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now **we also may live new lives**.

Think of it this way, **the death of Jesus on the cross gives us the power to die to our old life.**

**Because when he died, we died with him!**

**This means that our sinful self that was legally bound and condemned died with Jesus on the cross and cannot be judged anymore. Because I am no longer that person!!! WOW!**

And when you are baptized under the water you identify with that glorious death!

2) **We Identify with Him by being buried with Him.**

Col. 2:12-14 NLT For you were **buried** with Christ **when you were baptized**. And with him you were raised to new life because you trusted the mighty power of God, who raised Christ from the dead. You were dead because of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then God made you alive with Christ, for he forgave all our sins. **14 He canceled the record of the charges against us** and took it away by nailing it to the cross.

a) A burial certifies the death and in water baptism you identify with that burial.

b) **If you buried your old life and with it, it's condemnation then Stop digging up the things you have buried!**

**Don't be a Grave Digger!**

3) **We gain a new identity as we are resurrected with Him.**

Romans 6:5-8 NLT Since we have been **united with him in his death, we will also be raised to life as he was**. **6** We know that our old sinful selves were crucified with Christ so that **sin might lose its power in our lives**. We are no longer slaves to sin. **7** For when we died with Christ we were set free from the power of sin. **8** And since we died with Christ, we know we will also live with him.

2 Corinthians 5:14-17 NLT Either way, Christ's love controls us. Since we believe that Christ died for all, we also believe that we have all died to our old life. **15** He died for everyone so that those who receive his new life will no longer live for themselves. Instead, they will live for Christ, who died and was raised for them. **16** So we have stopped evaluating others from a human point of view. At one time we thought of Christ merely from a human point of view. How differently we know him now! **17** This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The **old life is gone; a new life has begun!**

a) **Some of us have been playing dead but we have not really died.**

i) **From time to time we have to remind ourselves** we are dead "**have you forgotten**"

ii) **Romans 6:3 NLT Or have you forgotten that when we were joined with Christ Jesus in baptism, we joined him in his death?**

**Baptism is more than a check box. It is a supernatural transformation for those who have come to faith about it.**

Water baptism is not the point of salvation. Salvation is not of works.

Eph. 2:8,9 NIV For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—**9** not by works, so that no one can boast.

But it is a supernatural event that marks our new identity!

Should I be Baptized or Rebaptized?

Get Re-baptized if:

1) If you were baptized without understanding the biblical step you are taking, you should be water baptized.

2) If your experience was not significant for you as an expression of your personal faith.