

## Romans: Verse-by-Verse

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Romans 6:4-5

Paul's argument in Romans 6 that the grace he preached was not "easy grace"; that it did not encourage a repetitive cycle of sin and forgiveness. So far, we have seen the first two points:

1. We died to sin. 2. The way in which we have died to sin is that our baptism united us with Christ in his death. (verse 3)

In this session: Paul's third argument: "Since we share in Christ's death, God's will is for us to also share in his resurrection life."

Verses 4-5: "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.

Those verses include references to Jesus' death, burial and resurrection. They also speak of our own participation with Christ in all three of these events: (1) We were baptized into his death. (2) We live a new life. (3) We will be united with him in a resurrection like his.

### **(1) We Were Baptized Into His Death:**

The only baptism that rightly pictures death to an old way of life is believer's baptism. As we go under the water, we symbolize death to our old life.

The ultimate of sharing death means that the authority of death and sin no longer have a legal hold on us. Just the same, the pictorial symbolism of baptism is that we have in some way died to ourselves and our old way of life.

Previously, we saw how Israel was said to have been baptized unto

Moses in the cloud and in the sea. Another picture of baptism and death in the Old Testament: Jonah 2:5-9

*The engulfing waters threatened me, the deep surrounded me; seaweed was wrapped around my head. To the roots of the mountains I sank down; the earth beneath barred me in forever.*

*But you, Lord my God, brought my life up from the pit. "When my life was ebbing away, I remembered you, Lord, and my prayer rose to you, to your holy temple.*

*Those who cling to worthless idols turn away from God's love for them. But I, with shouts of grateful praise, will sacrifice to you. What I have vowed I will make good. I will say, 'Salvation comes from the Lord.'*

## **2. We Live A New Life: (v.4)**

"...Just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life."

Going under the water of baptism is symbolic – but this living a new life isn't. It is the outward proof of salvation.

C. J. Vaughan says this about baptism with Christ's death: "Our baptism was a sort of funeral."

Paul ties together this death and new life in Christ's experience and in ours. He says, "Christ was raised from the dead **through the glory of the Father.**"

John MacArthur: "... The glory there refers to the sum of all God's perfections, His majesty, His power, His excellence."

Paul: "You were identified with Christ's death at your baptism. But now, you are also identified with his resurrection in your new way of life."

Notice something with me: This isn't a message of obligation; as in, "You ought to be walking a new life". John MacArthur: "It isn't the "should" of obligation, it is the "should" of divine accomplishment."

If it was the glory of God that raised Jesus from the dead, then what power is it that is supposed to give you a new life? It takes the Holy Spirit in your life to produce a new life, so that we can say, "I walk a new life".

C. H. Hodge: "There can be no participation in Christ's life without a participation in His death. And we cannot enjoy the benefits of His death unless we are partakers of the power of His life."

- **We Live A New Kind Of Life:**

"We live a new life": The Greek word Paul uses is *Kainos*, not *neos*. "Neos" would mean an entirely new life not seen before. Paul doesn't use that word. He uses "Kainos" – which means a new quality of life.

In our new life, living in right relationship with God becomes the pattern – whereas, in our old life, living at odds with God was normal. We have a new pattern, a new quality of life.

We have a new life – a new quality of life: 2 Corinthians 5 calls it a "new creation"; Galatians 6:15 speaks of a "new creature"; Ephesians 4:24 calls it a "new man"; Revelation 2:17 talks about a "new name".

### **3. We Will Be United With Him In A Resurrection Like His.**

Verse 5 Paul writes, "For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his."

"A resurrection like his" -- Paul uses the Greek word, "sumphutos" – which literally means, "things that have grown together".

Telegraphing Romans 9: The Gentiles have been “grafted” into Christ, grafted into the vine.

If we have been grown together in the likeness of his death, then we will also be grown together in the likeness of his resurrection: An obvious revelation of resurrection and a bit of a mystery.

**An Obvious Revelation:** Christ's Resurrection -- See: *1 Peter 1:3; 1 Corinthians 15:4; Romans 10:9*

**A Bit Of A Mystery:** “We will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his”. The Greek word, “homoidma”: something that is like something else.

Our resurrection will be very similar to Christ's, though not identical. Robert Morgan: Points to consider:

1. Our resurrection bodies will be of the same nature as our current bodies.
2. Our resurrection bodies will be superior to our current bodies. See: *1 Corinthians 15:42-43*.
3. Our Resurrection Bodies Will Be Patterned After Christ's: *1 Corinthians 15:45-47* says:
4. Our resurrection bodies will be incapable of dying: *1 Corinthians 15:53-54; Romans 6:8-11*
5. Our resurrection bodies will be physical and recognizable. See: *Luke 24; Revelation 7:9-10*

An obvious revelation and a bit of mystery: We will grow together in Christ's resurrection: There will be a similarity in His resurrection and ours. Additional promises of our own resurrection: See: *1 Corinthians 6:14; 1 Corinthians 15:21-22; 1 Thessalonians 4:14; Philippians 3:10*