

“Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, in order that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.”

Romans 6:4.

Here’s a riddle. What is a strange ritual to many other religions, and dismissed by some Christian denominations? What is one step that you must take in order to show others your commitment to Jesus Christ? Give up? Here’s a hint. It is not a sprinkle on the head. It is not a letter of dedication. It cannot be done first and then followed by salvation. You can do it more than once in a lifetime if you are not sure that you did it wholeheartedly (ex. doing it at a young age). What is it? Still not sure? It is done publicly. Need another hint? Jesus Christ himself did it.

If you believe that Jesus Christ (who walked on this earth and lived as a man) is the Son of God...if you believe that Jesus Christ died for our sins and resurrected from the grave... if you have been born again and have received the Holy Spirit, then you have been called upon to follow Christ in baptism. It is an immeasurable joy to symbolically declare your faith to others, to give testimony not only in words but in physical action, to die to your sins and be resurrected as a new creature.

Baptism is not really a riddle, or an option, or the answer. But your full immersion baptism shows others that you know the answer. The answer is Jesus Christ...the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

When we have been born again, received a new spirit, established a relationship with God the Father, Jesus the Son and our comforter the Holy Spirit, we have formed the basis for life on earth as it is intended by our Heavenly Father. Being part of God’s family is very special. We are His children and He will keep us, help us, teach

us, nurture us, educate us and love us. We have a perfect measure of His grace. No matter the challenge in our lives during the short time we are on earth, we have assurance that our Father will always love us unconditionally. He will never leave or forsake us.

We learned that God is sovereign and man is

deprived in his sinful state. God makes the first move to bring about reconciliation between Him and us. God demonstrates His perfect grace by awarding us unmerited favor. This work is done by the Holy Spirit, which effectively moves men/

women to believe in Jesus Christ as our Savior. The Holy Spirit changes our hearts and makes us willing to accept Jesus and submit to His will. We do not come to God against our will, but we come to God willingly.

1. We are special and God has set us a part. Read 2 Thessalonians 2:13. “But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth.

2. Christians, at every moment of our lives, are what we are and who we are through the power of God. He is involved in our daily activities and in our long-range plans. We are nothing by ourselves but being in Christ provides us with all that He is—which is infinitely more than we can ever become by ourselves. Read 1 Corinthians 1:30.

3. We have this position in Christ because of God’s love. He sacrificed and offered up His Son to die for all Christian believers. Jesus Christ did in one offering what millions of Levitical animal offerings (sacrifices) over hundreds of years could not accomplish. Read Hebrews 10:10,14.

4. The Holy Spirit reached into our lives and made us holy. This is why Paul referred to his readers as saints. Jesus said, “Be holy as your Father in heaven is Holy.” Read 1 Peter 1:2.



5. Calvin stated that justification is free, sanctification is our response of gratitude. Paul asks a very important question in regards to grace. Read Romans 6:1. _____

6. Knowing that we are saved. Knowing that nothing can take us out of the hand of Jesus Christ. Knowing that we have eternal life and the eternal love of God, what should be our approach to sin? Why shouldn't we eat, drink, be merry, die and go to heaven. Read Romans 6:2. _____

7. Christ death on the cross not only frees us from the penalty of sin, but also from the power of sin. Justification acquits from sin. Sanctification delivers us from sin. Death to sin, turning away from and not practicing sin is part and parcel of becoming a Christian. As in many families, one might say, "we don't do that." Read Romans 6:3.

8. As stated by Douglas Moo in his commentary on Romans, "If we have died 'with' Christ through baptism, Paul reasons, then we have also been buried with him 'through' baptism [which is] unto [his] death." **And this burial not only marks the end of the old life but is also part of the transition to a new life, in which the believer is now called to "walk."** Christians, then, are both empowered and summoned to live a new kind of life by virtue of their participation in the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. This is put effectively and powerfully by Calvin: "By these words (Romans 6:3-5) he not only exhorts us to follow Christ as if he had said that we are admonished through baptism to die to our desires by the example of Christ's death, and to be aroused to righteousness by the example of his resurrection, but he also takes hold of something far higher; namely, that through baptism Christ makes us sharers in his death, that we may be engrafted in it. And, just as the twig draws substance and nourishment from the root to which it is grafted, so those who receive baptism with right faith truly feel the effective working of Christ's death in the mortification of their flesh, together with the working of his resurrection in the vivification of the Spirit." Read Romans 6:4.



9. And so we come full circle from the start of our study, “**Newness Of Life.**” We began by understanding sin and we end by knowing that sin has been conquered in our lives by Jesus Christ. The most important fact is given to us in Romans 6:11. We are alive to God in Jesus Christ and our new life is something truly special. Read Romans 6:5-11. “For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection, /knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; /for he who has died is freed from sin. / Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, / knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, is never to die again; death no longer is master over Him. / For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. /Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.
10. Because of our belief in Jesus, our adoptions as members into God’s family, our status as saints being washed in the blood of Jesus and as Christians with new spiritual birth, we have been set apart from the world. Indeed, upon Jesus’ return as is taught in Revelations, Christians will be taken up in the air with Christ before the tribulation period begins. Sanctification means to be set apart.

There are three aspects of sanctification as taught in Romans 6. In the **Moody Handbook of Theology**, the three aspects of sanctification are (1) Positional, (2) Experiential and (3) Ultimate:

Positional Sanctification. “This is the believer’s position or standing before God, based on the death of Christ. In positional sanctification the believer is accounted holy before God; he is declared a saint. This is achieved through the death of Jesus.”

Experiential Sanctification. “Experiential sanctification may fluctuate because it relates to daily life and experience. This experiential sanctification grows as the believer dedicates his life to God and is nourished by the Word of God.”

There are areas in our lives that we may still want to hold on to. These areas we say belong to us and we are unwilling to open them up to God’s scrutiny and plan. As we mature in Christ, we begin to relinquish these areas and turn more and more of our lives to God. Hank Hanegraaff says it best in the Christian Research Journal, Volume 24, “The rooms have not yet been swept clean and what we’re saying, in essence, as we go through the process of sanctification is, God, take over more and more of my heart.”

Psalm 119:9-16

- 9 How can a young man keep his way pure?
By keeping it according to Your word.
- 10 With all my heart I have sought Thee;
Do not let me wander from Thy commandments.
- 11 Your word I have treasured in my heart,
That I may not sin against Thee.
- 12 Blessed are You, O LORD;
Teach me Thy statutes.
- 13 With my lips I have told of
All the ordinances of Thy mouth.
- 14 I have rejoiced in the way of Thy testimonies,
As much as in all riches.
- 15 I will meditate on Your precepts
And regard Your ways.
- 16 I shall delight in Thy statutes;
I shall not forget Thy word.

Ultimate Sanctification. “This aspect of sanctification is future and anticipates the final transformation of the believer into the likeness of Christ. At that time all believers will be presented to the Lord without any blemish. (Eph. 5:26-27).”

This concludes our study. Newness of Life has been designed to provide you with a foundation upon which you can build a life of spiritual maturity. Your goal is to achieve ultimate sanctification. By completing this class you have now begun to embark on a wonderful life of being one of God’s children. Your relationship with him will grow as fast as you wish and is totally dependent upon the time and work you put into building the relationship. God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit stand ready. They want your love, your spiritual growth and your appreciation of them as loving parents. You now are able to walk in Newness of Life.



For those of you who have not completed the class because you started some where in the middle of the 17 lessons, it is now necessary for you to complete lesson 1 and continue until you complete all 17 lessons.

Dear Heavenly Father,

It is my prayer that you will take your children, love them and continue to grow them in Christ. They have been exposed to your Word and your Teachings. Please help them demonstrate the fruits of being a Christian by showing love of neighbors, family and friends. Please help them show love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Above all, I pray that they will love you Lord with all of their body, soul and spirit. We now deliver back to you disciples in Christ boasting of their new life. We thank you Father and give you praise for the Holy Spirit who taught us. We thank you and give you praise for Jesus who died in our place and brought us into your family. We thank you Father and give you praise for giving us eternal life. Amen.

During the week read/sing the following song as a reminder of this lesson.

Shine Jesus Shine - Graham Kendrick

Lord the light of Your love is shining, in the midst of the darkness shining. Jesus Light of the World shine upon us, set us free by the Truth You now bring us, shine on me, shine on me. Lord I come to Your awesome presence, from the shadows into Your radiance, by the Blood I may enter Your brightness, search me, try me, consume all my darkness, shine on me, shine on me.

Shine, Jesus Shine, fill this land with the Father's Glory, Blaze Spirit Blaze, set our hearts on fire, flow river flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy, send forth Your Word Lord and let there be light.