

Baptism Service on 10 October 2021

A talk given by Rev David Eastwood

Romans 6:3-11

All of us became part of Christ when we were baptised. We shared his death in our baptism. When we were baptised, we were buried with Christ and shared his death. So, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the wonderful power of the Father, we also can live a new life.

Christ died, and we also have been joined with him by dying too. So we will also be joined with him by rising from the dead as he did. We know that our old life died with Christ on the cross so that our sinful selves would have no power over us and we would not be slaves to sin. Anyone who has died is made free from sin's control.

If we died with Christ, we know we will also live with him. Christ was raised from the dead, and we know that he cannot die again. Death has no power over him now. Yes, when Christ died, he died to defeat the power of sin just once – enough for all time. He now has a new life, and his new life is with God. In the same way, you should see yourselves as being dead to the power of sin and alive with God through Christ Jesus.

If something's worth doing, it's worth doing with the whole of your heart.
Baptism is saying something with your whole heart.
It's saying – I'm trusting Jesus, I'm following Jesus.
And I'm doing it with my whole heart.
And I want to show that to the whole world.
That's what baptism is.

It's an outward sign of what's going on inside a person.
An outward sign, of an inward belief.

In the case of a baby, the parents who love and follow Jesus, are bringing their baby to Jesus, along with their Godparents, committing to pray for, and disciple, and to walk with them in the ways of Jesus, so that there isn't a day when their baby doesn't know and love Jesus.

Jesus has called us to go into all the world, and to do what? - to make a difference, to do good, to promote peace, to play our part?

Well yes, but what he actually said was to go into all the world and **make disciples**, followers of Jesus. And then to baptise them.

So baptism is for disciples.

4 'Ds'

1. Baptism is for **Disciples**.

And Baptism is a

2. **Declaration** to the world that I have faith in Jesus, that I want to follow him. It's declaring - I am now a disciple of Jesus, and I want the world to know, whatever the consequences.

Baptism is also a

3. **Dedication**, a Dedication of your life I am turning from my old life of sin and self, and I am now dedicating my life to Jesus. He's now in charge. He's the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords, there's no one greater, and at the end of time every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is the Lord.

We dedicate our lives to Jesus.

As our Bible reading makes clear -

When you go down under the water, this represents a dying to sin and to self, being buried with Jesus in his death.

And when you come up out of the water, this represents rising to new life in Jesus, sharing with Jesus in his resurrection.

4. And we don't do this on our own – we are made **alive** to God by being **Drenched** in the Holy Spirit of God, by being filled with the Spirit.

So Baptism is the beginning of your journey as a **disciple** -

A **declaration** to the world – you are making a stand for Jesus today.

It's a **dedication** of your life to Jesus – love him, follow him, serve him, worship him as Lord - read your bible, pray, spend time with Jesus, get involved with your church family, and tell others about Jesus.

And be **drenched** by the Spirit, go on being filled by the Spirit – you can't be a disciple on your own, you need the Holy Spirit flowing through you day by day

This is what it is to be a disciple of Jesus! AMEN