

Read **Romans 6:1-14**

1. What does being baptised into Jesus' death mean for Christians?

Baptism is equivalent to marriage. It unites us to Jesus in the same way that husband and wife are united as one flesh. Baptism in Jesus means being one with Him in every respect, most especially in His death on the cross. But the death we experience is spiritual in that our sinful self died along with Jesus on the cross. In the same way that your single or bachelor(ette) self has "died" when you married your spouse, one should no longer live as a single and free person but as one obligated to and out of love for their spouse. As Christians baptised in Jesus, we have died to our sinful self and must live in obligation and out of love for Jesus.

2. If Christians have died to sin being united with Jesus in baptism, why do Christians still struggle in themselves to sin?

The physical body yet exists in its corrupted and unrestored state, still functioning out of the habits of sin. But Christians united in Christ have been freed from the dominion and power of sin. And this does not therefore mean that Christians do not sin anymore and are perfect morally. Union with Christ means that we have been freed from the dominion of sin. But as newly emancipated and freed members in Jesus, our bodies and our faculties must adopt and adapt to a new and redeemed lifestyle. Being freed from sin does not mean total freedom. But it means being "enslaved" to another Master, that is, to Jesus Christ according to Paul in the latter half of Romans 6.

3. In verse 12, Paul exhorts us to not let sin reign in our bodies and make us obey its passions. How are we to do so in practical terms?

Paul's exhortation in verse 12 warns against the dangers of complacency. While he affirms our complete and final death to sin, he does not allow us to be passive and to just be lazy in our mortal living. He encouraged faithful vigilance in matters of sin and obedience. If we consider our death to sin and our life in Jesus a license and freedom to sin, it means we have not truly died to sin, because we are showing that we are still living to obey our sinful passions. Practically, we must develop healthy and moral habits that foster righteousness as we would discipline our bodies in terms of diet, sleep, exercise, recreation, and mental wellness in the choices of consumption, participation, and subscription we make. Daily moral decisions can form into a habit just as the small decisions we make in regards to sleeping early or late or to eat this sweet snack or not can become a habit that can lead us to certain outcomes.