

Baptism & the Resurrection

Is 61:10-11 Rom 6:1-14 Gal 5:16-18 Mark 7:14-23

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The **Resurrection of Jesus Christ** from the dead on the Third Day is the **cornerstone** of the Christian Faith and the **foundation** of the Holy Christian Church.

- ⇒ It proves that Jesus is God and that His Word it's trustworthy and true
- ⇒ It confirms that your sins are forgiven because God the Father has accepted the sacrifice of His Only Begotten Son on the cross
- ⇒ A guarantees that you too will rise from the dead on the Last Day and live forever in the Kingdom of Heaven
- ⇒ It installs Jesus is our Great High Priest
- ⇒ And it separates Christianity from all other world religions.

The Resurrection is the **cornerstone** of the Christian Faith and the **foundation** of the Holy Christian Church. The Resurrection is also the **basis** of your own Christian faith and life in Christ.

Holy Baptism connects you personally to the resurrection of Jesus Christ. St. Paul explains it to us in Romans chapter 6:

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were **baptized into His death**? We were **buried therefore with Him by baptism** into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, **we too might walk in newness of life.** Romans 6:3-5

Holy Baptism connects you personally to the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Holy Baptism gives you your Christian identity.

- ⇒ You are a baptized believer in the **Lord Jesus Christ**.
- ⇒ You belong to **God the Father** and live and His family

⇒ You are filled with the *Holy Spirit* who works in and through you.

Everything about you changes because of Holy Baptism. You have crossed over the line from the world and its ways --> you now follow Christ and obey His word. You have crossed over the line from death to eternal life. **Your identity is bound up in the Risen Savior:** your sins are forgiven, you have been given eternal life, you cherish His Word, you crave His Meal, you Hallow His Name, you seek His Kingdom, you desire His Will, and you love His People. *Holy Baptism identifies you as belonging to Christ!*

In Holy Baptism God washed you clean with that water which is connected to the Promises of God. God has placed the gift of forgiveness of sins and eternal life in simple water, and that Baptismal water becomes the Water of Life; Jesus describes it as being *born again*; you were born of water and the Spirit; you are washed clean of your sins! Holy Baptism is *Living Water* for you!

The impact of Holy Baptism in your life cannot be overstated. It is substantial! **In Holy Baptism, all the blessings and benefits of Christ's life, death, and resurrection are given to you!** That is where it all started for you! Here is a sample of the gifts that God gave you when you were baptized:

Given the gift of faith

Sins were washed away

Cleanses your conscience

Heir to Eternal Life

Rescued from death

Justified by Grace

Delivered from the devil

Given eternal salvation

Your body is a Temple of the Holy Spirit

Access to God

Considered Holy & Pure

Declared “Not Guilty!”

God is your Father

United to Christ

Filled with Holy Spirit

This is all God's work in your life – Baptism is 100% God's grace, mercy, and goodness to you! Baptism is the way that God has chosen to forgive your sins and to bring you into His family. **In Holy Baptism, all the blessings and benefits of Christ's life, death, and resurrection are given to you!**

Your Baptism gives you a *new life to live*. St. Paul calls that “new life” a “New Man”.

You were taught to put off your Old Man, which belongs to your former way of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the New Man, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. Ephesians

4:22-24

In **Holy Baptism**, God gave you new, spiritual, and eternal life. This New Life is called the “New Man”; it is the part of you that is holy and righteous; it loves the things of God. *At the same time*, you still retain your old, sinful nature, which the Bible calls the “Old Man”.

There is both a comparison and a conflict at work:

your Old Man in sin

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the New Man in Christ.

Although your sins are forgiven, you still must fight against your sinful nature; the “Old Man”. This is the result of Baptism: only Baptized disciples of the Lord Jesus have this battle. This is a distinctively Christian struggle.

You are *to put off your* Old Man. This “Old Man”, this sinful nature; it is the part of you that wants to sin and break the commandments of God; it's your sinful heart, mind, and desires that want nothing to do with God, His Word nor

His Will. You know what your sinful nature is; this is the part of you that is rebellious, it's disobedient; it wants to get tangled up in immorality; it is worldly; it is self-centered and self-absorbed; it boasts of its rebellion. Jesus described the Old Man, our *sinful nature*, like this: *out of the heart of man come evil thoughts: sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.*" *Mark 7:21-23*

This "Old Man", your *sinful nature*, was crucified and buried with Christ; it is drowned in *Holy Baptism*; and it is to be continually *put off* in daily living.

**The way that you keep your old sinful nature
crucified, buried, drowned, and put off
is through repentance:
confession and absolution.**

Repentance is the key to all of this.

Repentance is the dagger in the heart of the Old Man.

Repentance is when you turn away from evil, renounce your sinful nature, and confess your sins to God. In repentance, you *crucify, bury, drown, and put off* your *old sinful nature*. Repentance means that you turn from sin, confess it to God, and trust that you are forgiven!

Through the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus, all of your sins are forgiven. The forgiveness of your sins is pictured as a "*New Man*"; created in Holy Baptism, strengthened by the Word of God, and fed by Holy Communion. This is your **Baptismal identity!**

It's really the power of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ at work within you. The Resurrection impacts everything:

It's the *cornerstone* of the Christian Faith
the *foundation* of the Holy Christian Church

and it's the *basis* of your Baptismal identity as a believer in Christ!

Amen!