

**“The Baptismal Foundation of Sanctification”**  
**Romans 6:1-11, Pt. 1**  
**March 14, 2021**

**I. Rom. 6:1 stems from Rom. 5:20-21.**

- A. The Mosaic Law increased the trespass.
- B. But where sin increased, grace abounded all the more.
- C. Paul anticipates a rejoinder to the truth above: “If sin leads to more grace, Christians should sin like crazy, right?!”

**II. Paul’s Response: Believers died to sin through baptism (Rom. 6:2-7).**

- A. Is Paul talking about baptism of the Holy Spirit or regular baptism?
  - 1. Paul does not mention the Holy Spirit.
  - 2. Baptism of the Holy Spirit was a unique, 1<sup>st</sup> century occurrence. (See Acts 1:4-5):

*Acts 10:44–46 - <sup>44</sup> While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who were listening to the message. <sup>45</sup> All the circumcised believers who came with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. <sup>46</sup> For they were hearing them speaking with tongues and exalting God...*

*Acts 11:15–16 - <sup>15</sup> “And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as He did upon us at the beginning. <sup>16</sup> “And I remembered the word of the Lord, how He used to say, ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’”*

- B. Our understanding is helped by the classic Reformed understanding of sacraments like baptism (see WSC 91-92):

*Q. 92. What is a sacrament?*

*A. A sacrament is a holy ordinance instituted by Christ; wherein, by sensible signs, Christ, and the benefits of the new covenant, are represented, sealed, and applied to believers.*

*Q. 91. How do the sacraments become effectual means of salvation?*

*A. The sacraments become effectual means of salvation, not from any virtue in them, or in him that doth administer them; but only by the blessing of Christ, and the working of His Spirit in them that receive them by faith.*

1. Baptism doesn't just picture and promise Christ and his benefits, it *applies* them.
2. Yet this is only true for those who believe.
3. There isn't always a 1-1 correlation between the act of baptism and when its blessings are applied:

*WCF 28:6 - The efficacy of baptism is not tied to that moment of time when it is administered; yet, notwithstanding, by the right use of this ordinance, the grace promised is not only offered, but really exhibited, and conferred, by the Holy Ghost, to such (whether of age or infants) as that grace belongs unto, according to the counsel of God's own will, in his appointed time.*

- C. Baptism confers upon us the washing away of all our sins, union with Christ, and death to sin.

*Acts 22:16 - 'Now why do you delay? Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name.'*

*Galatians 3:27 - For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.*

- D. Baptism is meant to provide to us the foundational assurance that fuels all other growth in grace.