

# Baptism

^ Rom 6:1-14

## Introduction

### Congratulate Hugo on Baptism & membership

### Different means of baptism in different churches

#### Believers Baptism on confession of faith

Baptist Church, plus other modern denominations

#### Infant Baptism + Confirmation in confession of faith

Traditional denominations

**but with the opportunity of being baptised on confession of faith, if that had not happened as child**

#### I was baptised as a baby

It was what we did - there was no option

But my mum and dad kept their promises alive to me

That they would raise in me the Christian faith

**And they reminded me of that**

#### The URC offers both means

i.e. parents can chose to have their child baptised , and the child chooses confirmation when they grow up

Or they can practice believers baptism solely

**as St Andrews does**

#### I do not think that for Jesus it makes a difference with path you have followed

In the end all of us have made our commitment to Jesus on confession of faith

And if you have not, and are interested please talk to me afterwards

#### The URC does not re-baptise

Baptism is a gift of God as well as a personal choice

**And as a denomination we have agreed that we would honour both forms of baptism**

**Reenactment of baptism**

## Romans 6:1-14

### Paul did not have to worry about all these things yet

Christian faith was so new, that baptismal practices had not been fully defined

But what is clear from this reading that the act of baptism entails two things

1. Baptism is a way of indicating that we have died with Christ and that we have risen with him to new life

2. Being baptised leads to a change in affiliation from the world to Christ, and that therefore also our behaviour should change

### What went before

But before we go into that we need to look a little backwards

The book of Romans is Paul systematic exposition of the theology of the Christian faith

He moves from people rejecting God, following all sorts of different deities, theologies, cultures and values

He promises that the Jewish people were set apart by God

And now with Jesus Christ God extends the possibility to include all people into that promoses

#### Why? Because of Jesus

Jesus death is the atonement not only for the Jewish people but also for the whole world

But before the world knew about Jesus, they lived in sin

A summary of that can be found in Romans 1: 24-32

But God abhors sin, as he his holy and righteous

He will therefore judge everyone based on how they live their lives

And the wages of sin is death

No eternal life with God

As God cannot live with us sinners

#### How do we know what sin is?

The Law of Moses and the Prophets (i.e. the Old Testament or Hebrew Bible)

Because we cannot live according to God's law, he sent Jesus

Jesus died for us on the cross

Once for all providing the sacrifice that God needed to make us right (eous)

As he sacrificed (part of) himself

Jesus rose from the dead, broke the finality of death and gave us the option for eternal life

Which we obtain, if we confess that Jesus is the Son of God, our Lord and Saviour

Once we do, the Holy Spirit resides in us and starts to work in us, to make us more like Jesus wants us to be

### Sin more so that we can get more grace?

That is the first question that Paul raises in this passage

Let's continue to live as we used

Jesus has died for us

He forgives us our sins

So we can continue as we are

**No!**

**Why not?**

### 1. Baptism is a way of indicating that we have died with Christ and that we have risen with him to new life

We are baptised in Jesus Christ death (v3)

we have been buried with him in baptism into death (v4a)

So that we are raised with Christ into new life (v4b)

Symbolism of emersion backwards into the water

descening into the grave

and rising out of it again

We have been united in death with Jesus (v5)

We will certainly be united in his resurrection

If we have died with Christ, we believe that we will live with him (v8)

Chris, having died once, will never die again, and so we will never die again (v9)

Death has no longer dominion over us

### 2. Being baptised leads to a change in affiliation from the world to Christ, and that therefore also our behaviour should change

We have died to sin, how can we continue with sin? (v2)

Our old self was crucified with Jesus, so that our body of sin may be destroyed (6a)

We are no longer enslaved to sin (v6b)

A person who has died is freed from sin (v7)

Jesus, when he died, also died to sin, once and for all (v10)

But the life that Jesus lives, he lives to God (v10)

We therefore also should consider us dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus (v11)

### We still have a choice

Do we take the promises we have done (on behalf of us) at our baptism seriously?

Our baptism should inform the way that we live altogether

Our commitment to Jesus Christ is transformational.

But this transformation is not automatic

### Paul words it so:

Resist: Do not let sin exercise dominion in your mortal bodies, to make you obey to your passions (v12)

Our bodies will still be in the habit/desires of sin

**that belong to a mortality:**

**wickedness, evil covetousness, malice**

**envy, murder, strive, deceit, craftiness, gossip**

**slander, God-hate, insolent, haughty, boastful**

**foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless**

**Roman 1:28-31**

This we need to resist , we need to kick these habits

#### Choose not to:

present our members to sin as instrument of wickedness (v13a)

So not only resist, but take it of your agendas

We have a choice!

Well we may fail to resist - to what comes from the outside

This looks at our will and motivation: Do not seek, stay clear, stop desiring, stop following these things through

#### Choose to:

Present yourself to God, as baptised people (v13b)

**Baptised people: those who have been brought from dead to life**

**As we have died to this life, we do not want to be associated with any of our former lives!**

Present your members (your body) to God as instruments of righteousness (v13c)

**This means actively work for righteousness and against injustice**

Why: because sin does not have any dominion or mastership over us anymore (v14a)

we are not under law: meaning what can we get away with that does not count as sin - following the rules (v14b)

We are under grace: Jesus died for us for our forgiveness of sin and eternal life. We respond by doing our very best for him (v14b)

## Summary

### Baptism

Outward sign on inner reality

That we acknowlidge that Jesus Christ is our Lord and Saviour

Gift of Grace from God

A sacrament: God does something into our lives: his Spirit now lives within us

Our lives should change

We have died with Christ and that we have risen with him to new life

We change our affiliation and agendas from the desires of the world to the desires of Christ, and therefore live our lives resisting sin and working towards righteousness

### Amen