

In the Water: Baptism & New Life in Christ
Baptism Sunday
Pastor Maria & Pastor Kevin

I. In the Water- Pastor Maria

A. Introduction—Story

- Kids muddy from playing outside, unaware of dirt.
- You've been working outside, getting dirty and surprised by dirt, sweat, smell, etc., coming off when cleaned.

B. Encountering Jesus & His Sacrifice

- Shows us how dirty we are and what Jesus did on the cross for us.
- **Romans 3:23** — "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God... justified freely by His grace."
- Sin = rebellion against God, choosing our way over His.
- **Acts 2:38** — "Repent and be baptized."

C. Have a Funeral for the Old Self

- Not mourning, but a celebration: "Good riddance, it's dead!"
- Baptized into Christ's death:
- **Romans 6:3** — "Baptized into His death... raised to a new life."

D. Who Died?

- **You Did!**
- **Galatians 2:20** — "I have been crucified with Christ..."
- **Your Sinful Nature:**
 - **Colossians 3:5-10** — Put to death what belongs to your old self.
- **Your Past:**
 - **Galatians 5:24** — Crucified passions and desires.

II. Pastor Kevin

A. Born Again (John 3:3-7)

- Jesus: "You must be born again."
- Explanation of spiritual rebirth through water and Spirit.

B. In Christ as a New Creation

- **2 Corinthians 5:17** — "The old has gone, the new has come!"
- See yourself in Christ in prayer, trouble, temptation, and fellowship.

C. What is New?

- Like a new baby: brought into a new house, family, culture, language, abilities, hope, promises, and future.
- Ongoing renewal of:

- Mind
- Wills
- Emotions
- Habits
- **Romans 12:2** — "Be transformed by the renewing of your mind."
- Don't be surprised if old thoughts, desires, feelings still linger.
- Don't feel like a failure; walk in your new life.
- **How to Renew:**
 - Replace thoughts with God's Word (read the Bible).
 - Offer truthful prayers, give God your feelings and desires.
 - Feeling tempted isn't failure.
 - Reach out for help—your church family is part of this process.

III. Altar Call

- **Surrender to Jesus** — for the first time or recommitment.
- **Restore the joy of salvation.**
- **Get baptized today!**