



Baptism: Out with the Old, in with the New!

Romans 6:1-7

Have you ever seen a movie or television show that featured WITSEC (Witness Security Program), or what is commonly known as the Witness Protection Program?

If a government program can give someone a new life on paper, how much more can God do for those who are in Christ? Today is Baptism Sunday, and we'll look at how baptism is an outward symbol of three spiritual realities. Living into these realities can be the difference between living lukewarm or experiencing all Christ has provided for us.

Here are three spiritual realities that baptism symbolizes. Remember that symbols always point to a greater reality!

The old life is renounced.

- In Witness Protection, the old life ends. Life as you know it is scrubbed. The person you were is as good as dead.
- Similarly, baptism pictures the end of the old life before Christ:
Continuing in sin (the old life)→ out of the question (Verse 1)!
A death has taken place (Verse 4a)!
Our old self→ crucified in death, not just maimed (Verse 6)!
- Now, isn't it possible that someone in Witness Protection may not *feel* different—even though their old life is gone.
- You may think, *I don't feel like the old self is dead. I still wrestle with some things from the old life. Why, just the other day...*
- Hopefully, this is helpful:
1) This is likened in Romans 6 to Jesus' crucifixion. Crucifixion happened quickly—but death was a slow process.

2) For both the witness in protection and the believer in Christ, the new life is a series of conscious choices away from the old life and into the new!

A new identity is received.

- In Witness Protection, a new identity is given- a new name, new birth certificate, new social security number, new license.
- Similarly, baptism signifies a new identity! We are now: Baptized into a new name – Christ Jesus (Verse 3)!
- We are no longer “in Adam” but “in Christ!”
- This new identity of “in Christ” is referred to over 150X in the New Testament!

The new life is revealed.

- In Witness Protection, the informant begins a brand-new life.
- A government may be able to give a new life outwardly, but only Christ can do so inwardly (see verse 4)!
- One in Witness Protection lives a new life one step at a time.

- Believers in Jesus live the new life one step at a time, walking by the Spirit and in step with the Spirit (Galatians 5).

This week, ask the Holy Spirit how He wants you to walk by the Spirit—and then take a step! Say yes! The new life is walked out one step at a time and one choice at a time. This is not about ritual, it's about a dynamic relationship!