### Newness of life!

"Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with Him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life." - **Romans 6:3,4** 

When we usually meet someone for the first time we ask where they live and what they do. Immediately, a profile of the person's identity is formed. However, when we read the Bible we see that our identity does not have anything to do with where we were born, where we live,

what we do, nor the color of our skin. God's word identifies everyone by birth. For example, everyone is identified with Adam's sin by birth (Romans 5:19; Psalm 51:5). Prior to salvation, all of our wrongs were overwhelming evidence against us that we all are natural-born sinners (Romans 5:12).

In our verses the phrase "newness of life" expresses a radical change to our identity. It means that our natural-born sin identity has been miraculously changed into a spiritual-born righteous identity. This radical change is spiritual in nature because only the Spirit of the Sovereign God can

work this change in the heart and life of a sinner. That is why the opening verse speaks of being "baptized into Jesus Christ." This word "baptized" means to be immersed into the person of Jesus Christ. Just as a workaholic is described as being immersed into one's work, so a Christian is described as being immersed into Christ. The majority of theologians agree that this baptism is synonymous with being "born again" (John 3:6,7). Therefore, this baptism is obviously a sovereign act of God upon the sinner, and not man's decision. It could be no other way! For how could one even know

about God, know about his or her sin, and know salvation by grace through Christ the Savior unless the Spirit of God first revealed these truths. As a result of God's love and grace first revealing these truths to change the heart of the sinner, then, as a public act of faith, the saved sinner professes the baptism into Christ in the waters of baptism. Let's not get the cart before the horse, because the One who took the initiative in salvation gets all the glory. Obviously, we have to agree that God took the initiative therefore God gets all the glory. Once immersed into the

person of Jesus Christ, the

believer is immediately identified with Christ in His death and resurrection. So just as Christ was raised from the dead confirming the New Covenant promises for the glory of the Father. Then we who believe may walk in "newness of life," as a "new creation," whereby old things are passed away and all things are become new (2 Corinthians 5:17). So the believer's identity is in Christ alone. Therefore, the believer walks everyday in the "newness of life" - the life of Christ!

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