

## **“What is Baptism?”**

### **Romans 6:1-4**

Baptism is a symbolic picture that Christ commanded His Church to perform in which those who trust in Him for forgiveness are immersed into water symbolizing that this person has by faith in Jesus and the work of the Holy Spirit been cleansed of sin, died to sin, and been raised to live a new life. It is how one officially and publicly joins with the group of people known as Christians. (Acts 2:41 & 22:16, Matthew 28:19, Rom. 6:1-11, I Cor. 6:11, & Titus 2:5-6)

In Romans 6:1-4, Paul teaches us two things that Baptism symbolizes. First, it portrays the death and resurrection of Jesus. Secondly, it portrays the spiritual death and resurrection of Christians. Paul teaches that God’s grace does not lead to a permissive and sinful lifestyle because this grace has caused a death to sin and a resurrection to a new and changed life.

#### **Questions for Discussion:**

1. If a Christian, what was your baptism experience like? How has your understanding of baptism grown?
2. Do you have any evidence that you have died to sin and been raised to live a new life? What are the deepest desires of your heart?
3. Have you wrongly treated the grace of God as if it were merely a get-out-of-hell-free card?
4. What can the Christian with very little fruit do to increase his/her fruitfulness?