

# Death to Self

Daniel R. Mesa III



**Galatians 2:20** - “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me...”

**Romans 6:1-8, 11** - Paul compared baptism with being crucified, or becoming dead to self. Just as we have symbolically baptized into Christ’s death, we can be resurrected into newness of life with Him! The old man, the previous and carnal nature, is to be reckoned dead to sin!

**Matthew 28:19-20** - “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”

Baptism is mentioned 80 times in the New Testament! It was a common practice by early Christians, a practice showing an outward expression of what was going on inwardly amongst the believers.

**John 3:5** - Speaking to Nicodemus, “Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

**Mark 16:16** - “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.” Remember, baptism is symbolic of dying to self. If we really experience death to self and have the life of Christ in us, we WILL be saved!

**Matthew 3:5-6** - Then went out to him (John the Baptist) Jerusalem, and all Judaea, and all the region round about Jordan, and were baptized of him in Jordan, confessing their sins.

The word ‘baptism,’ the Greek word baptizo literally means, “to dip,” or “immerse.”

**Matthew 3:16-17** - “Jesus, when He was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon Him: And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”

**Acts 8:26-38** - Philip was told to go to a man—an Ethiopian—who was in high authority, coming from Jerusalem, having worshipped the God of creation with the Jews. The Ethiopian was reading the book of Isaiah, one of the major prophets of the Old Testament. Philip gave the Ethiopian a Bible study about Jesus, the Ethiopian believed on the Son of God with all his heart and wanted to be baptized. They then both went into the water, just as Jesus and John in the previous Scripture.

It was not until the Council of Ravenna in AD 1311 that sprinkling and pouring were officially accepted as equally valid as immersion in the rite of baptism. But because it was accepted during that time, it doesn’t make it Biblical... as we can see, Christ and the Ethiopian both went into the water with the ones who would officiate their rite of baptism—this is the Bible’s example of true baptism.

**Ephesians 4:5** - “One Lord, one faith, one baptism...”

**Acts 2:38** - “Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”

**Acts 2:41** - “They that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.”

**Acts 2:47** - “Praising God, and having favor with all the people... the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.” We are not saved to be alone. We are saved to be part of an organized ministry to reach the world with the same beautiful gospel message that’s won our hearts!

**1 Corinthians 12:13** - “By one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.” God wants unity, and unity in the truth! Any unity outside of unity in absolute truth is not God’s unity.

**Colossians 1:18** - “He (Jesus Christ) is the head of the body, the church...”

**Acts 22:16** - As was spoken to Paul, “Why tarriest thou? Arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord!”