



When a person receives the Lord Jesus as his Savior, he dies to the domination of sin. Yes, in Christ believers have died to sin, and this is the truth that is *signified* in baptism.

By going down into the waters of baptism, we who have placed our trust in Christ testify that through our union with Him we have been buried with Him in His death. Having died to sin, we are no longer under its condemnation or bondage.

Then, our emergence from the waters of baptism *signifies* that through our union with the living Lord we have been raised from death with Him. We now have new life--that which gives us spiritual victory. Here is what the apostle himself told us:

Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life (Rom. 6:4).

Baptism does not wash away our sin; the blood of Christ has done that, but it has served symbolically as an introductory rite since the Day of Pentecost. It is the new believer's first act of obedience; a public identification with Christ.

We rejoice in your decision to follow Christ and identify with Him through water baptism. Accepting Christ's sacrifice for your sin and asking Him to lead and direct your life brings new meaning to all that you do.