

Romans 6:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?

Analysis

Know ye not (ē agnoite, ἦ ἀγνοεῖτε)—Paul assumes his readers understand baptism's significance, suggesting early Christian catechesis explained baptism theologically. The phrase **baptized into Jesus Christ** (eis Christon Iēsoun ebaptisthēmen, εἰς Χριστὸν Ἰησοῦν ἐβαπτίσθημεν) uses eis (into) indicating incorporation, union, identification—not merely "in the name of."

Baptized into his death (eis ton thanaton autou, εἰς τὸν θάνατον αὐτοῦ)—baptism signifies participation in Christ's death, not just remembering it. This is mystical union theology: the believer is so identified with Christ that His death becomes theirs forensically (for justification) and practically (for sanctification). The aorist passive ebaptisthēmen (we were baptized) points to the historical moment of conversion when believers were incorporated into Christ's death. This isn't baptismal regeneration but recognition that baptism symbolizes and seals the reality of union with Christ.

Historical Context

First-century baptism was immediate upon profession of faith (Acts 2:41, 8:36-38), by full immersion, signifying death and burial with Christ. Unlike Jewish proselyte baptism (self-administered washing), Christian baptism into Christ's death was a radically new concept. The Roman church would have practiced baptism as an initiatory rite marking entrance into the Christian community and identification with Christ's death.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. What did your baptism signify about your union with Christ's death, and how does that reality shape daily life?
2. How does understanding baptism as 'into Christ's death' challenge superficial views of Christian commitment?
3. In what ways do you need to reckon more fully with the implications of having been 'baptized into His death'?

Interlinear Text

ἢ ἀγνοεῖτε ὅτι ὕστοι ἐβαπτίσθημεν εἰς Χριστὸν
G2228 **Know ye not** that so **many of us** as were **baptized** into **Christ**
G50 G3754 G3745 G907 G1519 G5547

Ἰησοῦν εἰς τὸν θάνατον αὐτοῦ ἐβαπτίσθημεν
Jesus into G3588 death his as were **baptized**
G2424 G1519 G2288 G846 G907

Additional Cross-References

Galatians 3:27 (Baptism): For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

Romans 6:8 (References Christ): Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him:

1 Corinthians 12:13 (Baptism): For 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.

1 Peter 3:21 (Baptism): The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:

Acts 2:38 (Baptism): 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.

Matthew 28:19 (Parallel theme): Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

Acts 19:5 (Baptism): When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

Romans 6:16 (Parallel theme): Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?

Romans 7:1 (Parallel theme): Know ye not, brethren, (for I speak to them that know the law,) how that the law hath dominion over a man as long as he liveth?

1 Corinthians 9:13 (Parallel theme): Do ye not know that they which minister about holy things live of the things of the temple? and they which wait at the altar are partakers with the altar?