

Vicarious Sacrifice: All Believers Are Baptized into Jesus' Spiritual Death Breaking the Power of the Sin Nature while Human Good & Evil Are Rejected, Rom 6:3; the Indwelling & Filling of the Holy Spirit Empowers Believers to Walk in Newness of Life; the Struggle between Light and Darkness Is Illustrated by Sebastian's "Did You Ever Have to Make up Your Mind?" and Block's "Which Way Will You Choose?" Our Cells Are Identified with the Perfect Cells of Jesus Freeing Us of the Sin Nature's Ruling Power, v. 4a

Romans 6:3 - Or are you ignorant that all of us who have been baptized [aorist passive indicative of βαπτίζω (*baptízō*)] into Christ Jesus, into His spiritual death have been baptized [retroactive positional truth]?

The aorist tense of *baptízō* is **constative** indicating that the action was completed and took place in the past, i.e., at the moment of faith alone in Christ alone.

The voice is **passive** which means the instantaneous action was received by the believer and was therefore not an experience.

The **indicative** mood is a statement of doctrinal fact confirming that the baptism identified the believer with the Lord's spiritual and physical deaths and His burial — retroactive positional truth.

This association with Christ means that the sovereignty and power of the sin nature has been broken.

The personal sins have been judged at the cross and forgiven at salvation. In addition, association with the concepts of human good and evil are rejected.

Through the accumulation of divine thought, the believer is able to identify manifestations of cosmic thought and behavior and reject them.

Instead, he is able to opt for the principles of divine viewpoint as he systematically develops an inventory of ideas through Bible study.

This system of spiritual growth is categorized by Paul as walking in "newness of life."

From this a principle is developed: The more you grow spiritually the greater becomes your production. Production is never the means, but the result. Spiritual growth is always the means. You can never produce until you know how.

Romans 6:4 - Therefore, we have been buried together with Him through the baptism of the Holy Spirit, into His physical death in order that as Christ has been raised up from deaths [**spiritual & physical**] through the glory of God the Father, so also we might walk [**aoist active subjunctive of περιπατέω (peripatéō)**] in the newness of life. (vv. 1–4: EXT)

1. This verse describes the transformation of the believer from total depravity to spiritual life.
2. Some lyrics about a love triangle in a 1960s' rock and roll song by the Lovin' Spoonful can be adapted to the struggle between light and darkness in the angelic conflict's invisible warfare:

Did You Ever Have to Make up Your Mind?

Did you ever have to make up your mind?
 You pick up on one and leave the other one behind
 It's not often easy and not often kind
 Did you ever have to make up your mind?

 Did you ever have to finally decide?
 And say yes to one and let the other one ride
 There's so many changes and tears you must hide
 Did you ever have to finally decide?¹

3. "Which way will you choose? You've got everything to gain; you've got everything to lose."²
4. You can continue to operate in the darkness of human good and evil or begin the process of breaking away from the power of Luciferian influence.
5. The word **συνθάπτω (suntháptō)** means to be buried with someone, in this case with Christ in His burial.
6. It is important to understand the impact of the baptism of the believer into the deceased body of Christ.

¹ Written by John Sebastian. Lyrics © Alley Music Corp., Trio Music Co, Inc. All rights reserved.

² Ron Block, "Which Way Will You Choose?" © 1996 by Moonlight Canyon Publishing. All rights reserved.

7. Obviously, this is not a literal event but an identification which takes places as a part of retroactive positional truth. Here's the concept:

Burial disposes of the perfect body of Jesus. All the cell structure of His body was perfect and uncontaminated by the sin nature. When Jesus' body went into the tomb, every cell was free of the sin nature. He was not under the sovereign rule of the sin nature. The ruler of human life could not claim our Lord. We are identified with that body and therefore we are as free from the rulership of the sin nature as He was. We still have a sin nature, but we are free from its rulership. Positionally we have been freed so we can live a new live, the "newness of life" unto God, mentioned in Romans 6:4.³

8. *Suntháptō* is a constative aorist referring to the completed actions of Jesus' physical death and burial. The latter event includes the Lord's body going into the grave with which we are identified.
9. Human good and evil were not judged at the cross but rejected. In Jesus' physical death and burial, He was totally separated from Satan's strategy, tactics, and agenda.
10. Since human good and evil have been rejected positionally, they can be rejected experientially.
11. Human good and evil continue to be the issue in the angelic conflict and therefore the explanation for human history.
12. Sin was judged on the cross. For the believer, sin is managed by rebound and spiritual growth. Regarding human good and evil, the believer must learn to distinguish between divine viewpoint and human viewpoint in order to facilitate the former and inhibit the latter.
13. Through retroactive positional truth, we are identified with Jesus Christ in His physical death and burial so that we are positionally separated from human good and evil.
14. The translation of verse four to this point reads this way:

Romans 6:4 - Therefore we have been buried together with Him through baptism into His physical death ...

³ Extracted from R. B. Thieme, Jr.'s commentary in Roman 6:4 in *Romans*, R. B. Thieme, Jr., Bible Ministries, 1977.