

The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread." Jesus answered him, saying, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.'" (Luke 4:3-4)

What is the **Word of God concerning you and me**? It is first of all **His Word informing us of our identity** and our relationship to Him. And because Christ has **already justified all of us** before God, the **identity Jesus received** and believed from His Father is the identity that has **already been implanted in us**. The only thing keeping us from living the life Jesus lived is our willingness to believe what is **already declared to be true** about us that came to us in **God's Word to Jesus** at His baptism.

*Now it happened, when all the people were baptized, Jesus also had been **baptized, and was praying**. The sky was opened, and the **Holy Spirit descended** in a bodily form as a dove on him; and a voice came out of the sky, saying "**You are my beloved Son. In you I am well pleased.**" (Luke 3:21-22)*

Being **justified** means **having a right identity** that **restores our original relation** to God at creation as His **image-bearers**. The only thing for us to do is to **believe it** and **allow His Spirit to live in us**.

Salvation is all about identity. And what we **believe about our identity** has everything to do with **how we relate** to everything situation in life, steering how we make decisions and how we reflect God.

*What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? May it never be! **We who died to sin**, how could we live in it any longer? Or don't you know that all we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were **baptized into his death**? We were **buried** therefore **with him through baptism to death**, that just like Christ was **raised from the dead** through the glory of the Father, so we also might **walk in newness of life**. For if we have become **united with him** in the likeness of his death, we will **also be part** of his resurrection; knowing this, that our **old man was crucified** with him, that the body of **sin might be done away with**, so that we would **no longer be in bondage to sin**. For he who has died has been **freed from sin**. (Romans 6:1-7)*

Baptism is our signal to the watching universe that we have **chosen to be identified with Jesus**. Do not slip into the trap of thinking that baptism is about joining a church denomination. It can be easy to assume that, but baptism is entirely about **identifying with Jesus**, receiving **our identity through His identity**. We **put away getting our identity** from any **human organization** or person or **feeling** or past **mistakes or achievements**. Our **identity is in Christ alone**.

For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. (Colossians 3:3)

Let us embrace our true **identity through baptism separate from membership** in a group of believers who are headed in a similar direction as us. That is about **fellowship**, but is not to be our identity.

Our **old identity is past** tense, invalid, mute and powerless – not because we defeated or overcame it, but because we **swapped** it out for our **true identity based solely on the Word of God**.

Baptism is the **outward sign of our identity swap**, and from then on we **affirm our decision** continually by **immersing ourselves in the promises** of God that **affirm our new creation identity** and **disarms** any and all allegations and feelings that **contradict His Word** over us.