

Stop...Identify Yourself! "This Is The Way" Series – Part 01

A 15 Minute Study Guide- Read Romans 6:1- 14

Why is it not possible (or recommended) that a person continue to promote a life of sin so as to expand opportunities to experience grace?

In what ways can we identify our life with the life of Christ?

According to Rom. 6:1-6, what should be the goal of the Christian life?

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A Fuller Study Guide-

Connect question: If you could live inside of any movie, what movie would it be and what character would you play?

Introduction: A 2002 movie entitled, *"Catch Me If You Can"* depicted the life of Frank Abagnale, Jr. who was a master at assuming various identities. He successfully claimed to be a doctor, a lawyer, a prison official, and then a co-pilot for a major airline -- all before his 18th birthday. An expert at deception, he was also a brilliant forger, whose skill gave him his first real claim to fame: At the age of 17, Abagnale, became the most successful bank robber in the history of the U.S.

Imagine for a moment what he would need to do to convince others, that he was a doctor, a lawyer, or airline pilot. Talk about the various requirements needed:

Now imagine what would be required if Frank Abagnale wanted to convince others he was a Christian. What would he use to convince them of this identity?

The Bible tells us there is one action that an obedient Christian should take: Baptism. Baptism is defined as *"being immersed into something"*, and *"identifying completely with a person or belief"*. Baptism is a meaningful experience and a picture of the new life in Christ described by Paul in the following scriptures.

Read Romans 6:1-14

Rom 6:1 Well then, should we keep on sinning so that God can show us more and more of His wonderful grace?

Rom 6:2 Of course not! Since we have died to sin, how can we continue to live in it?

Rom 6:3 Or have you forgotten that when we were joined with Christ Jesus in baptism, we joined Him in His death?

Rom 6:4 For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives.

Rom 6:5 Since we have been united with Him in His death, we will also be raised to life as He was.

Rom 6:6 We know that our old sinful selves were crucified with Christ so that sin might lose its power in our lives. We are no longer slaves to sin.

Rom 6:7 For when we died with Christ we were set free from the power of sin.

Rom 6:8 And since we died with Christ, we know we will also live with Him.

Rom 6:9 We are sure of this because Christ was raised from the dead, and He will never die again. Death no longer has any power over Him.

Rom 6:10 When He died, He died once to break the power of sin. But now that He lives, He lives for the glory of God.

Rom 6:11 So you also should consider yourselves to be dead to the power of sin and alive to God through Christ Jesus.

Rom 6:12 Do not let sin control the way you live; do not give in to sinful desires.

Rom 6:13 Do not let any part of your body become an instrument of evil to serve sin. Instead, give yourselves completely to God, for you were dead, but now you have new life. So use your whole body as an instrument to do what is right for the glory of God.

Rom 6:14 Sin is no longer your master, for you no longer live under the requirements of the law. Instead, you live under the freedom of God's grace.

Discussion:

In what ways can we practically identify with the following events?

- The death of Christ
- The burial of Christ
- The resurrection of Christ

How does “immersing ourselves in the death of Christ” help us defeat the sinful habits in our lives?

What should one understand about the real experience of being immersed in Christ before submitting to public baptism?

Some teach that baptism is necessary for salvation. How does this conflict with scripture?

Homework:

If I were asked to explain the importance of baptism to someone, how would I answer these possible questions:

1. What do I need to know about baptism?
2. Am I a candidate for baptism?
3. What would being baptised do for me? For others?