

Rom 6.1-4—Engaged by Baptism

What is it to which our baptism engages us?

- I. To live a life devoted and dedicated to the God of our baptism.
 - A. We're engaged to live for God because He created us; but we're even more engaged because He graciously put His name upon us and called us His own.
 - B. Our baptism is at His initiative and necessarily obligates us to walk as those whose God is the LORD.
 - C. Baptized into the name of God, we're not our own, we're under obligation, and we're graciously privileged to be the Lord's, Rom 6.3-4
- II. To renounce all that's contrary to God.
 - A. We must renounce the devil and throw off his yoke, Js 4.7; 1Pet 5.9. Covenanting with God in baptism engages us to revolt against Satan's rule over us.
 - B. We must renounce all the lusts of our flesh, Rom 13.14. We're engaged to quit the life of sin we lived and instead yield ourselves unto the will of our God, Rom 6.4
 - C. We must renounce all conformity to this present evil world, Rom 12.2. We're engaged to be conformed to the Lord Jesus with whom our baptism unites us, Rom 6.3-4; 8.29
- III. To resign our whole selves up to the Lord, 2Cor 5.15
 - A. Having been delivered from tyranny, we live in surrender and service to our Deliverer, Col 1.13; Gal 5.1
- IV. To walk in new obedience, Tit 2.11-14
 - A. Our baptism is an engagement to live a holy life. There's no place in the life of a Christian for a life of sin. We've been delivered from bondage to disobedience and empowered for a life of obedience.

How can we make the most of our baptism?

- I. A word to our covenant children.
 - A. Your baptism is the Lord's call to you. It's His assurance to you that He is your God and that, no matter what you've done, there is forgiveness for you.
 - B. Therefore go to God in prayer and ask Him to forgive you and to give you the grace to love Him, to live for Him, and to follow Jesus as your Lord and Saviour.
- II. A word to all. How do you make good use of your baptism?
 - A. Use it as a goad to your faith and walk when you're tempted to sin, Gen 39.9
 - B. Use it as a plea with God when you feel helpless against sin, Ezk 36.26
 - C. Use it as an encouragement to return to God when you've backslidden, Lk 15.17-19
 - 1. We're under the greatest of obligations not to leave God for sin and, by our baptism, under the greatest of encouragements to return to Him when we do.
 - 2. Our baptism is the seal of an eternal covenant. It comes to us with the promise from God that when we leave Him for sin, there's ALWAYS a way back home to Him.
 - 3. Our baptism is God's testimony to us that He'll never give us a bill of divorce.
 - 4. So go to Him, as often as you stumble, and rest on His faithfulness, His unchanging love, and His eternal covenant.
- III. A warning.
 - A. If you don't make proper use of your baptism, as a call to trust in God for salvation and a goad to walk in holiness, it will rise up in the judgment and witness against you, Mt 11.20-24