

## Bible chat notes week starting 29 1 23

### Romans 6: 1 - 14

*What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning, so that grace may increase? 2 By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? 3 Or don't you know that all of us who were baptised into Christ Jesus were baptised into his death? 4 We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.*

*5 For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his. 6 For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin – 7 because anyone who has died has been set free from sin.*

*8 Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. 9 For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. 10 The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God.*

*11 In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. 12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. 13 Do not offer any part of yourself to sin as an instrument of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer every part of yourself to him as an instrument of righteousness. 14 For sin shall no longer be your master, because you are not under the law, but under grace.*

1. Talk about your own baptism, or about what baptism means to you.
2. Paul's teaching here is about how baptism enables a person to be united with Christ in his death. Discuss what this might mean for a believer's life.
3. Paul also talks about being united with Christ 'in a resurrection like his'. What does this mean for a Christian's life? What difference does it make to their day-to-day living and to their hopes of eternal life?
4. David, in his talk, suggested a one-word prayer 'Yes' as a reminder of how to live the new life of Christ. In baptism, we are saying Yes to all that God has done for us in Christ. In daily living, we are saying Yes to living God's way in every moment. Explore the merits and drawbacks of this very simple approach.
5. What other habits or practices might maintain our resolve to live the new life of Christ?
6. David suggested that baptism is an **environmental statement**, simply because God uses the stuff of this world - like water and air - to bring spiritual messages. How might this change our attitude to water, air, and other natural resources?
7. Believer's baptism may also be seen as a **political act**, because it expresses the free choice of a person to respond to Christ as they feel he has been revealed to them, rather than requiring individuals to conform to some official religion. By extension, it affirms the right of all people to choose their religion or outlook on life. Explore these ideas.