



new life fellowship

**Sermon Title: Not Forsaking Our Baptism**  
**Speaker: Richard Villodas, Lead Pastor**  
**Scripture: Romans 6:3-4**

Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 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.

*Romans 6:3-4 (NIV)*

**Sermon Outline:**

In this passage of scripture, Paul is laying down the theological framework and truth in how we relate to God. He is reminding the Church of their fundamental unity. Their unity in being baptized as a sign that they have been washed by the grace and goodness of God. The Church was to turn away from the world and turn towards God.

No matter who you vote for, you are welcome at New Life Fellowship. The occurrences we have witnessed at the Capital this past week have been very distressing and producing deep anxiety in all of us. For those of us who are still processing and working through our feelings, know that you are not alone.

The fundamental problem with the church today is that it has forsaken its Christian baptism.

"The crisis with the US church has almost nothing to do with being liberal or conservative; it has to do with **giving up the faith and discipline of our baptism** and settling for a common, generic US identity that is part patriotism, part consumerism, part violence and part affluence."

*-Walter Brueggeman, Theologian*

To be baptized is to be crucified to the world. When we are baptized, we go down into the water as dead people and come out of the water alive. There is a transformation deep in our soul that has taken place. We no longer belong to the world system but belong to Jesus Christ – our allegiance belongs to Jesus Christ. Many within the church today are not expressing this allegiance but instead are anxiously clinging to a president they believe is God's choice.

"The problem isn't that Trump thinks of himself as some sort of Messiah, it's that too **many Christians** want their Messiah to be more like Trump."

*-Carlos Rodriguez*

Jesus did not save the world as a warrior but did so with a self-giving love, giving his own life for us. Jesus was led into the wilderness after his baptism. After being tempted by the evil one, Jesus said no to the evil one and chose to live from the center of God's call for him and not from a worldly view.

The five (5) dangers to our baptism that we must reject in the name of Jesus:

1. Conflating of party and personality with Christ.
2. Conspiracy Theories.
3. Charismatic Prophecies.
4. Cable News Discipleship.
5. Resist Corrosive Racism.

In order to claim our baptism, we need to:

- Remain in the Father's love. We see this in love that is manifested in compassion, truth telling, justice, mercy and forgiveness.
- Resist idolatry. We must resist the temptation to place our hope in someone or something to bring us security and safety and value or worth that it cannot deliver.

We are called to give our total allegiance to Christ.

**Sermon Summary:**

This Sunday Lead Pastor Richard Villodas leads us in a sermon titled Not Forsaking our Baptism. Today Pastor Rich offers us five threats to our baptism in Christ and how we are to claim our baptism and live it out during these most challenging times.

**Sermon Questions:**

1. How does this scripture connect for you the topic that was discussed today? What words resonate with you? Why?
2. In your family of origin, how much fear and anxiety did you experience growing up? Did you have people you could talk to when you had these feelings? If not, did you look to other people or other things (overworking, overeating, drinking, smoking) to help you work through your emotions? If fear and anxiety are taking over your life now, how are you processing these emotions – with someone or are you using something else to rescue you? Sit with God this week and ask him for help to begin letting go of your anxieties and fears.
3. Of the five dangers listed above that we are to resist, what is the Lord calling you to reject today? Are you able to be honest with yourself, naming what you need to reject and bringing that to the Lord in prayer?
4. Take time this week and notice how much cable news you are watching, taking note in any anger or rage that rises up in you. Begin to set boundaries around how much cable news you are viewing, knowing that the Bible is to be the primary source on how our lives are to be shaped.
5. Do you know people who believe in conspiracy theories? Maybe they are your friends, a co-worker or part of your family. See if you can pick up the phone this week to have a conversation with them, speaking the truth to them in love and grace.
6. How do you feel when you hear that racism eats away at our souls, our families, and our communities? Are you able to resist corrosive racism, finding time this week to be led by the scriptures, silently listening to God? Ask God to lead you in becoming passionate in justice toward those around you.