Introduction:

Ever since Adam & Eve sinned, God has longed to be one with us. Jesus took a dramatic step toward being reunited with us when He became a man. Even though Jesus did not need to be baptized, He did this to fulfill all righteousness. **Matthew 3:13-17**. Not His righteousness, but ours.

Sin is what separated us from God. **Romans 6:1&2** says that we have died to sin. In **verses 3-11**, an explanation is given of how identifying with Jesus can rid us of sin and unite us with Him. (All texts from Today's English Version.)

- Verse 3 "For surely you know that when we were baptized into *union* with Christ Jesus,..." By baptism we become one with Him because we have committed our life to Him. We identify with Jesus and are identified as Christians.
- Vs. 3 "we were baptized into union with His death". We identify with Jesus death. When the will of Jesus conflicted with that of His Father, He surrendered His will to God. (Matthew 26:39) We must also be willing to surrender our will to God. Self must die before we can really love Jesus.
- **Verse 4** "By our baptism, then, we were buried with Him,..." *We identify with His burial*. We are covered completely by earth/water/love when we are baptized.
- Vs. 4 "... and shared His death." We identify with crucifixion. Because we have been crucified with Christ, we are able to live a new life by faith. Galatians 2:20. Self is constrained/subdued/ ruled by love.
 2 Corinthians 5:14.
- Vs. 4 "in order that, just as Christ was raised from death by the glorious power of the Father, so also we might live a new life." We identify with the same glorious power of the Father (that Jesus experienced) to live a new life.
- Verse 5 "For since we have become one with Him in dying as He did (baptism & crucifixion), in the same way we shall be one with Him by being raised to life as He was." We identify with the resurrection of Jesus. This is the climax to God's attempt to be one with Him. 1Thessalonians 4:15-18 "And so we will always be with the Lord."
- Verse 6 "And we know that our old being has been put to death with Christ on His cross, in order that the power of the sinful self might be destroyed, so that we *should* no longer be the slaves of sin."
- Verse 7 "For when a person dies, he is set free from the power of sin."
- Verse 8 "Since we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with Him."
- **Verses 9-10** Jesus now lives in fellowship with God.
- Verse 11 "In the same way you are to think of yourselves as dead, so far as sin is concerned, but living in fellowship with God through Christ Jesus."