

1 Cor 12:13
1 Cor 1:30

clear that the exact meaning of baptism must be determined in each passage by considering the context. The word means "immersion" or a "putting into." But immersion into what?

Here in Romans 6 the apostle is not commenting on our immersion into water, but into Christ. This is baptism by the Spirit. Paul says this "baptism," or immersion into Christ, is an integral part of becoming a Christian. He often refers to God's act of placing believers into Christ. In 1 Corinthians 12:13 he says, "By one Spirit we were all baptized into one body." This is why believers are called the Body of Christ. In 1 Corinthians 1:30 Paul says, "By [God's] doing you are in Christ Jesus." The Spirit of God has somehow baptized, or placed us, into Christ.

Theologians refer to this oneness with Christ as the "mystical union" of believers with Christ. Over one hundred times in the New Testament believers are said to be "in Christ," "in the beloved," "in Him," or similar phrases. The mystical union of the believer with Christ is not an obscure concept found off in the corner somewhere. Many of the most important promises God has given us are linked directly to this union. Here are some important examples:

TABLE 3.1 THINGS WE RECEIVE BASED ON OUR IDENTIFICATION WITH CHRIST

Passages	What Is Promised
Romans 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are <i>in Christ Jesus</i> .	Freedom from condemnation
Romans 8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life <i>in Christ Jesus</i> has set you free from the law of sin and of death.	Freedom from the law of sin
Romans 8:39 [Neither] height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is <i>in Christ Jesus</i> our Lord.	Security and permanence in God's love
Romans 12:5 So we, who are many, are one body <i>in Christ</i> , and individually members one of another.	Unity with other Christians
1 Corinthians 1:30 But by His doing you are <i>in Christ Jesus</i> , who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption.	God's wisdom, goodness, etc., imparted to us

Passages	What Is Promised
2 Corinthians 2:14 But thanks be to God, who always leads us in His triumph <i>in Christ</i> , and manifests through us the sweet aroma of the knowledge of Him in every place.	Triumph, or victory in spiritual war
2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if any man is <i>in Christ</i> , he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.	New identity
Galatians 2:20 <i>I have been crucified with Christ</i> ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me, and delivered Himself up for me.	Death to the old person
Galatians 3:28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female, for you are all one <i>in Christ Jesus</i> .	Basis for social, racial, and sexual equality
Ephesians 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places <i>in Christ</i> .	Every blessing; note the past tense
Philippians 3:9 [That] if may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith <i>in Christ</i> , the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith.	Righteousness imparted to us
Philippians 4:7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, shall guard your hearts and your minds <i>in Christ Jesus</i> .	Inner peace of mind
Colossians 3:3-4 For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.	Future inheritance and eternal life
1 John 5:20 And we know that the Son of God has come, and has given us understanding, in order that we might know Him who is true, and we are <i>in Him</i> who is true, <i>in His Son Jesus Christ</i> . This is the true God and eternal life.	Truth and understanding
2 Corinthians 5:21 He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God <i>in Him</i> .	The righteousness of God
1 Corinthians 1:5 In everything you were enriched <i>in Him</i> , in all speech and all knowledge.	Spiritual gifts

