

YOU ARE LOVED | Baptism Sunday

Matthew 3:13-17

“¹³Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” ¹⁵But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. ¹⁶And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; ¹⁷and behold, a voice from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”” (Matthew 3:13–17)

INTRODUCTION:

How would you explain the significance of baptism in the Christian life?

Three key elements of baptism (see Acts 2:37-38):

1. **Requires Repentance & Faith** - *“Repent”*
2. **Responsibility of the Church to Baptise** - *“... be baptized”*
3. **Reminds us of what only God can do** - grant the *“forgiveness of sins”* and *“the gift of the Holy Spirit”*

DISCUSS:

1. **If baptism represented a person’s repentance and desire to turn from sin, why did Jesus submit to baptism under John the Baptist?**

2. **What does Jesus mean when He says in verse 15, *“Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.”*? What encouragement can we draw from the fact that Jesus submitted Himself to baptism, in identification with those He came to save?**

- 3. When Jesus was baptised by John, a voice that came from heaven saying, “*You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.*” (v17)**

How does your baptism remind and assure you of God’s love?

- 4. Jesus’ baptism is a fulfilment of the words of the prophet Isaiah in Isaiah 42:1. From this verse, what is one other reason for the Holy Spirit coming upon every believer who professes faith in Christ?**

How does the Holy Spirit help us to continue the work of Christ to fulfil God’s mission on earth?