

He Loves Me Series – Part 3

Fully New

November Water Baptism

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We are in the midst of a message series called *“He Loves Me.”* In this series we are exploring our identity in Christ. What it means to be loved and accepted by him.

When we come to Christ, we take on a new identity and a transformation process begins in our lives. He begins to make us fully new!

The Apostle Paul explains it this way:

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! NIV

NLT Translation: This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!

We can see some of these spiritual truths being demonstrated in nature. We are like caterpillars being transformed into butterflies. Instead of crawling in the dirt and filth of this earth we are now given wings to fly and enjoy new freedom. A whole new life and identity becomes available to us in Christ.

As we go under the water in baptism, we are declaring that we have died to the old ways. We are burying our past sins. We are declaring the power of the cross over our hurts, habits, and hang ups. As the baptism waters wash over us, so by faith has the blood of Jesus washed us clean from all sin, guilt, and shame.

We come up out of the baptism waters with a new outlook on life. With a faith in the power of God to keep us from falling and a desire to live for him.

Romans 6:3-4 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.

So, for each person walking into the baptism waters this morning. They are born again. They are forgiven. They are cleansed. They are made new.

They have a new identity. They have a new name. They are no longer known as sinner, outcast or defiled. They are now called saint, victorious, overcomer and take on the name Christian as a follower of Christ.

Their new core identity is that of a much loved son or daughter of the most high God.

That is who you are, never forget. Lift your head up. The most valuable and honorable identity in the whole universe is simply to be his child!

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No other religion in the whole world offers this kind of relationship. This is really mind boggling when you think of all powerful creator and sustainer of the universe inviting us into such an intimate relationship with him. He sees us as so valuable that he sent his son to die on the cross so we could come into his family.

Sonship is a term that describes a deep paternal relationship. It refers to both men and women who are drawn into this special relationship with God as their father.

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Romans 8:15-17

For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs - heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ...

Father God has given me a spirit of sonship in place of an orphan spirit. I am now a joint heir with Jesus and my family inheritance is the fullness and riches of Heaven and Kingdom life on earth. My inheritance begins now, and I will rule and reign with Christ throughout eternity.

It doesn't get any better than that!

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Invite people being baptized to come forward for their vows.