



Connect Discussion Guide

5.2.21 Message | Chuck Sackett | Matthew 3:13-17

Key Scriptures:

Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. And 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; and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

- Matthew 3:13–17

And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

- Acts 2:38

Having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead.

- Colossians 2:12

For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

- Galatians 3:27

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

- 1 Corinthians 12:12–13

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

- Romans 6:3–4

And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name.

- Acts 22:16

Message Highlights:

- In the Bible, baptism is always mentioned in reference to being completely immersed, submerged or buried in water.
- Water baptism is an act of surrender to Jesus, identifying with him in his death, burial and resurrection.
- Jesus' own baptism was a reflection of his total embrace of God the Father's will for his life.
- Baptism is the means by which we participate in the burial and resurrection of Jesus.
- We are baptized: into Christ, into the church and into the remission of sins.
- Our immersion both initiates and symbolizes our total surrender to Jesus and the Jesus-life.

Conversation Starter:

- Have you ever been part of a conversation about baptism, whether you were considering baptism yourself or talking with someone else who is considering being baptized? If so, how did that conversation start? If not, what barriers or questions stand between you and this conversation?

Discuss the Message:

1. Chuck illustrated the symbolism of baptism by immersion during the sermon; what was this symbolism? Why does it matter that someone takes the step to be immersed, rather than simply declare Jesus is their savior with their mouth?
2. Why was Jesus baptized? What does this decision reflect about Jesus' character?
3. Discuss John's response to Jesus' decision to be baptized in Matthew 3:14 when he says, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?"
4. Notice what was not present surrounding Jesus' baptism (i.e. pressure from outside people). What strikes you about the nature of Jesus' baptism?
5. What are the implications of our own baptism? Consider doing a search for the word "baptism" in the New Testament to aid your discussion.
6. In Acts 22:16, Paul urges those who have heard the gospel of Jesus to respond, saying, "Why do you wait? Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name." If you believe in who Jesus said he is and you want to follow him but have not yet been baptized, what is holding you back?

Pray:

Father in Heaven, we thank you for the love that you have shown us in vindicating your only Son, Jesus. Jesus, we thank you for your example of obedience to your Heavenly Father. We are humbled and inspired by the way you never command us to do anything that you yourself have not already done as an example for us to follow. We pray that you would move in the hearts of those who believe but have not yet been immersed that they might respond by identifying with your son in his death, burial and resurrection. We ask that those who have been immersed into Christ would continue living a life fully immersed in the life of Christ, his church and his mission in this world by the power of your Holy Spirit. Amen.