

Baptism Sermon
Mt 3
Identity in Christ outline
9.9.18

Who We Are & The Baptism of Jesus

I. What We Desire Most

- A. **We Yearn for Belonging** (to be fully known)
 - leaving us insecure
- B. **We Long for Intimacy** (to be truly loved)
 - leaving us incomplete
- C. **We Strive for Approval** (to be surely appreciated)
 - leaving us unsatisfied

II. What Jesus Received from The Father (Matthew 3:13-17)

"and a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased"

- A. **"This is my Son"** - receiving **ACCEPTANCE**
 - fully known by the Father, belonging to Him
- B. **"whom I love"** -receiving **AFFECTION**
 - truly loved by the Father, in intimacy with Him
- C. **"with him I am well pleased"** -receiving **AFFIRMATION**
 - surely appreciated by the Father, approved by Him

III. What Christ Accomplished for Us (Colossians 2:8-15)

"And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. "

- A. **"And you, who were dead..."**
 - 1. **"in your trespasses"**
 - missing the mark, living life on our terms not God's
 - 2. **"in the uncircumcision of your flesh"**
 - separated from the relationship we were created for with God
- B. **"God made alive!"**
 - 1. **"together with Him"**
 - the relationship of our life has been restored
 - 2. **"having forgiven our trespasses"**
 - the full forgiveness of sins made reality
 - 3. **"nailed to the cross"**
 - through the finished/ total/ complete work of Christ on the cross

IV. Now, Who We Are In Christ (Colossians 3:12-13)

"as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved,"

- A. God's **CHOSEN...** In Christ we receive: **ACCEPTANCE**
 - Fully known and hand-picked as God's children
- B. God's **HOLY...** In Christ we receive: **AFFIRMATION**
 - Completely approved and set-apart for His purpose and glory
- C. God's **BELOVED...** In Christ we receive: **AFFECTION**
 - Truly loved and pursued by God; unconditionally cherished by Him

OUR IDENTITY IS COMPLETELY IN CHRIST,
AS CHILDREN OF GOD;
FULLY KNOWN, TRULY LOVED, & COMPLETELY APPROVED BY HIM.

"To be loved but not known is comforting but superficial. To be known and not loved is our greatest fear. But to be fully known and truly loved is, well, a lot like being loved by God. It is what we need more than anything. It liberates us from pretense, humbles us out of our self-righteousness, and fortifies us for any difficulty life can throw at us."

-Tim Keller