



Are You with Jesus?

INTRODUCTION: It is an amazing joy to know that every person who believes in Jesus as Lord and Savior is made into a brand new creation. Our old life is crucified and buried with Christ and the new life we live today is lived through Jesus. This is why it is so important for every believer to be baptized. Baptism is God’s designed means for every Christian to publicly identify with Christ: “I’m With Jesus!”

READ: Romans 6:3-6

DISCUSSION:

1. Who am I? Fact or Fiction. Ask everyone to write on a piece of paper three things about themselves which may not be known to the others in the group. Two are true and one is not. Taking turns they read out the three ‘facts’ about themselves and the rest of the group votes which are true and false. Who knows who the best in your group? Couples may even be surprised at this game! This fun activity demonstrates characteristics about our identity, personality, etc.
2. Romans 6 talks about how believers should have the likeness or characteristics of Christ; that we “identify with him.” Think about the characteristic of God which you identify with the most. Take a few minutes share this name, word or phrase with the group.
3. Have you been baptized? If so, describe your baptism to the group.
 - Were you excited, nervous or afraid?
 - Who was there to celebrate with you?
 - Why did you make the decision to be baptized?
4. What are some things that often hinder believers from being baptized? Why is it important to get beyond these hindrances?
5. In the message, Pastor Matthew stated that there is a three-step pattern of baptism in Scripture. Can you identify the steps? (Answer: Hear, Believe, Baptize).
 - Why is it important that this pattern be followed?
 - If you are a Christians, what does the first step reveal about our responsibility in the process?
6. Baptism symbolized three important things from the life of Christ. What are they? (Answer: His death, burial and resurrection).
 - How does out baptism identify us with these aspects of Jesus’s life?
 - What does this mean for us today?
7. As a group read Galatians 2:20 and answer the following questions:
 - What did Paul say had happened to his old self?
 - What made his new life different?
8. As a group read Colossians 3:1-7 and answer the following questions:
 - What is the key for us to continue walking in newness of life?
 - Why do we struggle with this so much?
 - As we live for Christ, according to verse 4, what amazing guarantee do we have in the future?

TAKE IT WITH YOU:

If we believe in our heart, confess with our mouth that Jesus is Lord, and are buried with Christ in baptism, let’s make our life reflect that always, in all ways!

CONCLUSION:

The refrain from the old hymn “Buried with Christ” summarizes it best: “Buried with Christ and dead unto sin; Dying but living, Jesus within; Ruling and reigning day after day, Guiding and keeping all of the way.” If you have been saved and made alive in Christ Jesus take a look at your life...is it a symbolic picture to others? If you have not been baptized...let us know, it’s time to say “I’m with Jesus!”

READING LIST: Monday: Romans 6:1-7 / **Tuesday:** Romans 6:8-14 / **Wednesday:** Romans 6:15-23 / **Thursday:** Colossians 2:8-15 / **Friday:** Colossians 3:1-11 / **Saturday:** Romans 8:1-8 / **Sunday:** Romans 8:9-17