

Sermon Title: Marked by Christ

Key Texts:

- Romans 6:3–5
- 2 Corinthians 5:20
- Genesis 1:27
- Colossians 3:1–3

1. We Were Created to Represent (Image Bearers)

In **Genesis 1:27**, we see that humanity was created in the image of God. That means from the very beginning, our identity was never just about us—it was about *representation*.

An image bearer reflects the nature, character, and glory of God into the world.

But sin distorted that image. Instead of clearly reflecting God, humanity began reflecting self, brokenness, and separation.

So the question became:

How does God restore His image in us so we can represent Him again?

2. Christ Restores What Was Lost

Jesus doesn't just improve us—He *recreates* us.

He is the perfect image of God (Colossians 1:15), and through Him, we are restored into that image.

But this restoration comes through a very specific path:

His death, burial, and resurrection.

This is where baptism comes in—not as a ritual, but as a *declaration of identity*.

3. Baptism: Identifying With Christ

In **Romans 6:3–5**, Paul makes it clear:

Baptism is not just symbolic—it is deeply spiritual. It declares:

- **I died with Christ**
- **I was buried with Him**
- **I am raised into new life**

This means:

- The *old identity*—defined by sin, self, and separation—is gone
- A *new identity*—defined by Christ—is now alive

Baptism is an outward expression of an inward reality:
“I am no longer who I was. I now belong to Jesus.”

4. Buried: The End of the Old Identity

When someone goes under the water, it represents burial.

Not improvement. Not behavior modification.

Death.

- Dead to sin
- Dead to self-rule
- Dead to the old way of living

This is important because you cannot represent Christ while still holding onto a former identity.

You can't be an ambassador of Jesus while living as a citizen of your old life.

5. Raised: A New Identity, A New Life

Coming out of the water represents resurrection.

Just as Christ was raised, we are raised into *new life*.

Now:

- You are a child of God
- You are restored as an image bearer
- You are called as an ambassador

This connects directly to your first message:

In **2 Corinthians 5:20**, we are called ambassadors of Christ.

But notice—**you don't become an ambassador by effort, you become one by identity.**

Baptism is the moment we publicly step into that identity.

6. Sent: Baptism Leads to Representation

Baptism is not the finish line—it's the beginning.

Jesus didn't rise from the grave to live a private life.

He rose and was *seen, known, and revealed*.

In the same way:

- We don't just receive new life—we *represent* that life
- We don't just carry a new identity—we *display* it

So baptism is both:

- **A declaration** → “I belong to Jesus”
- **A commission** → “I will represent Him”

7. What Does Representation Look Like After Baptism?

Now bring it practically together:

To represent Jesus means:

- Reflecting His character (love, holiness, humility)
- Living under His authority
- Carrying His message into everyday spaces

Link back to image bearing:

We reflect what we are formed by.

And now:

We have been formed by Christ.

8. Moment for the Candidates (Powerful Transition)

Speak directly to those being baptized:

“Today, you are not just getting wet.

You are declaring that your old life is buried, and your new life is in Christ.

You are stepping into your true identity:

- Restored image bearer
- Ambassador of Jesus
- Witness of His resurrection”

9. Call to the Church

Don't let this just be about those getting baptized.

Challenge everyone:

- Have you truly identified with Christ?
- Are you still holding onto an old identity?
- Are you representing Jesus in your daily life?

Because the reality is:

You can attend church and still not live as an ambassador.

10. Closing Line

Bring it all together:

“Baptism reminds us that we don’t represent Jesus to *become* something—we represent Him because we already *are* something.

Buried with Him.

Raised with Him.

Now sent to represent Him.”