

January 8, 2017  
**“You Are A Child Of God...Uh-Oh!”**  
**(Matthew 3:13-17)**

Baptism should not be a mere \_\_\_\_\_ of the church that we go through without some deep \_\_\_\_\_ searching and prayer.

One reason baptism is an “uh-oh” event is that it represents \_\_\_\_\_ on our part.

We are becoming part of the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ. That means we are becoming a vital part of the \_\_\_\_\_.

Why did Christ go to John the Baptist to be baptized?  
Some possibilities:

**#1.- He may have wanted to \_\_\_\_\_ with the ministry and message of John.**

There are those who would portray John as \_\_\_\_\_ on sin and Jesus as \_\_\_\_\_ on the same subject.

Jesus was compassionate with sinners, but not with \_\_\_\_\_!

Sin destroys! That is why it is the \_\_\_\_\_!

We modern folk hardly use the word \_\_\_\_\_ anymore, and that is tragic.

It's tragic for 2 reasons:

- 1- It allows us to evade the sad truth about our \_\_\_\_\_ until it is too late.
- 2- Because without a consciousness of our \_\_\_\_\_ there is no consciousness of our need for \_\_\_\_\_.

When we \_\_\_\_\_ our sin, the doors open up for God's \_\_\_\_\_ to flood into our lives.

**#2.- May have been his way of initiating his own \_\_\_\_\_.**

If it seems that being baptized by a rough-cut preacher like John was humbling, remember that \_\_\_\_\_ himself was what his whole ministry was about.

Why? Because that was the only way he could fulfill his mission of seeking and \_\_\_\_\_ the lost. He laid down his \_\_\_\_\_ for us.

A humble carpenter of Nazareth set out not only to \_\_\_\_\_ a bridge between God and humanity, but to \_\_\_\_\_ that bridge!

**#3.- He was indicating to us the path we are to take in our Christian \_\_\_\_\_.**

We, too, are to submit to baptism as an act of \_\_\_\_\_ with Christ's message and ministry.

We have a place of \_\_\_\_\_ and security within that will never fail us as we strive to live \_\_\_\_\_ in him and give ourselves to him in baptism.

How symbolic, the place of Christ's baptism is a spot of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ amid a furious flowing river of hate and strife.

Whether at this location on the Jordan, or another, Jesus found refuge from the \_\_\_\_\_ of life, at the place of his baptism.

When difficulties seem more than we can bear, going back to our baptismal experience puts it all into \_\_\_\_\_.

I hope that everyone here understands what an important and beautiful rite of the church it is.

(over)