

“To Whom Do I Belong?”

Based on Mark 1:9-11 (NIV)
Rev. Roger Madden, preaching
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Mark 1:9 - At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.

† For 30 years, Jesus has stayed in Nazareth.

† John the Baptist offered a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

† Jesus' baptism was not for the forgiveness of sin but was a sign for him to begin his ministry.

Mark 1:10 - As Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove.

† Jesus was baptized by John with water, then God anointed Jesus with the Holy Spirit.

† The significance of Holy Baptism, for Jesus and for me, is not the water but God's Holy Spirit.

Mark 1:11 - And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

† The baptism of Jesus establishes Jesus' identity ... he is God's Son.

† In my baptism, God affirms to me that “I claim you, I love you, and I am proud of you.”

† Each one of us have a desperate need to belong.

† Baptism says that I want to belong to God, and God affirms that I belong to Him, even when I sin.

Applying Today's Message to My Life:

† What groups do I belong to?

† How does God help me realize I belong to Him?

† When has there been a time God could easily have disowned me?

Did He?

† What is one way this week I can affirm that I belong to God?