

Baptism, Reaffirmation and Dedication at the Upper Room

As a church community, we believe that it is our responsibility and privilege to celebrate the sacrament of baptism as directed by Jesus (Matthew 28:18-20).

Baptism is an outward sign of the love of God who offers us new life in Jesus Christ. Baptism marks the moment when God's story and our stories intersect...when we recognize and declare that we are a part of God's story. Upper Room believes that baptisms, reaffirmations and dedications are most fully experienced in the context of the community in which the individual is connected into so that we can mutually support one another on the journey.

What we believe about believer baptism:

Believer Baptism

Outward symbol indicating inward change that has happened in the believer. It is an expression of repentance and public declaration of faith in Jesus Christ as forgiver and Lord. Acts 2:38-39.

Adult Reaffirmation of Baptism

A public declaration of repentance and a commitment to follow Jesus as forgiver and Lord. Adults who have already been baptized as infants or children can choose to publicly reaffirm their baptism vows made for them as a sign of their declaration as an adult that Jesus is their forgiver and Lord.

Why we don't re-baptize

Ephesians 4: There is one body and one Spirit – just as you were called to one hope when you were called – one Lord, one faith, **one baptism**; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. Also, there's no precedence for re-baptizing in the Bible.

What we believe about infant baptism/dedication:

Infant Baptism

We believe that infant baptism is a non-salvific response to God's grace by the child's parents and an expression of the parents' faith in Jesus Christ. In baptizing an infant, parents claim God's promises on behalf of their child and commit to raise the child in the faith so that when he or she is old enough they can affirm a personal faith in Jesus Christ within a faith community.

Infant Dedication

A public commitment by parents to raise their child in the faith, teaching their child by word and deed that Jesus is their forgiver and Lord. Often when parents choose this option, they are leaving the decision to follow Jesus up to their child to make when they are older.

*Other biblical references to baptism: Acts 8:12, Acts 16:15, 1 Cor 12:13, Gal 3:27.

[CLICK HERE](#) to find out more about UR's Statement of Faith.