

Appendix I: Baptism

Roots Community Church affirms and practices as a regular ordinance what is commonly referred to as “believer baptism” also known as credo-baptism. That is to say, we believe the Scriptures are clear that the sacrament of baptism should be a public declaration from a believer (through their local church) that they are now, as a result of sheer grace, followers of Jesus Christ. We do not affirm what is referred to as “baptismal regeneration” whereby the sacrament of baptism is the cause or catalyst for the Spirit’s work in regeneration. Instead, we believe baptism should be the response of the believer to the Spirit’s regenerating work in their lives and not for the Spirit’s regenerating work in their lives. (*Acts 2:38, Acts 8:26-39*). Some of the final words Jesus spoke to His disciples were to make disciples, baptize those who believe, and teach them His commands (*Matt. 28:19-20*).

We also affirm and practice baptism by full immersion. The evidence from Scripture seems clear to us that this was the normal mode of baptism throughout the early church in keeping with the imagery that Paul articulates in *Romans 6:1-4*:

What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

With that said, we understand that there are some factors that could prohibit someone from being baptized by full immersion (health or otherwise) and in those unique cases we would gladly choose a different mode of baptism to accommodate these brothers and sisters in Christ.

[1] Inc Merriam-Webster, Merriam Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, Includes Index., 10th ed. (Springfield, Mass., U.S.A.: Merriam-Webster, 1996, c1993).

[2] Certain language here has been adopted and revised from our friends at 9marks.org

[3] Adopted and revised from The Village Church Membership Covenant.

[4] Portion adapted and revised from 9marks.org/article/church-discipline-primer/

*[5] Portion adapted and revised from
<http://www.parksidechurch.com/visit/what-we-believe/constitution/>*

[6] Alexander Strauch, Biblical Eldership