

Should I be baptized at SCG if I was baptized as an infant?

If you are reading this, you are interested in being baptized at SCG, but you have one question: I was baptized as an infant - how is this different?

Understanding Our Convictions About Baptism

We believe that baptism publicly declares faith and visibly signifies the inward reality of salvation. Here at SCG, we practice “**Credo-Baptism**”—baptism based on a personal profession of faith. Baptism is for those who consciously choose to follow Jesus. We view baptism as a symbol, much like a wedding ceremony, where an individual publicly commits to God, makes promises, and affirms their faith.

The Difference Between Infant Baptism and Credo-Baptism

We believe the Bible outlines four elements for baptism:

1. Water
2. In the triune name (The Father, The Son, and The Holy Spirit)
3. By immersion
4. After repentance and faith in Christ

We teach that a person should be baptized by immersion, in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, soon after they come to faith in Jesus. This is how Jesus, the Gospels, and the New Testament Church practiced baptism, so we think this is how we should do it, too.

The Difference Between Infant Baptism and Baby Dedication

Many churches practice **infant baptism** as a way for believing parents to welcome their infants to the body of believers and proclaim their faith that their child will one day confess faith in Jesus. In such traditions, a child baptized in this way is accepted as a mature believer in the church when they make a sincere and public declaration of faith (**Confirmation** or **First Communion**).

At SCG, we practice **baby dedication** as a way to welcome infants to our community and for parents to declare their intention to raise them in a way that will lead them to choose to follow Jesus themselves. We encourage all of our children to be baptized when they are old enough to consciously choose to follow Jesus for themselves (usually when they are at least 9 years old).

A Step of Faith and Unity

If you were baptized as an infant and have NOT yet made a mature confession of faith. Baptism at SCG is your chance to take this important step. We are honored that we can be part of your discipleship journey!

If you were baptized as an infant and HAVE made a mature confession of faith but have not yet participated in baptism as an adult, we would still encourage you to take this step at SCG. For those who were baptized as infants, baptism as a mature believer can be a powerful opportunity to once again publicly declare your faith in Christ, reaffirm your commitment to Him, and demonstrate unity in the body here at SCG Church. We would be blessed if you chose to take this step of faith with us.