

## *Core Beliefs*

*Healing through Authentic Relationship with God - (salvation/restoration)*

### **Baptism**

We believe baptism is an important and vital step in the formation of Christ in us. Jesus was baptized and commanded all who believe in Him to be baptized. Baptism is an act of obedience to the command of Christ, practiced by individuals who are fully devoted followers. It is a public profession of our faith that signifies our union with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection and our fellowship with His church. In the New Testament, when a person believed in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, he or she was baptized. Baptism does not produce salvation in the person being baptized because salvation comes through faith in Christ. "So through baptism, we are buried with Him in death, so that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the Father's glorious power, so we too should live an entirely new life" (Romans 6:4).

## *Expanded Beliefs*

### **Baptism – Adult**

At Open Door, the Bible is the source of our beliefs, including our views on baptism. Throughout the New Testament, baptism is the means by which followers of Christ are identified.

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We believe the immersion mode of baptism best illustrates the work of Christ. While validating the convictions of Christians who have a different understanding, the only form of baptism we practice is believers' baptism by immersion. We invite those who have been baptized as infants to re-affirm their baptism through immersion. When infants are baptized, the intent of their parents is to bring them up in the Christian faith and life so they will become a follower of Christ. A believers' baptism reaffirms a parents' original desire for their child's life and expresses the individual's choice to follow Christ.

### **Baptism – Child**

Throughout the Bible there are several references to children, the development of their faith and capacity to believe. We desire and pray that children will make a decision to believe in Christ. A child's decision to believe in Christ is not diminished by his or her age or childlike faith. Parents and guardians have a responsibility to affirm a decision that is appropriate for a child's stage of faith development. When a child expresses a sincere desire to be baptized, serious consideration needs to be given to their desire.

### **Child Dedication**

We believe that child dedication is an invitation to the Spirit of God to work in the heart and life of a child, to bring him or her to faith in Christ. Dedication does not produce salvation, but is the beginning of the journey toward faith. For Christian parents, child dedication is a sacred act of intentionally placing their child in the hands of the loving God. By dedicating their child they are affirming that only in God will their child find fullness of life.

In the Bible we find parents bringing their children to Jesus. He held them, prayed for them, and told his disciples to welcome them. We believe that bringing a child to others in the faith community for prayer and blessing affirms the importance of the relationship between family and the church. As a church we desire to bless children and stand with a parents desire to see their child grow in faith and the knowledge of the Lord. We pray with families for the empowerment of the Holy Spirit to raise their children in love and truth.