

CHILD DEDICATION

Child dedication is a simple service in which parents publicly commit themselves and their child to God. This service is a step of giving your child to God, trusting Him for the plans He has for your child and recognizing your God-given role as parents.

Possibly the most important aspect of child dedication is the commitment that you, as the parents make to nurture and guide your child from infancy to love and follow Jesus. This is parent dedication! You commit yourselves to becoming fully devoted followers of Jesus (it is a process) and then teach and model kingdom living to our children. Our children need to be firsthand recipients of God's grace and love through us. Child Dedication Celebrations also allow your personal family and the church family the opportunity to witness your commitment and in turn make a commitment to you to partner with you along your parenting journey.

Child Dedication is a ceremony containing some basic core beliefs. They include:

- Children are a gift from God (Psalm 127:3)
- Parents are responsible for teaching their children (Proverbs 1:8)
- Parents are stewards of this precious gift (2 Corinthians 5:10)
- Parents desire their children to discover Jesus Christ for themselves and one day follow Him (3 John 4)
- Parents are woefully inadequate, in and of themselves, for the awesome task of raising children and need to depend wholly on God and the resources He's provided in the Spirit, the Word and the local church family.

It is important to note that child dedication is not christening and is different from infant baptism. Neither baptism, nor dedication are about assuring your child of eternal salvation. Salvation requires a personal commitment everyone must make on their own in response to God's initiating grace. Each one of us can experience salvation – "If you declare with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved." (Romans 10:9) True biblical baptism should take place after a person has knowingly made a personal decision to become a follower of Jesus Christ. Since an infant is too young to make this decision, baptism is reserved for a later time in his/her life.

As parents, you do your best to raise your children in the ways of the Lord. You are committing to do everything you can to introduce them to a loving relationship with their heavenly Father through Jesus Christ. The following scriptures describe what it means to take your children by the hand and lead them in the way of the master:

Genesis 18:18,19
 Proverbs 6:20
 Proverbs 22:6
 Hebrews 12:5-11

Deuteronomy 4:9
 Proverbs 13:24
 Ephesians 6:1-4

“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.” (Deuteronomy 6:4-7)

Child Dedication is a most significant act of faith and an opportunity to publicly declare your commitment and desire to raise your children in the way of the Lord; to dedicate not only your children but your parenting, to God. God will honour this commitment to raise your child in the training and instruction of the Lord and He will empower, teach, strengthen, and enable you through His Spirit.

I look forward to celebrating with you!

Sincerely,

Amy Fitchett
Pastor of Children’s Ministry
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